



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO  
**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**FROM:** Councilmember Mahan  
**DATE:** May 27, 2021

Approved *Matt Mahan*

Date: May 27, 2021

## RECOMMENDATION

Construct a pilot roundabout in the northern part of District 10 at the foot of Communications Hill.

### Proposal

**Program/Project Title:** Pilot Roundabout at the intersection of Hillsdale and Vista Park

**Amount of City Funding Required:** \$270,000

**This change is:**

X One-time    \_\_\_\_\_ Ongoing

**Cost Estimate Number (if applicable):** 49

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The northern part of District 10 has been hit particularly hard by the recent uptick in sideshows happening in our neighborhoods. At the intersection of Hillsdale and Vista Park, several sideshows have cursed the neighbors from Communications Hill and in the apartments near the intersection at the foot of the hill. As our police resources are stretched thin, we must look to alternative solutions such as infrastructure projects. District 10 is requesting a quick-build pilot program to move forward in District 10 that prevents sideshows, speeding and street racing from occurring at the intersection of Vista Park and Hillsdale.

Research shows that Roundabouts are safer and prevent dangerous maneuvers from happening. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, “Roundabouts are a safer alternative to traffic signals and stop signs. The tight circle of a roundabout forces drivers to slow down, and the most severe types of intersection crashes — right-angle, left-turn and head-on collisions — are unlikely.”

By slowing cars down and having drivers be alert while negotiating through the roundabout, we make “donuts” and speeding less likely keeping this intersection off the list of any potential sideshows in the future.

According to City Staff, due to the increasing sideshow activities, this intersection will be included as one of five pilot locations where a variety of physical deterrents will be installed to eliminate or minimize sideshow and illegal racing activities. Design work is expected to begin this Summer with construction likely to occur in early 2022. While it is encouraging to see that the intersection is already on a list of pilot projects to be constructed, this project requires the funding needed to construct a roundabout which may be the best alternative to a traditional intersection with a traffic light.

The neighbors near this intersection rallied when the Council voted on side-show solutions from Councilmember’s Davis and Esparza. Collectively, the neighbors submitted over 400 letters to public comment, organized neighbors through email campaigns and via NextDoor, and worked with our office to get residents to call into the meeting to provide public testimony. A visit to the intersection where tire marks are still fresh speaks to why this neighborhood is so enthusiastic about stopping sideshows. The District 10 office respectfully requests the funding needed to install a roundabout pilot at the intersection of Hillsdale and Vista Park.

**Funding Source**

X Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Building and Structure Construction Tax Fund

Construction Excise Tax Fund within the Traffic Capital Program

**Department or Organization Contact**

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

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Department or Organization: DOT

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