
FW: Sale of City-owned railroad ROW - Council 10/7 Item 2.7 File No. PP17-003

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Wed 10/1/2025 1:10 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Jordan Moldow [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:04 PM
To: Ice, Kevin <Kevin.Ice@sanjoseca.gov>; Zenk, Jessica <Jessica.Zenk@sanjoseca.gov>; Smith, Ryan <ryan.smith@sanjoseca.gov>; Sewell, Liz <Elizabeth.Sewell@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
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I'd like to suggest that DOT, PNRS, and City Council should adopt a policy around retention, maintenance, and usage (or qualifications for disposal) of former railroad rights-of-way. And that the City should hold off on entertaining [these kinds of sales](#) until such a policy is in place.

Some other reasons to consider holding onto this parcel instead of selling it:

- Even if this ROW isn't in the trails master plan, maybe it should be. It doesn't need to be high priority, but we could use more trails everywhere.
- Trails are a nice alternative to walking/biking alongside the street. The trail segment doesn't have to be long to be useful.
- Trails through industrial parks can be attractive to employees and employers, and can be a benefit to everyone in the area.
- Trails crossing roads at mid-block can be safer and more connected than trails crossing roads at four-way intersections. So we shouldn't reject this as a future trail because of the mid-block crossings.
- Even if we don't develop a trail, that strip of land can be used as a location for tree mitigation from industrial redevelopments in the immediate area. And in general can be useful as a permeable green surface in a pavement-heavy industrial area.
- If UPRR ever abandons the adjacent Warm Springs line, it could make for an extensive trail. And the parcel being considered today could be used as a trailhead.

I also believe that the City shouldn't sell any land, it should charge rent, with options to cancel the lease if it gives a few years notice that it is planning a project that will use that parcel. I think this could be an appropriate compromise for the parcel being considered today.

Thanks,
Jordan Moldow (speaking on his own behalf)
District 3, Japantown