

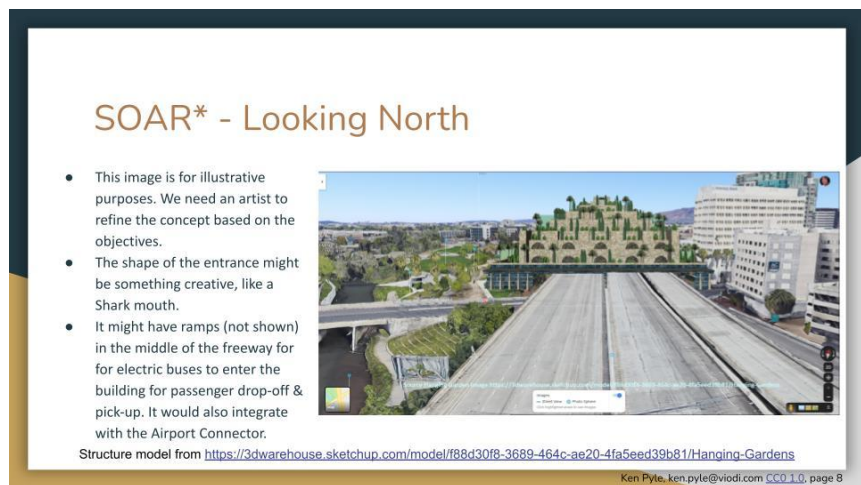
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 3rd Floor Tower
San Jose, CA 95113-1905
Attention: City of San Jose Council
Subject: Item 7.1 on the 5/4/21 City Council Agenda, Urban Confluence

via email
May 3rd, 2021

Greetings Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,

Regarding Item 7.1 on the 5/4/21 agenda, the City Council should defer the current proposal for the Urban Confluence project until the potential impact on wildlife and aviation is quantified. The Santa Clara Valley [Audubon Society and the Sierra Club](#) make compelling arguments that additional consideration needs to be given to potential issues surrounding light pollution.

With that said, the great work that the Urban Confluence is doing to create a landmark for the City of San Jose is admirable. As the planning for this continues, please consider how the Urban Confluence might fit into the future of the Diridon Station Area, the San Jose Sharks, and the Highway 87 interface.



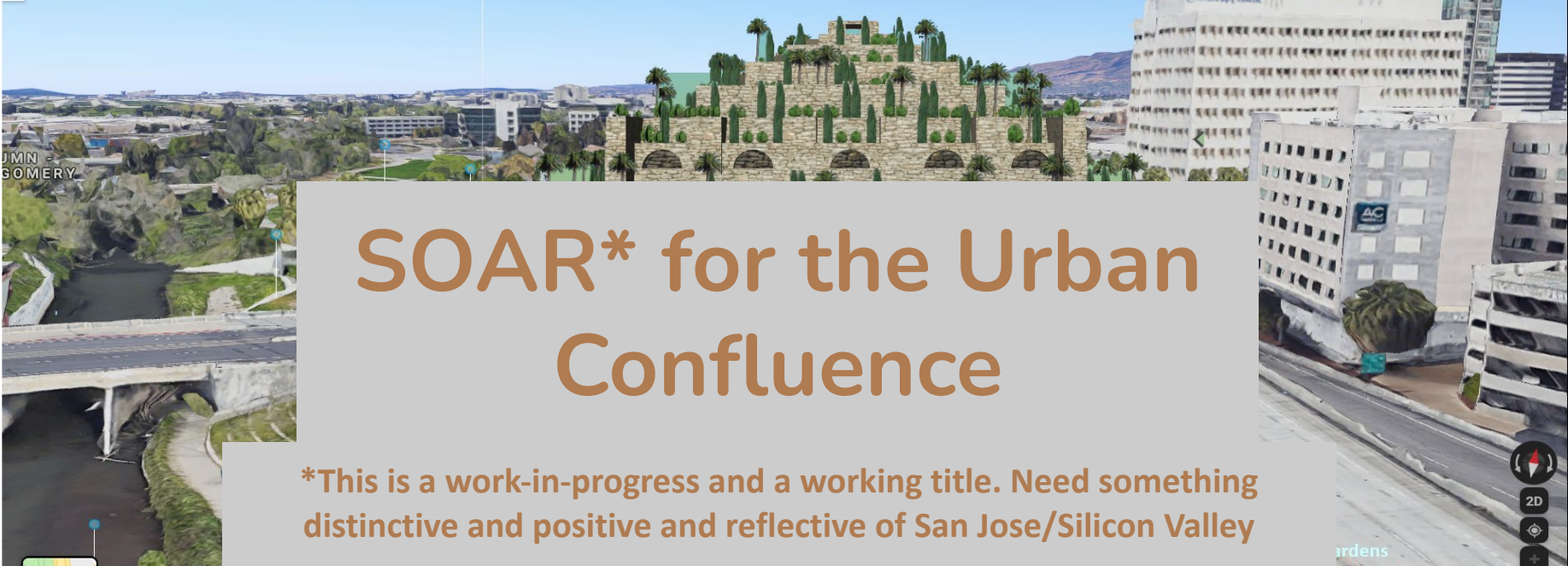
One such idea of how to integrate the Diridon Station Area with the Urban Confluence and with the greater downtown area is shown in the presentation at this link.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/105zhrpUJnzCTHkkZIx3wRydmQqbFCIsVH5zguPymz-o/edit?usp=sharing>

Modeled after Jump Boise, the idea is to use the air rights above highway 87 to create a multi-use garden, creative space, museum, entertainment, and parking structure. Like Jump Boise and the Urban Confluence, something as audacious as what is outlined in the aforementioned presentation would require a strong public-private partnership. But it would be well worth the effort as it offers a potential win-win-win for the City of San Jose, the Diridon Station Area, and the San Jose Sharks.

In Community,

Ken Pyle
San Jose Resident



SOAR* for the Urban Confluence

*This is a work-in-progress and a working title. Need something distinctive and positive and reflective of San Jose/Silicon Valley

SOAR Objectives/Parameters

- Complement the distinctive Urban Confluence landmark with something equally striking, yet functional
- That blends with and enhances the natural beauty & environment of the adjacent Guadalupe River
 - Provides garden, trees and other natural elements
 - Integrates water feature(s) in natural, and playful ways
 - Bridges Highway 87, reducing freeway noise and filtering particulate matter, while integrating with the existing built and the natural environment.
 - Is sustainable - both environmentally and economically
- A multi-purpose, 24/7 activated community asset for people from 8 months to 98 years old (could be an alternative to the proposed 30-50k square foot community center) to do things
 - that are fun to do (e.g. slides, pools/waterfalls, play structures, bocce ball, golf simulators, VR rooms, etc.)
 - that are educational (mini-museums, makerspace, studio, dance studios, learning labs, etc.)
 - that will bring the community together (meeting rooms, outdoor BBQs, etc.)
 - that will drive revenue (both freemium and premium) to help keep it sustainable (retail, offices, urban agriculture, housing)
 - that will improve transportation & the greater Diridon Area. For example,
 - Interface for the Airport Connector, express buses from Highway 87 & hub for last-mile downtown shuttles, personal mobility, etc.)
 - Off-Site parking for the Diridon/SAP Center (allowing more people-oriented design)

SOAR's Inspiration - Jack's Urban Meeting Place

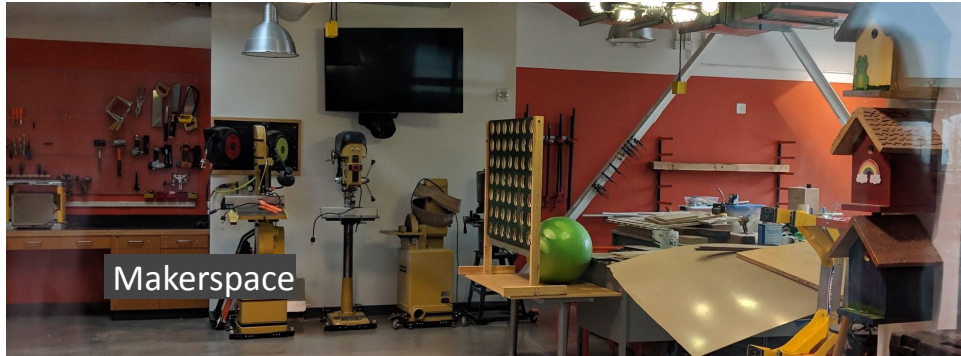


<http://jumpboise.org/>

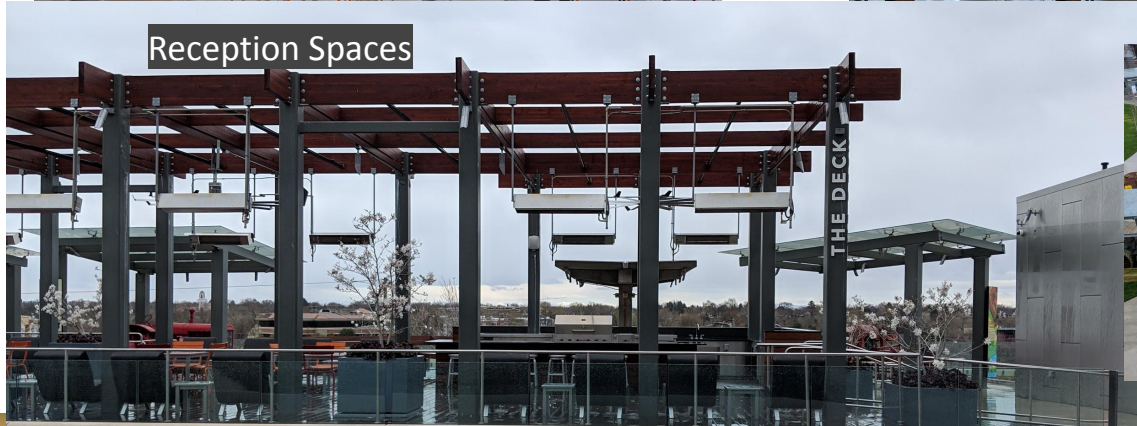
Might As Well, JUMP - Fun



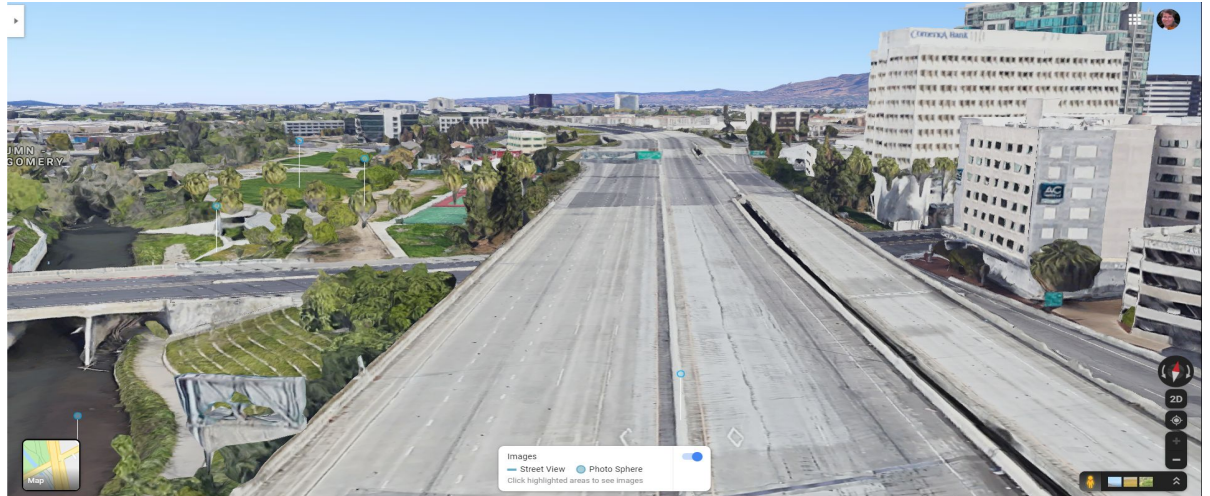
JUMP - Educational/Creative Spaces/Museum



JUMP - A Community Meeting Place



Back to SJ - Existing Conditions - Yet Another Freeway Desert



SOAR* - Looking North

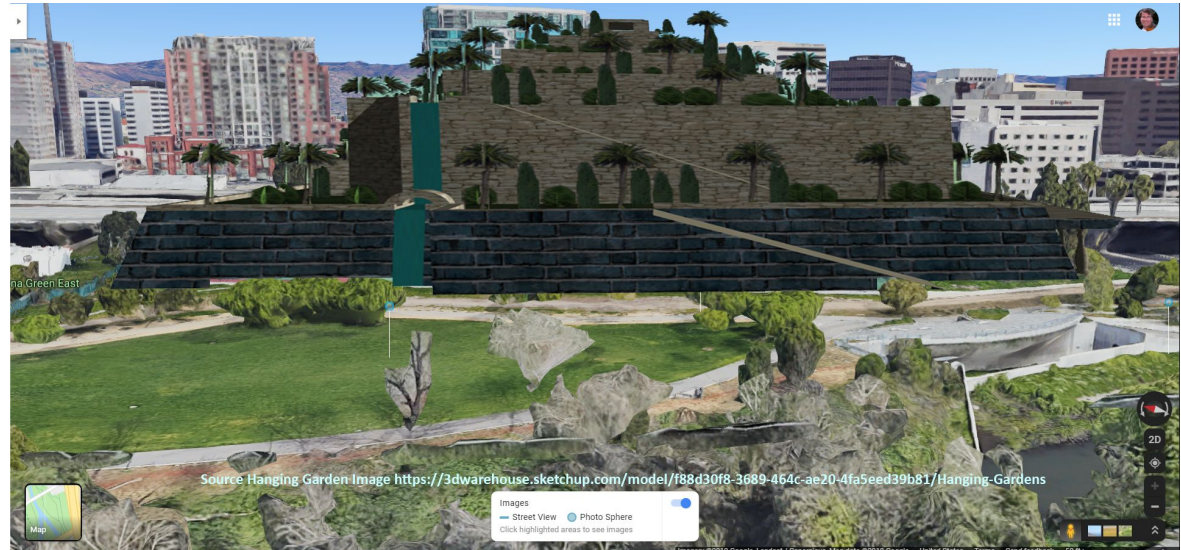
- This image is for illustrative purposes. We need an artist to refine the concept based on the objectives.
- The shape of the entrance might be something creative, like a Shark mouth.
- It might have ramps (not shown) in the middle of the freeway for electric buses to enter the building for passenger drop-off & pick-up. It would also integrate with the Airport Connector.



Structure model from <https://3dwarehouse.sketchup.com/model/f88d30f8-3689-464c-ae20-4fa5eed39b81/Hanging-Gardens>

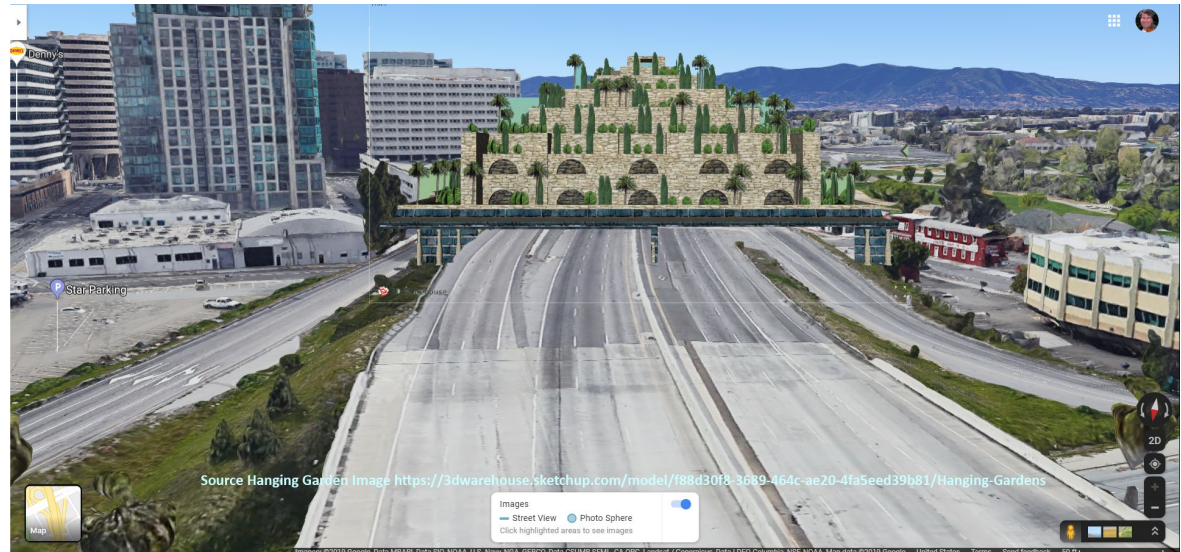
SOAR - View Looking East*

This image is only for illustrative purposes. We need an artist to refine the concept based on the objectives

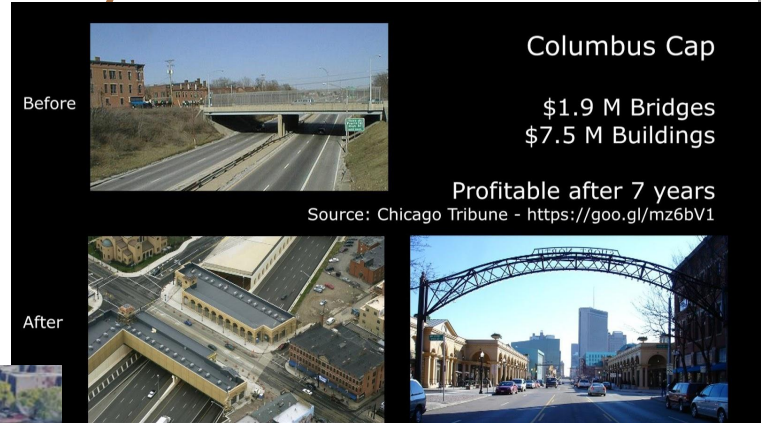


SOAR - View Looking South*

This image is only for illustrative purposes. We need an artist to refine the concept based on the objectives



Building Over a Freeway Sounds Impossible, But It Has Been Done In Many Places



trivillagecap.wordpress.com/

Moving People from SOAR to SAP & Back

- Quickly move people from SOAR to the SAP arena
- Solar, all-electric at an estimated cost of \$4-\$8M/mile*
- Spartan Superway would be a great candidate
 - Local
 - Meets SJ environmental goals
 - Innovative, like Silicon Valley



*https://www.inist.org/library/2019-09-30.Supraways.SanJose_DOT_RFI_response.pdf

SOAR - A potential Win-Win-Win for the Citizens of San Jose, Google, & the Sharks



Today



Tomorrow

Extra Slides

Potential Partners (list not complete)

- Corporate
 - Google, Sharks, Comerica/owner of adjacent building, downtown developers, etc.
- Government - VTA, Caltrans, City of San Jose
- Non-profits
 - Computer History Museum
 - San Jose Fire Department Museum
 - Other Arts groups
 - Housing non-profits (if some housing is included, for instance