

**From:** [Lenny's Sonic](#)  
**To:** [Hicks, Alison](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Ramos, Emily Ann](#)  
**Cc:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Item 4.3 on April 11 consent calendar  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 12:08:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Regional polices are a blunt instrument. Cities such as Mountain View that are trying to expand housing and are trying to limit greenhouse gas emissions should be able to plan their own environments. The City should accept a grant from the MTC only if does not undermine our ability to achieve those goals in a way that benefits current residents.

Lenny

—

Lenny Siegel



<http://lennysiegel.users.sonic.net/web/>

Author: *DISTURBING THE WAR: The Inside Story of the Movement to Get Stanford University out of Southeast Asia - 1965–1975* (See <http://a3mreunion.org>)

**From:** [Robert Holbrook](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Consent item 4.3 on tomorrow's Council agenda  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 12:13:57 PM

---

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL** - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Item 4.3 on tomorrow night's consent calendar would enable the City's imminent (by April 15<sup>th</sup>) application for a \$1.2m grant from MTC that would require Mountain View to develop, though not necessarily adopt, plans that would change the character of the downtown area. At a minimum, I believe this item should be pulled from the consent calendar for public discussion. The planning issues are too important to pass uncommented.

I share the concern already expressed by Staff to MTC that the increase in FAR for office space could exacerbate the already problematic jobs-housing imbalance. I have additional concerns about the implications for building height and, more broadly, the impact to the character of our downtown. I share the sentiment of Robert Cox, "I want to retain our vibrant, historic, public serving downtown. I don't want it replaced with a multi-story office park." I also believe the grant requirements ask too much of parking restrictions, with maximums of one space per residence and 2.5 per 1000 square feet of office space. This latter should be considered in light of contemporary office designs that reduce workers' "offices" to very small footprints in large open areas.

The staff report indicates that the City has already submitted an application for a grant for the Moffett Boulevard Precise Plan. It suggests that if the consent item is approved, "the City will be withdrawing the Moffett Boulevard Precise Plan grant application" because only one grant can be approved and the proposed grant application for the Downtown Precise Plan is provisionally viewed by MTC as the stronger of the two. However, full funding of the grant is conditional on the City actually adopting a plan that conforms to MTC requirements, assuming unspent grant funds remain at that point. I suspect that the odds of the city finally adopting a conforming plan for the downtown area are lower, perhaps a lot lower, than the odds the City will adopt a conforming plan for the Moffett area. In addition to the concerns stated above, I would encourage Council to weigh the expected value of a grant for the Moffett Boulevard Precise Plan against the expected value of a grant that includes the downtown area.

I have a previous engagement tomorrow night, so I won't be able to attend the meeting in person.

Regards,  
Robert Holbrook



**From:** [Raquel McJones](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Item 4.3 "Downtown Priority Development Area Grant Application – Downtown Precise Plan" on the Consent Calendar for the upcoming council meeting on April 11  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 12:30:43 PM

---

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Please don't sacrifice the remaining historic character of downtown Castro Street just for a \$1.2 million grant.

Paul and Raquel McJones

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [David Lewis](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Item 4.3 on Tomorrow's Council Agenda  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 3:30:33 PM

---

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL** - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

To the City Council,

Regarding Item 4.3 on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting, in the Consent Calendar, first this would appear to be either a deliberate attempt to hide this item in the Consent Calendar where it wouldn't need to be discussed, or, in a more favorable light, an instance where the individual constructing the agenda didn't realize the implications of this item.

It appears accepting the grant also forces the City to accept significant changes in zoning along Castro Street, which would require higher density development along Castro, with the added benefit (to developers) of reduced parking requirements. The results could be, at worse, a row of 5 or 6 story office buildings along Castro Street, with inadequate parking for the workers in the buildings, and, at best, mixed residential office buildings of 5 or 6 stories, again with inadequate parking, with the upper two stories residential, the lower 2-4 stories office, and with some unaffordable ground floor retail spaces, that would remain vacant forever at the lease prices demanded by the developers.

This would completely, and forever, change the nature of downtown Mountain View, and only for the benefit of a small number of privately-held development firms. The citizens who have chosen to live in the downtown area, who get no say in this process, will suffer the consequences. The owners of the privately-held development companies will walk away with their profits.

I would hope that the Council would at least move this from the Consent Calendar to the regular agenda, so it could be discussed properly, or better yet postponed to the next Council meeting so it could be discussed fully with more citizen input.

--

*David Lewis, Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association*

Tel: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Mia Whitfield](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Please retain local control and reject the MTC grant  
**Date:** Monday, April 10, 2023 4:30:44 PM

---

**CAUTION:** EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Honorable Council Members,

**Please retain local control of planning and construction in Mountain View**, particularly our historic downtown, and reject constraints required by the MTC grant. The City is already making progress expanding affordable housing and addressing climate change while keeping our unique circumstances in mind. Constraints that box us in are not worth the relatively small funding attached.

Please support local small businesses by rejecting the requirement for dense office space, which would raise rents to unaffordable and further throw off the jobs/housing imbalance. Further, these constraints risk the unique character of our historic downtown, rather than giving the City freedom to be able to pursue goals in a best-fit way.

Sharing a fellow resident's experience in Seattle:

... what happened to Seattle... because Amazon moved in. Blocks of buildings were bulldozed to make way for high rises. At this time, there are lots of local food establishments evicted in order for these newer buildings to have famous food chains with "guaranteed income." Local chefs simply could not afford rent. Many "green" buildings were constructed and the carbon that is bulldozed is unaccounted for because it is about what is visible to the eye. There has to be some type of balance between conservation and new growth.

I appreciate your service and hope you will keep these concerns in mind when making your decision.

Thank you,

Mia  
