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## San José Takes “Green” to the Streets

*San José, Calif.* – In the nation’s center of green innovation, San José has taken green to the streets with the recent completion of the *Santa Clara Street Green Mobility Sidewalk Project*. Located across the street from City Hall’s Rotunda, this one-block project forecasts big benefits to San José as the first sidewalk project to “pilot” the use of green construction materials that significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions and storm water pollutants.

The green mobility project provides critical infrastructure to support energy efficient technologies such as “smart” LED streetlights, electric vehicle charging stations, “smart” parking meters and a solar cooling station.

A key element of this project is the “green” concrete mix that replaces 70 percent of the cement in a standard mix with recycled materials such as blast furnace slag and fly ash. Cement production is energy intensive and a significant producer of carbon dioxide.

Public Works staff worked with a local concrete supplier, Central Concrete, to develop a mix design that would minimize the use of cement while maintaining the performance characteristics of regular concrete. This new mix design saves 390 pounds of cement per cubic yard compared to a conventional mix, thus avoiding about 390 pounds of CO2 emissions. Additionally, the “green” mixes that Cental Concrete supplies are at no additional cost to conventional concrete.

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This innovative mix launched a new standard for curb, gutter, sidewalk and curb ramp construction in San José, which will save thousands of tons of CO2 emissions annually and support the City’s *Green Vision* goals.

*Green Mobility* is one aspect of San José’s *Green Vision* that focuses on creating a transportation network that will reduce carbon emissions and other environmental pollutants. To offset storm water pollution, this project also showcases the use of permeable pavers within the sidewalk park strip. These pavers provide an area for storm water storage and potential storm water treatment, while still serving the needs for pedestrian connectivity within the City’s transportation network.

Combined with the smart LED streetlights, electric vehicle charging stations and the soon-to-come smart parking meters and solar cooling station, this sidewalk area becomes the perfect entry point to the recently funded **Green Vision Education and Demonstration Center** – a federally-funded center to be built on an adjacent property and used for disseminating information about solar technologies and innovative financing options.

For more information on San José’s *Green Vision* and other related topics, visit: [www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision).

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