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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 07 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

December 7, 2020

Scott Hartwell, Project Manager
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-6
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: North Hollywood to Pasadena Bus Rapid
Transit (BRT) Corridor Project – Draft
Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
SCH# 2019060110
GTS# 07-LA-2019-03399
Vic. SR-170, SR-134, SR-2, SR-710, I-210,
and I-5

Dear Scott Hartwell:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced DEIR. The Proposed Project extends approximately 18 miles from the North Hollywood Metro B/G Line (Red/Orange) Station on the west to Pasadena City College on the east. The Proposed Project would generally include dedicated bus lanes where there is adequate existing street width, while operating in mixed traffic within the City of Pasadena. BRT service would operate in various configurations depending upon the characteristics of the roadways. The Proposed Project would provide enhanced transit service and improve regional connectivity and mobility by implementing several key BRT elements, including dedicated bus lanes on city streets, transit signal priority (TSP), and enhanced stations with all-door boarding. TSP facilitates buses through signalized intersections and improves transit travel times and reliability.

After reviewing the DEIR, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans supports the primary proposed route as it most effectively achieves the highest ridership, mode-shift, connectivity to activity centers, and will improve the mobility of Californians. Caltrans also concurs that the primary proposed route will have a less than significant impact to motor vehicle circulation on both the highway as well as local streets.

Caltrans also recommends that a new design option be considered for the primary route along Colorado Boulevard that creates dedicated BRT lanes while maintaining the existing Class 2 bike lanes and any existing or proposed curb extensions. Protecting and creating better infrastructure for people walking and riding bikes will guarantee a more successful transit project.

Caltrans encourages projects of this nature that create high quality transportation alternatives for local and inter-regional trips. State-level policy goals related to sustainable transportation seek to reduce the number of trips made by driving, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG), and encourage

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to enhance California’s economy and livability”*

alternative modes of travel. Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan has set targets of tripling trips made by bicycle and doubling trips made by walking and public transit, as well as achieving a reduction in statewide, per capita, vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Similar goals are embedded in the California Transportation Plan 2040, Draft California Transportation Plan 2050, and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Connect SoCal (2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy). Statewide legislation such as AB 32 and SB 375, as well as Executive Order S-3-05 and N-19-19, echo the need to pursue more sustainable development. Projects, like the one proposed, can help California meet these goals.

Any changes to Caltrans Right-of-way (ROW) or SR-134 ramps will require additional review and approval from Caltrans through the Office of Permits. Additionally, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak periods.

Finally, in the spirit of cooperation, Caltrans staff is available to work with your planners and traffic engineers for this project, if needed. If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2019-03399.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse