

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

August 12, 2021

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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GTS #: 04-SCL-2019-00920
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Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/85/23.244

Diana Pancholi, Senior Planner
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94039

Re: 555 West Middlefield Road Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Diana Pancholi:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 555 West Middlefield Road Project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the June 2021 DEIR.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would demolish existing parking and facilities on site to construct an additional 324 multi-family residential units with two below-grade parking garages. This approximately 14.5-acre project site is located west of State Route (SR)-85 at the intersection of West Middlefield Road and Moffett Boulevard in the City of Mountain View.

Travel Demand Analysis

Caltrans commends the City's effort to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures to reduce resident-based Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The project VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) Technical Advisory. Per the DEIR and TRA-2, this project is found to have Less than Significant impacts, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals. Caltrans acknowledges the mitigation and TDM strategies incorporated into the DEIR and supports the implementation and monitoring of these strategies.

Aesthetics

As requested in Caltrans previous letter dated August 9, 2019, please evaluate the visual impacts of project tree removal and replacement with regards to highway travelers along SR-85. Any trees within state right of way damaged due to construction activities would require replacement per Caltrans Replacement Highway Planting Policy. See the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual, Chapter 29 ([link](#)).

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of Mountain View is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the State Right of Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating the State ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Llisel Ayon at Llisel.Ayon@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please email LDIGR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal tail stroke.

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse