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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 26 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

May 25, 2020

Edwin Norris, P.E.
City of Downey, Public Works Department
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241

RE: Paramount Blvd./ Imperial Hwy Intersection
Improvement Project – Mitigated Negative
Declaration (MND)
SCH# 2020049068
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03245
Vic. LA-105 PM 15.186
Vic. LA-710 PM 16.997

Dear Edwin Norris,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project calls for a re-design of the Paramount Boulevard/Imperial Highway intersection with dual left turn pockets being added in the southbound direction along Paramount Boulevard and in the westbound direction along Imperial Highway. All four legs of the intersection will be widened to provide road width for vehicular U-turn movements. The Project includes reconstruction of all four legs of the intersection with concrete pavement for 300 feet on all approaches and 100 feet for all departures. The intersection itself will be reconstructed with concrete pavement, and decorative concrete crosswalks will be added along with modified traffic signals and striping, signing, and pavement markings, street lighting, and upgraded bus shelters and furnishings. Partial right of way acquisition will be required along Imperial Highway and Paramount Boulevard on all four legs of the intersection. Some utility relocations and adjustments will be required to facilitate Project construction.

The nearest State facilities to the proposed project site are I-105 and I-710. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

The Proposed Project modifies existing single left turn lanes to dual left turn lanes, and significantly widens the overall intersection footprint. These changes create new vehicle capacity, induce demand for additional vehicle trips, and increase total vehicle miles travelled. The Office of Corridor Management (South) requests that an analysis be conducted to determine the increased vehicle travel generated by this road widening project and the potential impacts to the on- and off-ramps for I-710, I-105, and other nearby state facilities. The latest Caltrans Traffic

Impact Study Guide should be used to determine if the project will cause a significant safety or VMT impact.

Additionally, due to the Proposed Project inducing additional vehicle trips and widening the overall crossing distance for pedestrians, special attention should be given to creating safe infrastructure for people walking and biking at the intersection of Paramount Boulevard and Imperial Highway. Caltrans recommends that the following be considered to improve safety for all road users:

- a) The MND mentions “decorative concrete crosswalks” without providing design details. High-visibility continental markings are required for all crosswalks. The high-visibility markings can be applied over the decorative treatment.
- b) Bicycle improvements outlined in the 2015 City of Downey Bicycle Master Plan and 2016 Gateway Cities Strategic Transportation Plan should be included in all design changes for this location.
- c) Leading pedestrian intervals should be added for all crossing legs.
- d) Consider the addition of median refuge islands, as medians already exist at the intersection, and their inclusion would improve safety and reduce crossing distances for pedestrians that need it.
- e) Sidewalk width shall be a minimum of 8-feet wide at bus stops and 6-feet wide at all other locations to meet ADA.

Please note that the transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will also need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2020-03245.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON

IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse