

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 17 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

May 14, 2021

Sonya Lui, Principal Planner - City of Whittier
Community Development Department, Planning Services Division
13230 Penn Street, Whittier, CA 90602

RE: General Plan Update and Housing Element
Update (2021-2029), City of Whittier –
Notice of Preparation (NOP)
SCH# 2021040762
GTS# 07-LA-2021-03569
Vic. LA-72 PM 4.5

Dear Sonya Lui,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The comprehensive update of the Whittier General Plan and Housing Element will serve as the guide for the City's future growth and development. The General Plan contains goals, policies, and programs that will provide City staff and discretionary bodies with a foundation for decisions for long-range planning related to physical development and public services. The 2040 planning horizon for the Planning Area is estimated to result in increases of approximately 472 single family dwellings, 7,023 multifamily dwellings, 828,448 square feet of office space, 193,819 square feet of industrial space, and a reduction of 300,102 square feet of commercial space. An estimated increase of approximately 20,190 residents and 1,396 jobs is projected for the 2040 horizon year.

After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the existing State transportation facilities. However, to accommodate the additional housing units and not induce demand for excessive Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT), Caltrans recommends significantly reducing or eliminating car parking requirements. Research looking at the relationship between land-use, parking, and transportation indicates that car parking prioritizes driving above all other travel modes and undermines a community's ability to choose public transit and active modes of transportation. For any community or city to better support all modes of transportation and reduce vehicle miles traveled, we recommend the implementation of a TDM ordinance, as an alternative to requiring car parking.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the forthcoming Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to confirm that the Project will result in a net reduction in VMT.

Sonya Lui
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If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2021-03569.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON

IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse