

# California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



## Governor's Office of Planning & Research

December 13, 2021

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## STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

SCH #: 2021110199  
GTS #: 04-SM-2021-00397  
GTS ID: 24809  
Co/Rt/Pm: SM/109/1.1

Elena Lee, Planning Manager  
City of East Palo Alto  
1960 Tate Street  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

### Re: JobTrain Office Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Elena Lee:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the JobTrain Office 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 November 2021 IS/MND.

#### Project Understanding

The project proposes the demolition of the existing on-site buildings, improvements, and parking associated with the existing industrial use and to redevelop the site with one new four-story, approximately 110,000-square-foot office building, surface parking lot, and landscaping. The project is located roughly 0.8 miles southeast of the State Route (SR)-109 (University Avenue)/Notre Dame Avenue intersection in East Palo Alto.

#### Travel Demand Analysis

With the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743, Caltrans is focused on maximizing efficient development patterns, innovative travel demand reduction strategies, and multimodal improvements. For more information on how Caltrans assesses Transportation Impact Studies, please review Caltrans' [Transportation Impact Study Guide](#).

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 IS/MND, this project is found to have a less than significant VMT impact, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals.

### **Highway Operations**

The Caltrans Office of Highway Operations has provided the following comments pertaining to Appendix G: Transportation Impact Analysis and Supplemental Memorandum:

US-101 Northbound On-Ramp and Donohoe Street:

- The proposal to modify the hook on-ramp from Donohoe Street to northbound United States Route (US)-101 must comply with the Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Policy Deputy Directive as well as the revised Complete Streets policy. Access must be continually maintained during construction and Ramp Metering equipment shall be maintained throughout; and
- The project sponsor should work with local agencies and/or approval authority to contribute a fair share financial contribution to the proposed project.

US-101 Northbound Off-Ramp/University Plaza Phase I driveway and Donohoe Street:

- This intersection is a candidate for intersection redesign according to the ICE policy. At a minimum, the ICE policy requires appropriate consideration of alternatives. Additionally, the Complete Streets Policy Deputy Directive must be followed. A fair share contribution of the proposed project should be made prior to approval of the development;
- Coordination with Caltrans Office of Electrical Design and Signal Operations for any redesigned signal is required as part of the project development process. Signal delegation as part of a revised Maintenance Agreement will need to be considered; and
- A queuing analysis for the northbound off-ramp to Donohoe Street is required as part of the intersection improvement. US-101 off-ramp queue shall not spill back to the mainline.

### **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.

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, or for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please email [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse