

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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January 27, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

John King
City of Paramount
16400 Colorado Ave.
Paramount, CA 90723

Feb 02 2022

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

RE: City of Paramount
Gateway Specific Plan
SCH # 2022010064
GTS # 07-LA-2022-3814

Dear John King:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced Notice of Preparation (NOP). The intent of the North Paramount Gateway Specific Plan (Project) is to combine the previously adopted Clearwater North Specific Plan and the Howe/Orizaba Specific Plan into a single specific plan and to expand the plan area. The projected net change in development within the Specific Plan area is 5,044 residential units and 31,171 square feet of retail and office space. The City of Paramount is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Project is located in the City of Paramount. The nearest State facilities to the project are Interstate (I)-105 and I-710. From reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments:

Senate Bill 743 (2013) has been codified into CEQA law. It mandates that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed developments be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts. As a reminder, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after the July 1, 2020 statewide implementation date. You may reference The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) website for more information.

<http://opr.ca.gov/planning/transportation/>

Due to the short distance between the I-710 freeway and I-105 to the Project Site, we look forward in reviewing the Project's Traffic Impact Study on our state facilities including the I-710/Rosecrans Ave Interchange and I-105/Somerset Ranch Rd. If there is any significant traffic-related impacts, the implementation of multimodal mitigation measures and other Traffic Demand Management (TDM) should be considered to reduce the number of vehicle trips generated by the project. Also, traffic synchronization and other Traffic System management (TSM) should be considered to improve the flow of traffic.

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The Transportation Impact Study should ensure all modes are well served by planning and development activities. This includes reducing single occupancy vehicle trips, ensuring safety including on the State facilities, reducing vehicle miles traveled, supporting accessibility, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and Caltrans Interim Land Development and Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, prepared in July 2020. These documents can be online found at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/sustainability/sb-743>

For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference (Chapter 8). This reference is available online at:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

This development should consider incorporating multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better management of existing parking assets. Prioritizing and allocating space to efficient modes of travel such as bicycling and public transit can allow streets to transport more people in a fixed amount of right-of-way. Pedestrian safety measures such as road diets and other traffic calming measures should be considered where applicable.

It is recommended that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commuter periods. 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. Information on the permit application can be found by contacting the Caltrans District 7 Office of Permits at (213) 897-3631.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Diana DeGroot, the project coordinator, at Diana.DeGroot@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2022-3814.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse