

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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February 8, 2022

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Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/101/27.4

Thai-Chau Le, Supervising Planner
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, T-3
San Jose, CA 95112

Re: 5853 Rue Ferrari Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Thai-Chau Le:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 5853 Rue Ferrari 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 January 2022 MND.

Project Understanding

The project proposes to demolish two existing warehouse buildings and to construct a 302,772 square foot tilt-up warehouse building. The new warehouse building would contain 292,772 square feet of warehouse space and 10,000 square feet of office space. The proposed warehouse building would include 47 loading dock doors for trailer, box, and recycling trucks. The proposed project would also include surface parking with 108 trailer truck stalls and 296 automobile stalls.

Travel Demand Analysis and Fair Share Contributions

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 MND, this project is found to have significant VMT impact. Caltrans commends the Lead Agency in developing mitigation measures and multi-modal infrastructure improvements to reduce project related VMT.

We encourage a sufficient allocation of fair share contributions toward multi-modal and regional transit improvements to mitigate the increase of regional VMT above the City's adopted threshold. We also strongly support measures to increase sustainable mode shares, thereby reducing VMT.

Please consider fair share contributions or multi-modal improvements to the following projects and locations:

- San Jose Better Bike Plan: Coyote Creek Trail from Silver Creek Valley Rd to Silicon Valley Blvd (Class 1 bike lanes);
- San Jose Better Bike Plan: Silicon Valley Boulevard / Bernal Road from Heaton Moor Drive to Hellyer Avenue (Class IV protected bike lanes). This project would provide improved access for bicyclists crossing US-101 from Rue Ferrari;
- Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan: SC-101-X03 101 Blossom Hill Road (Class IV bike lanes). Once constructed, this project will improve bike accommodations on EB Blossom Hill Rd, access to/from the Class I path at Coyote Rd, and signage providing for protection for bicyclists and pedestrians. Blossom Hill Road provides the most direct path of access to the Blossom Hill Transit Station, as such, it is essential to providing successful Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures at the Rue Ferrari site; and
- Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan: US 101/Blossom Hill Rd Interchange and US 101/Bernal Rd/Silicon Valley Blvd Interchange. With the proximity of the State Route (SR) 85/US-101 Interchange to US-101/Bernal Rd/Silicon Valley Blvd, pedestrians navigate several ramp crossings. Any improvements that increase the visibility of pedestrians at ramp crossings, including high visibility striping and advance yield markings, are recommended.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of San Jose 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.

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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.

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 on the "g".

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse