

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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www.dot.ca.gov



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Feb 16 2022

February 16, 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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GTS #: 04-SM-2022-00417
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Co/Rt/Pm: SM/101/22.19

Christopher Espiritu, Senior Planner
City of South San Francisco
Economic and Community Development Department
315 Maple Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Re: 580 Dubuque Avenue Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Christopher Espiritu:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 580 Dubuque Avenue 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 IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The project proposes the construction and operation of a new 295,000-square-foot, 8-story, office/research and development (R&D) building and structured parking 4 stories below grade, with approximately 350 parking spaces. Project site improvements would also include sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting along Dubuque Avenue. Other amenities would include a fitness center, conference space, and a café with an adjacent outdoor terrace. The project site is within the boundaries of the Downtown Station Area Specific Plan (DSASP). The project is located adjacent to the United States Route (US)-101/Grand Avenue interchange and South San Francisco Caltrain station in South San Francisco.

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 ([link](#)).

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.

Bike/Ped Impacts

In addition to the proposed stop signs, Caltrans suggests the applicant consider low posted speed limits, improved sight distance, speed humps, a posted stop or yield sign, or audible warnings for exiting vehicles to minimize conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists at the below-grade parking exit.

Utilities

Any utilities that are proposed, moved or modified within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be discussed. If utilities are impacted by the project, provide site plans that show the location of existing and/or proposed utilities. These modifications require a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of South San Francisco 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.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office

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of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating Caltrans' ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

Please note that Caltrans is in the process of implementing an online, automated, and milestone-based Caltrans Encroachment Permit System (CEPS) to replace the current permit application submittal process with a fully electronic system, including online payments. The new system is expected to be available during 2022. To obtain information about the most current encroachment permit process and to download the permit application, please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

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,



MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse