

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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October 5, 2022

Shine Ling
Development Review Team
LA Metro
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 22-9
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Transportation Communication Network
(TCN)
SCH # 2022040363
Vic. LA-Los Angeles Citywide
GTS # LA-2022-04059-DEIR

Dear Shine Ling:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced NOP. Metro proposes to implement the TCN Program, which would provide a network of TCN Structures that would incorporate intelligent technology components to promote roadway efficiency, improve public safety, increase communication, and provide for outdoor advertising that would be used to fund new and expanded transportation programs consistent with the goals of the Metro Vision 2028 Plan. The TCN Program also includes the removal of existing static signage throughout the City of Los Angeles. Implementation of the Project would include the installation of up to 34 Freeway-Facing (FF) TCN Structures and 22 Non-Freeway-Facing (NFF) TCN Structures, all on Metro-owned property.

Caltrans regulates the placement of outdoor advertising displays visible from California highways. The project would require Outdoor Advertising (ODA) License. For questions, inquiries, and any other questions you may have, please call (916) 654-6473 or reference to the following website for additional information.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda>

Each of the proposed FF TCN Structures would be compliant with all Caltrans requirements, as detailed above. All of the locations would be located at least 500 feet away from any freeway designated as a Scenic Highway and their locations would be outside of the freeway right of way. All locations would be at least 500 feet away from a landscaped freeway, consistent with Caltrans guidelines. Further, at Project completion,

none of the TCN Structures would be located within 500 feet of an existing sign or within 1,000 feet of an existing digital billboard on the same side of the freeway.

Additionally, all TCN Structures would be located on Metro-owned property and would be equipped with Metro's Regional Integration of Intelligent Transportation Systems (RIITS), which provides comprehensive, timely, and real-time information among freeway, traffic, transit, and emergency systems across various agencies including local and regional transit agencies, to improve traffic and transportation systems, and to disseminate information regarding roadway improvements, and during emergency events. Thus, the Project would be consistent with Caltrans guidelines for digital signage locations near freeways.

In accordance with SB 743 and updates to the CEQA Guidelines, the focus of transportation analysis has shifted from driver delay to vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The operation of the Project would not result in new uses that would generate vehicle miles traveled on a daily basis. Any vehicle trips and associated VMT resulting from maintenance activities would be infrequent. Additionally, in accordance with LADOT's TAG, construction worker trips are not evaluated under CEQA. As such, the Project would not result in significant traffic impacts with regard to VMT. Therefore, Caltrans concurs that no traffic impact would occur, and mitigation is not required at this time.

If any temporary lane closures on the State facility are necessary, the remaining travel lanes would be maintained in accordance with standard construction management plans that would be implemented to ensure adequate circulation and emergency access. Caltrans would need to review and approve the construction management plans prior to the start of the construction. Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that large-size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

Please be reminded that any work performed within the State Right-of-way will require an Encroachment Permit from Caltrans. Any modifications to State facilities must meet all mandatory design standards and specifications.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2022-04059AL-DEIR.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse