

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 269-1124
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 7 2022

July 7, 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Courtney Shum
Department of City Planning
City of Los Angeles
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: The Star Project
SCH # 2022060145
Vic. LA-101/PM 6.25
GTS # LA-2022-03976-NOP

Dear Courtney Shum:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced NOP. The Project includes the development of a commercial office building comprised of approximately 489,863 square feet of office uses, 19,915 square feet of restaurant/event space, and a 14,256-square-foot screening room, resulting in a total floor area of 524,034 square feet and a FAR of 6:1 upon completion of the Project. The proposed uses would be located within a 22-story building (maximum height of 420 feet). The building has been designed as a sphere that incorporates sky gardens and greenery throughout each level. A total of 1,287 vehicle parking spaces would be provided within a six-level subterranean parking garage and within a portion of three levels of above-grade fully enclosed parking that would be integrated with a landscaped podium. The Project would include approximately 49,252 square feet of landscaped areas and approximately 62,834 square feet of hardscaped areas for a total of approximately 112,086 square feet of outdoor areas throughout the Project Site. Four existing commercial office structures and three bungalows, totaling approximately 72,877 square feet of floor area, along with associated surface parking would be removed as part of the Project.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

Caltrans is aware of challenges that the region faces in identifying viable solutions to alleviating congestion on State and Local facilities. With limited room to expand vehicular capacity, this development should incorporate multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better manage 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.

Caltrans supports the implementation of complete streets and pedestrian safety measures such as road diets and other traffic calming measures. Please note the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the road diet treatment as a proven safety countermeasure, and the cost of a road diet can be significantly reduced if implemented in tandem with routine street resurfacing. Overall, the environmental report should ensure all modes are served well by planning and development activities. This includes reducing single occupancy vehicle trips, ensuring safety, reducing vehicle miles traveled, supporting accessibility, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications in order to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements. 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>

You can also refer to the 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), which is available online at:

<http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>

Also, Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and the Caltrans Interim Land Development and

Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, prepared in On December 18, 2020. You can review these resources at the following links:

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-05-20-approved-vmt-focused-tisg-a11y.pdf>

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-12-22-updated-interim-ldigr-safety-review-guidance-a11y.pdf>

Caltrans encourages lead agencies to prepare traffic safety impact analysis for this development in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process using Caltrans guidelines above on the State facilities so that, through partnerships and collaboration, California can reach zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

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-2022-03976AL-NOP.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse