

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



March 15, 2023

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GTS #: 04-SCL-2022-00685  
GTS ID: 26972  
Co/Rt/Pm: CC/VAR

Troy Fujimoto, City Planner  
City of Pleasant Hill  
100 Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

### Re: Pleasant Hill General Plan Update Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Troy Fujimoto:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Pleasant Hill General Plan Update 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 2023 DEIR.

#### Project Understanding

The Pleasant Hill 2040 General Plan would serve as a long-term framework for future growth, reflect issues identified from community input and changes in State law, and update all elements of the General Plan. The City of Pleasant Hill sits on the west side of I-680 in Contra Costa County and is located south of SR-4.

#### 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 and current guidance from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). Per the DEIR, this project is found to have *Significant and Unavoidable VMT impact*. Caltrans

supports the mitigation strategies proposed in TRA-1, which include TDM measures proven to support multi-modal transportation use and the VMT Mitigation Banking/Exchange program under development by CCTA.

### **Complete Streets**

Section 3.12.3 of the Draft EIR references Caltrans Deputy Directive 64-R1 on Complete Streets. This reference should be updated to reflect Caltrans Director's Policy 37 (DP-37), which supersedes Deputy Directive 64-R1, and further builds upon its goals. More information on DP-37 can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/sustainability/documents/dp-37-complete-streets-a11y.pdf>

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Regulatory Framework and Needs**

Section 3.12.3 of the Draft EIR should include review of the *Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan (2021)* and the *Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan (2018)*. The Pedestrian Plan studied existing conditions for walking along and across the STN in the nine-county Bay Area and developed a list of location-based and prioritized needs. Pedestrian improvements identified on or near I-680 in Pleasant Hill include improved pedestrian features at Oak Park Blvd, improved pedestrian access between W Hookston Rd. and Buskirk Ave. over I-680, a pedestrian overcrossing over I-680 near the 242/680 split, improved pedestrian features at Sunvalley Blvd, improved pedestrian access over I-680 near the Sunvalley Shopping Center, and improved pedestrian features at Chilpancingo Pkwy junction.

As well, the Bike Plan identified the need for bicycle improvements such as a Class II bicycle facility and associated elements at the I-680/Monument Blvd interchange. Improvements needs such as buffered Class II facilities at the I-680/Willow Pass Rd interchange and I-680/Concord Ave interchange, which fall beyond Pleasant Hill City limits but within the sphere of influence. Caltrans suggests these needs, both pedestrian and bicycle, be noted as sites for potential Fair Share Mitigation. For more info on these plans, please refer to:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-news/07-07-21-caltrans-releases-bay-area-pedestrian-plan>

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-bike-plan>

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the City of Pleasant Hill 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' Right of Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office 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](mailto: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 2023. 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>.

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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](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse