

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Sep 02 2022**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

September 1, 2022

Luis Escobedo  
Community Development-Planning Division  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, CA 90602-1772

RE: Whittier Pointe Commercial Project  
SCH # 2022080157  
Vic. LA-72/PM 4.23  
GTS # LA-2022-04018-MND

Dear Luis Escobedo:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. Conditional Use Permit No. CUP21-0001 is a permit to allow for a development standard deviation under the Development Hardship provisions (Section 4.7) of the Whittier Boulevard Specific Plan, to permit a drive-thru and permit modified hours for the operation of the coffee shop (Starbucks). The WBSP deviation requested will allow for the elimination of landscape finger planters. The drive-thru is proposed for the coffee shop operating 24-hours and the interior service area of the coffee shop having extended hours of operation from 4:30 am to midnight. The project involves the new construction of a three-story, 10,968 square foot commercial structure. The commercial project is providing the required number of parking spaces (57 spaces) to meet the City code.

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.

The nearest transit stop to the project is located on the west of Putnam Street and on both sides of Washington Boulevard. There are several transit providers that service the area. Service is generally provided on weekdays and on Saturdays with headways ranging between 45 and 70 minutes.

The main TDM measure that the Project is implementing is improving the pedestrian connectivity between the project and the external street network. Providing sidewalks and an enhanced pedestrian network encourages people to walk instead of drive and results in a reduction in VMT and GHC emissions.

If the project is warranted, 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.

As a reminder, 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 large-size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

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-2022-04018AL-MND.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON  
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse