

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 7 – OFFICE OF REGIONAL PLANNING
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September 13, 2022

Mitzi Alvarado
Planner
City of Lancaster, Development Services Department
44933 Fern Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93534



RE: TTM No. 61600/ Var No. 22-02
Ave K and 58th St West (Mitigated Negative Declaration)
SCH# 2022080385
GTS # 07-LA-2022-04038

Dear Ms. Alvarado,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the public review process for the above referenced project located near State Route 14 (SR-14). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The proposed project is to develop 6.87 acres into 31 single-family lots. The vacant lot is currently undeveloped land and surrounding north, south, and west are single-family residences and a Quartz Hill High School located 0.2 miles southwest of the project site.

Caltrans acknowledges and supports cultural mitigation measures to address the potential of encountering cultural resources at the project site during construction-related activities. Caltrans recommends the Lead Agency continue the process of consultation with the local tribes, document any findings, and retain professional Native American monitors for any construction-related activities that causes soil disturbance.

Caltrans recommends the following multimodal improvements for this project:

1. The inclusion of canopy trees, bioswales, bicycle parking facilities, and street furniture to provide a comfortable and sustainable environment to encourage active transportation modes and improve community health.
2. In addition to bioswales, permeable paving surfaces can be included wherever possible to manage storm water, replenish groundwater, and prevent pollution runoff.
3. Provide high quality bus shelters and bus bulb-outs on major streets such as 60th Street West and West Avenue L.
4. Use high-visibility continental crosswalks, curb extensions, count-down signal heads, pedestrian refuge islands, and pedestrian scrambles at all crossings.

5. Leading pedestrian intervals can give pedestrians a 7-second head start in crosswalks and flashing-yellow turn signals, this provides additional crossing time and reduces the amount of time that pedestrians are exposed to high-speed vehicle traffic.

Decreased vehicle trips, increased walkability, improved connectivity will keep livability in mind on any development. Providing shade trees, native landscaping, bicycle lanes, parklets, and green spaces. Studies shown with parklets and plazas, can strengthen community and provide safe, equitable opportunities. Gated communities should provide pedestrian paths and doors to ensure access to transit, shopping centers, schools, and main roads.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the City of Lancaster in areas where both Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Cruz, LDR Coordinator, by e-mail at amy.tran.cruz@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse