

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 6 OFFICE
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August 2, 2022

06-TUL-63-6.489
SPR #21030
FASTRIP STATION
GTS: [06-TUL-2021-02449](#)

SENT VIA EMAIL

Ms. Susan Currier, Senior Administrative Assistant
City of Visalia – Community Development – Site Plan Review
315 East Acequia Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Dear Ms. Currier:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) for Site Plan Review #21030 proposing to construct a gas station with a convenience store. The project site is located on the southeast corner of State Route (SR) 63 (South Mooney Boulevard) and Whitendale Avenue, in the City of Visalia.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. On Page 12, Figure 5, Caltrans **requests** clarification in the traffic volumes as the SR 63 and Whitendale Avenue, as well as 'Driveway 2' on Monte Vista Avenue, does not match with the traffic counts in the Appendix. The Synchro output for this intersection also shows traffic counts at this intersection for U-turn movements for Northbound and Southbound traffic, but the Synchro runs did not show these movements.
2. Caltrans **requests** verification of the traffic volumes listed in Figures 5 to 14 with the traffic volumes in the Synchro analysis for every studied intersection.
3. In Page 26, please remove the "Accident Investigation" from the State facility.
4. The provided Synchro output prints did not include the 95-percentile queue length for each approach at the intersection as well as the signal "turn type," whether it is protected, permissive, or split. Please **provide** this information for the intersections to State facilities.

5. According to the Caltrans Transportation Concept Report (TCR), this segment of SR 63 in the vicinity of the proposed project is currently constructed and ultimately planned to be a 6-lane facility within a total of 110 feet of right-of-way (55 feet from the centerline). Caltrans right-of-way maps shows this segment of SR 63 existing at 110 feet with 55 feet from the centerline on the west side of SR 63.
6. The existing SR 63 northbound right-turn lane onto eastbound Whitendale Avenue has no shoulder and needs to be upgraded to standard per Index 405.3 of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM). Additionally, HDM Topic 403.6 states that a bicycle lane is needed between the thru-lane and a dedicated right-turn lane at the intersection. These improvements may require future right-of-way dedication.
7. As a point of information, any work completed in the State's right-of-way will require a Caltrans encroachment permit. If an encroachment permit is warranted, then the Project will be required to construct the above intersection improvements per HDM 405.3 and 403.6.
8. An encroachment permit must be obtained for all proposed activities for placement of encroachments within, under or over the State highway rights-of-way. Activity and work planned in the State right-of-way shall be performed to State standards and specifications, at no cost to the State. Engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports (documents) shall be stamped and signed by a licensed Engineer or Architect. Engineering documents for encroachment permit activity and work in the State right-of-way may be submitted using English Units. The Permit Department and the Environmental Planning Branch will review and approve the activity and work in the State right-of-way before an encroachment permit is issued. The Streets and Highways Code Section 670 provides Caltrans discretionary approval authority for projects that encroach on the State Highway System. Encroachment permits will be issued in accordance with Streets and Highway Codes, Section 671.5, "Time Limitations." Encroachment permits do not run with the land. A change of ownership requires a new permit application. Only the legal property owner or his/her authorized agent can pursue obtaining an encroachment permit.

Prior to an encroachment permit application submittal, the project proponent is required to schedule a "Pre-Submittal" meeting with District 6 Encroachment Permit Office. To schedule this meeting, please call the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Office - District 6: 1352 W. Olive, Fresno, CA 93778, at **(559) 383-5047** or **(559) 383-5235**.

- **Please review the permit application - required document checklist at:**
<https://forms.dot.ca.gov/v2Forms/servlet/FormRenderer?frmId=TR0402&dispath=MAOTO&brapath=PERM>.
 - **Please also review the permit application - processing checklist at:**
<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/tr-0416-applicable-review-process-checklist.pdf>.
9. Based on Caltrans VMT-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide, dated May 20, 2020 and effective as of July 1, 2020, Caltrans seeks to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, provide a safe transportation system, reduce per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), increase accessibility to destinations via cycling, walking, carpooling, transit and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Caltrans recommends that the project proponent continue to work with the **County of Tulare** to further implement improvements to reduce vehicles miles traveled and offer a variety of transportation modes for its employees.
10. Caltrans recommends the Project implement "smart growth" principles regarding parking solutions, providing alternative transportation choices to residents and employees. Alternative transportation choices may include but are not limited to parking for carpools/vanpools, car-share and/or ride-share programs.
11. Caltrans recommends the Project contributes towards the City of Visalia's developer impact fee program to fund future improvements of local and State transportation facilities in the vicinity due to cumulative traffic impact by continuous development.

If you have any other questions, please contact Scott Lau at (559) 981-7341 or scott.lau@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



LORENA MENDIBLES, Chief
Transportation Planning – South