

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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January 9, 2023

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Corinna Sandmeier, Acting Principal Planner
City of Menlo Park
333 Ravenswood Ave
Menlo Park, CA, 94025

Re: Parkline Master Plan Project – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Corinna Sandmeier,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Parkline Master Plan 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 December 2022 NOP.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would redevelop SRI International's research campus by creating a new office and research and development (R&D), transit-oriented campus with no net increase in commercial square footage, up to 550 new rental housing units at a range of affordability levels, new bicycle and pedestrian connections, and 25 acres of publicly accessible open space. It would result in a total of approximately 1,898,931 gross square feet (gsf), including approximately 1,380,332 gsf of office and R&D uses and approximately 518,599 gsf of residential uses. The proposed project is near State Route (SR) 82, or El Camino Real.

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](#)).

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If the project meets the screening criteria established in the City's adopted Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) policy to be presumed to have a less-than-significant VMT impact and exempt from detailed VMT analysis, please provide justification to support the exempt status in alignment with the City's VMT policy. Projects that do not meet the screening criteria should include a detailed VMT analysis in the DEIR, which should include the following:

- VMT analysis pursuant to the City's guidelines. Projects that result in automobile VMT per capita above the threshold of significance for existing (i.e. baseline) city-wide or regional values for similar land use types may indicate a significant impact. If necessary, mitigation for increasing VMT should be identified. Mitigation should support the use of transit and active transportation modes. Potential mitigation measures that include the requirements of other agencies such as Caltrans are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally-binding instruments under the control of the City;
- A schematic illustration of walking, biking and auto conditions at the project site and study area roadways. Potential traffic safety issues to the State Transportation Network (STN) may be assessed by Caltrans via the Interim Safety Guidance ([link](#));
- The project's primary and secondary effects on pedestrians, bicycles, travelers with disabilities and transit performance should be evaluated, including countermeasures and trade-offs resulting from mitigating VMT increases. Access to pedestrians, bicycle, and transit facilities must be maintained.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of Menlo Park is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the STN. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

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.

Sincerely,



MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse