

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 21 2023**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

July 21, 2023

Rita Montalvo
City of Montebello
1600 W. Beverly Boulevard
Montebello, CA 90640

RE: Garfield Avenue Bus Turnout Project
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2023060689
Vic. LA-060 /PM: R5.624
GTS # 07-LA-2023-04265

Dear Rita Montalvo:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The City of Montebello (City) proposes to construct the Garfield Avenue Bus Turnout Project along Via Campo and Garfield Avenue between State Route 60 and Via San Clemente in the City of Montebello. The City proposes to separate the existing bus stop pad just south of the intersection of Garfield Avenue and Via Campo from Garfield Avenue southbound lanes by constructing a bus turnout lane. The bus turnout lane would allow a bus to come to a stop clear of the through traffic lanes. This eliminates the safety hazard caused by queued vehicles stranded behind the stopped bus, which could extend to, and potentially block, the intersection due to its proximity. The elimination of obstructions to passing vehicles on Garfield Avenue increases the safety for the traveling public. The City of Montebello is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project site is approximately less than two hundred fifty feet from State Route 60 (SR-60) off-ramp and on-ramp. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

- Caltrans concurs with the installation of multiple tree wells to increase shade in the corridor and preserving existing streetscape amenities at the bus stop, such as a bench and a trash receptacle. The increase in tree canopy can provide comfort to the pedestrian network and foster transit ridership. By removing barriers to walking, biking, and taking transit, this Project engages Californians in shifting towards transit-oriented communities, and help the State meet its policy goals to reduce the number of trips made by driving and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

- Caltrans would like to review the design detail of the proposed turn lane on eastbound Via Campo when it is made available since the location is near the eastbound SR-60 off-ramp.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Finally, any work completed on or near Caltrans' right of way may require an encroachment permit. However, the final determination on this will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits. This work would require additional review and may be subject to additional requirements to ensure current design standards and access management elements are being addressed. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Herrera, the project coordinator, at Karen.Herrera@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2023-04265.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse