

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

September 12, 2023

Matthew Maechler
Ventura County Department of Public Works
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Hueneme Road Widening Project
SCH # 2023080368
Vic. VEN-12.82 to R14.558
GTS # VEN-2023-00556-NOP

Dear Matthew Maechler:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The County proposes to widen an approximate 1.93-mile portion of Hueneme Road, between Edison Drive and Rice Avenue, from a 2-lane roadway to a 4-lane roadway with buffered bike lanes, a paved median, and turn lanes (project). All existing left-turn lanes would be retained as part of the project. The total width of the new roadway would vary between 63 to 72 feet. The widened roadway would taper to the existing configuration of one travel lane in each direction approximately 1,200 feet east of Rice Avenue.

The purpose of this project is to improve vehicle and bicycle travel and safety, improve the freight movement corridor, increase connectivity for bicycle riders, and complete vehicle and bicycle improvements consistent with the General Plan on Hueneme Road from Edison Drive to Rice Avenue.

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:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/#guidelines-updates>

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.

Also, Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and the Caltrans Interim Land Development and Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, prepared On December 18, 2020. You can review the SB 743 Implementation Resource at the following link:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/sustainability/sb-743/sb743-resources>

Caltrans encourages lead agencies to prepare traffic safety impact analysis for this development in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process using Caltrans guidelines above on the State facilities so that, through partnerships and collaboration, California can reach zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

On page 50 of the Initial Study, “during construction, the project would not require any temporary road closures or detours. The project would include the widening of Hueneme Road from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane roadway and the addition of buffered bike lanes, turn lanes, and a paved median. Project improvements would result in an increase to roadway capacity in the project area”.

The project is anticipated to have construction vehicle trips. This may include the use of oversized vehicles. These vehicles may travel at lower speeds than other traffic, and because of their size, intrude into adjacent travel lanes. Caltrans is concerned that this situation may potentially create a safety issue.

To assist in evaluating the potential impacts of this project on State Transportation facilities, a construction traffic study should be prepared to analyze the following information if a potential construction impact may occur:

1. Construction/truck traffic impacts on SR-1, and all significantly impacted streets, crossroads, and controlling intersections, as well as an analysis of existing conditions and construction periods.
2. If truck traffic is expected to cause a queue on the State facility intersections, please forward a truck/traffic construction management plan to Caltrans for review.
3. Traffic volume counts that include anticipated AM and PM peak-hour volumes.
4. Queuing analysis or construction traffic discussion at Caltrans intersections at state-impacted facilities before and during construction.
5. A brief construction/operation traffic discussion showing ingress/egress, turning movements, and a directional flow for construction vehicle trips.
6. Discussion of mitigation measures appropriate to alleviate anticipated construction/truck/operation traffic impacts.

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We look forward to reviewing the traffic study and expect to receive a copy from the State Clearinghouse when the DEIR is completed. If you would like to expedite the review process or receive early feedback from Caltrans, please feel free to send a copy of the DEIR directly to our office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # VEN-2023-00556AL-NOP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miya Edmonson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse