

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

October 25, 2023

Gina Liang
City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bureau of Street Services
1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015



RE: Broadway-Manchester Active
Transportation Equity Project – Mitigated
Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH# 2023100156
GTS# 07-LA-2023-04329
Vic. LA-110 PM 15.987

Dear Gina Liang:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The City proposes safety and mobility improvements along a 2.8-mile stretch of South Broadway and Manchester Avenue (project), which would be implemented by the Bureau of Streets Services. The project would extend along South Broadway from Manchester Avenue to Imperial Highway and along Manchester Avenue from Vermont Avenue to South Broadway. The proposed improvements would be constructed in four phases and would include protected cycle tracks, curb extensions, signal modifications, new pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) signals, sidewalk improvements, new and widened medians, median parks, tree planting, landscaping, new pedestrian lighting, and new stormwater infrastructure. The project would require excavation to a maximum depth of 25 feet for the stormwater infrastructure.

To accommodate the proposed improvements, several overhead utility and lighting poles and fire hydrants would need to be relocated along the corridor. The project would require the removal of vegetation and trees; however, the project would also include the addition of new trees and landscaping elements in the project area. Right-of-way acquisition is not anticipated to be required for the project. Project construction is anticipated to last approximately 24 months.

The nearest State facilities to the proposed project are I-110 and I-105. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans supports the proposed Project as it significantly improves the transportation network for people walking, biking, and riding transit, creating invaluable opportunities and choices for people to reach their destinations using the mode that best meets their needs. The Project reduces pedestrian and bicyclist exposure to cars by using the most effective methods available: physical infrastructure and geometrics. These methods include the construction of physically separated facilities such as Class IV bikeways, sidewalks, curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, landscaping, street furniture, and reductions in crossing distances through roadway narrowing.

Projects of this nature, that create high quality transportation alternatives for local and inter-regional trips, can help California meet its State-level policy goals to reduce the number of trips made by driving, improve air quality, and encourage alternative modes of travel. Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan has set targets to improve trips made by bicycle, walking, and public transit, as well as achieving a reduction in statewide, per capita, vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Similar goals are embedded in the California Transportation Plan 2050 and Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Connect SoCal 2024 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Statewide legislation such as AB 32 and SB 375, as well as Executive Order S-3-05 and N-19-19, echo the need to pursue more sustainable development. Projects, like the one proposed, can help California meet these goals.

According to the available project documents, and the Lead Agency primary contact, the project's scope does not propose any work along or within Caltrans right-of-way. If at some point it is determined that work will need to occur within State right-of-way, then encroachment permits will be required, and all current design standards and access management concerns must be addressed. The transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which require the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will also need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2023-04329.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse