

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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December 5, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Dec 08 2023**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Bryan Ramos Fernandez, CEQA Project Manager  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: 49<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School  
Major Modernization Project – Negative  
Declaration (ND)  
SCH #2023110270  
GTS #07-LA-2023-04367  
Vic. LA-110/PM 18.52

Dear Bryan Ramos Fernandez,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) proposes the demolition of approximately 15,100 square feet of existing building floor areas and 32,300 square feet of new construction at the existing 49th Street Elementary Campus. Along with the new construction of buildings, shade structures, and corridors, the Project would include a new parking lot with photovoltaic panels and relocate the existing parking lot with 41 parking spaces from the northwestern portion of the Campus on East 49th Street to the southwestern portion of the Campus on East 50th Street. The proposed parking lot would have a minimum of 45 parking spaces, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and two Electric Vehicle (EV) parking spaces, to provide vehicular access via two new driveways along East 50th Street. The existing parking lot located at the southeastern portion of the Campus with seven parking stalls would remain. As the school remains operational during construction, the school's current capacity and total number of standard size classrooms are expected to remain the same.

After reviewing the ND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Based on the ND's description of the proposed parking lot relocation, there will be a minimum net increase of 4 car parking spaces. The ND also states that there will be no change to the school's capacity or total number of classrooms as part of this project. Any

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increase in car parking induces demand for additional trips by car, and therefore a net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The Lead Agency is encouraged to integrate transportation in a way that reduces and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by facilitating the provision of more transit-oriented and pedestrian-friendly projects to achieve a high level of non-motorized travel near schools. Should new surface parking be built, it is advised that it does not face the street directly. The implementation of active frontage and landscaping against the sidewalk encourages recreational and transportation walking.

When preparing a Traffic Demand Management (TDM) plan, Caltrans recommends physical and programmatic elements such as on-site bikeshare programs, public directions prioritizing rideshare modes, and locating information such as current maps, routes, and schedules for public transit routes within one-half mile of the project site where students and visitors may easily access to view. Measures should be implemented to ensure the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians is protected during peak hours when project-generated construction traffic may coincide with interactions between drivers and students. Promoting information such as construction work notices of temporary lane and street closures can help parents and students plan accordingly for their safety. Caltrans' targets of tripling trips made by bicycle, doubling trips made by walking and public transit, and a 15% reduction in statewide VMT can be achieved through collaborative improvements to the state-wide transportation network.

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. It is recommended that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at [anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS #07-LA-2023-04367.

Sincerely,

*Frances Duong*

Frances Duong  
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse