

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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August 1, 2024

Julie Yom
Los Angeles County
Dept. of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple St., 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Los Angeles County Westside Area
Plan: PEIR
GTS # 07-LA-2024-04557
SCH # 2023110409
Vic. West LA Countywide

Dear Julie Yom:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The Westside Area Plan (proposed Project or WSAP) is a community-based plan that focuses on land use and policy issues that are specific to the unique characteristics and needs of the Project area. The Westside Area Plan is a long-range policy document that will guide the long-term growth of the unincorporated communities in the Project area through the development of goals, policies, and implementation actions. The proposed Project would amend the General Plan to establish both areawide and community-specific goals and policies to address local land use concerns and issues. The WSAP would also implement land use and zoning updates based on recommendations from the recently approved General Plan's 6th Cycle Housing Element 2021-2029 (Housing Element) as well as new land use and zone changes to facilitate additional housing opportunities and ensure consistency between zoning and land use designations. The Westside Area Plan includes goals and policies that address topics such as the preservation of community character, sustainable growth, and land use development, open spaces and natural resources protection, promotion of economic health and prosperity of local businesses, and equitable and safe mobility options. The unincorporated communities in the Westside Planning Area encompass vibrant neighborhoods that collectively recognize and celebrate history, people, diversity, and culture. The Westside Area Plan furthers the efforts to promote active, healthy, and safe intergenerational neighborhoods where residents are well connected to great places to live, work, shop, recreate, and gather; to foster economic vitality while serving local needs; to protect and preserve natural resources and open spaces; and to support sustainable mobility options in an enhanced built environment. The WSAP will address elements such as land use, mobility, conservation and open space, public services and facilities, economic development, and historic preservation. The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

After reviewing the project's documents, Caltrans has the following comments:

Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit Access

It is determined the Project would not result in inconsistencies with applicable plans addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian in the Project vicinity. As noted herein, it is determined that the Project may intensify the use of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities in the Project vicinity, however, such use is not expected to result in a deficient condition caused by the Project.

Caltrans is in support of this project's mobility goals and policies that help achieve state planning priorities contained in state law and meet state policy goals on transportation, VMT reduction, GHG emissions reduction, and/or betterment of the environment and human health.

VMT

The Project is subject to the following Los Angeles County Guidelines which aim to reach 16.8 percent below the County baseline for 2024: 25.3 total VMT (16.8 percent below 30.4). The Project is estimated to result in a total of 56,528,221 daily vehicle trips, resulting in a daily work VMT per employee of 25.6, which would exceed the 25.3 total VMT. As such, the Project would result in a significant and unavoidable impact with regard to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b), and mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: TDM

The following mitigation measure has been identified to reduce the significant and unavoidable impact of the Project:

Mitigation Measure T-2: The Project should prepare a TDM Plan. The following TDM elements should be included in the Project.

- Commute Trip Reduction Marketing
- Ridesharing Program
- Subsidized or Discounted Transit Program
- End-of-Trip Bicycle Facilities
- Employer-Sponsored Vanpool
- Limit Residential Parking Supply
- Unbundle Residential Parking Costs from Property Cost
- Transit-Supportive Roadway Treatments

With the implementation of Mitigation Measure T-2, the Daily VMT per Service Population would not result in a reduction of the total VMT below 25.3, and the impact level would result in a significant and unavoidable impact. However, this measure would result in a decrease in VMT per capita by prioritizing transit-oriented development, mixed-use development, and safe and accessible multi-modal transportation circulation improvements.

Others

For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's

Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference (Chapter 8). This reference is available online at:

<http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

Additionally, please see the Caltrans Local Development Review (LDR) Safety Review Practitioner's Guidance (Table 3) for further safety considerations:

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/safety-programs/documents/202402-ldr-safety-review-practitioners-guidance-a11y.pdf>

Caltrans will require an Encroachment Permit for work performed within the State Right-of-way. Caltrans recommends that large-size truck travel be limited to off-peak commute hours. Caltrans requires a permit for any heavy construction equipment and or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2024-04557.

Sincerely,



Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse