

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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March 15, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

March 19 2024

Laura Frazin-Steele, City Planner
City of Los Angeles, City Planning Department
6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Room 430
Van Nuys, CA 91401

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: 20460 W. Sherman Way Project
(ENV-2020-6474-MND) – Mitigated
Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2024020611
GTS #07-LA-2024-04456
LA-101/PM 21.2

Dear Laura Frazin-Steele,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. This project involves construction, use, and maintenance of 59 multi-family residential dwelling units, with a total floor area of 36,337 square feet and a height of 56 feet and 5 stories over a subterranean garage all on a 16,743 square foot lot. The proposed project includes 54 market rate and 5 extremely low-income units. The project is providing a total of 85 bedrooms thereby requiring 43 automobile parking spaces. However, the applicant is providing a total of 84 parking spaces, consisting of 43 spaces in the subterranean garage and 41 spaces on the ground floor. The project will provide 48 long-term and 6 short-term bicycle parking spaces.

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) reviewed and signed a Transportation Study Assessment Referral Form No. CP-2151.1 for the project on July 19, 2023 and noted that a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis is required. The MND states that while the project does exceed the net 250 daily vehicle trips threshold (net daily traffic flow for the project is calculated at 299 daily trips), it would not have a significant transportation impact that conflicts with plans, programs, ordinances, or policies.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments regarding active transportation:

The MND finds that the project will have a less than significant impact with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system which includes bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Caltrans concurs that the project poses an opportunity to increase active transportation within the vicinity, especially since the LA River Bike Path is less than half of a mile in distance. The project site was identified as a Transit Oriented Communities (“TOC”) Tier 1 site when the Transit Oriented Communities Referral Form No. CP-4050 was reviewed and signed by Planning staff on August 31, 2020 under Case No. PAR-2020-2146-TOC. While the project includes bicycle parking in its scope, which will greatly benefit the tenants, Caltrans recommends additional programmatic elements to promote active transportation such as an on-site bikeshare program, public directions prioritizing last-mile mobility and rideshare modes, and notifying residents of current maps, routes, and schedules for public transit routes. The proposed project should also include adequate pedestrian safety elements like lighting, as well as required ADA elements.

As a reminder, Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using VMT as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. 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 Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2024-04456.

Sincerely,



Miya Edmonson
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse