

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles
P.O. Box 1206
Norwalk, CA 90651-1208

From: (Public Agency): City of Covina
125 E College Street
Covina, CA 91723

(Address)

Project Title: Covina Active Streets and Multi Modal Connectivity Plan

Project Applicant: City of Covina

Project Location - Specific:

Study Area bounded by Arrow Hwy, Workman Ave, Grand Ave, and Azusa Ave

Project Location - City: Covina Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Covina Active Streets and Multi-Modal Connectivity Plan is a Plan developed by the City of Covina to promote and encourage people to take alternative travel options to single-occupancy vehicle trips through increasing safety, comfort, and connectivity of pedestrian, cyclist, and public transportation within the identified study area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Covina

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Covina

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 21080.20

Reasons why project is exempt:

PRC Section 21080.20, as amended by SB 922, exempts active transportation plans from review under CEQA. The proposed Covina Active Streets and Multi Modal Connectivity Plan is a Plan developed by the City of Covina to promote and encourage people to take alternative travel options to single-occupancy vehicle trips through increasing safety, comfort, and connectivity of pedestrian, cyclist, and public transportation within the identified study area. It is therefore an active transportation plan exempt from CEQA

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian K. Lee Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 626.384.5457

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 3-21-2024 Title: Community Development Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: 3-21-2024

RESOLUTION CC 2024-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE COVINA ACTIVE STREETS AND MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY PLAN AND MAKING A FINDING OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA SECTION 21080.20

WHEREAS, in December 2021, the California Department of Transportation (“Caltrans”), awarded the City of Covina a grant under the “Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program” to develop the Covina Active Streets and Multi-Modal Connectivity Plan (“CASMCP”); and

WHEREAS, the goal of the grant program is to support Caltrans's Mission to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California’s economy and livability; and

WHEREAS, the CASMCP supports the Caltrans mission, and also builds upon the City of Covina’s existing planning framework, including the General Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, and Covina Town Center Specific Plan, providing a set of feasible recommendations with clear steps to implementation for first/last mile needs, and active transportation in Covina; and

WHEREAS, there were numerous community-focused outreach meetings, including a bike ride, school feedback session, walking tour feedback session, several pop-up locations, and online engagement to incorporate civic engagement throughout the lifespan of the project; and,

WHEREAS, the CASMCP proposes priority pedestrian areas, identifies equity areas, recommends additional and improved networks for pedestrian, cyclist, and roller travel, and prioritizes projects in disadvantaged areas; and

WHEREAS, SB 922, until January 1, 2030, accelerates the approval of sustainable, climate-friendly bicycle and pedestrian projects by exempting them from CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the CASMCP is an active transportation plan covered by CEQA Section 21080.20; and

WHEREAS, The Covina Comprehensive General Plan has policies specifically related to supporting and improving upon local transportation programs, including encouraging bikeways and providing an alternative mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2024, the Planning Commission and Transportation and Mobility Advisory Commission, at a duly noticed Joint Meeting, considered the proposed Covina Active Streets and Multi-Modal Connectivity plan and any comments received before or at the public meeting, at which time the City staff and lead consultant presented its report, and interested persons had an opportunity to testify in support or in opposition of the proposed project, the Planning Commission at a 5-0 vote, adopted Resolution 2024-001 PC and the Transportation and Mobility Advisory Commission approved, at a 4-0 vote through minute action, recommending that the City Council adopt the Covina Active Streets and Multi-Modal Connectivity Plan; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2024, the City Council of the City of Covina held a duly noticed Public Hearing to consider the proposed Covina Active Streets and Multi-Modal Connectivity Plan; and

WHEREAS, all legal prerequisites prior to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COVINA, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. Based on the entire record before the City Council of the City of Covina, all written and oral evidence presented was considered and reviewed, and the City Council finds that the CASMCP is consistent with and furthers the General Plan and Covina Town Center Specific Plan for reasons, including but not limited those below:

The CASMCP will promote public health, safety, and welfare, and will leave the General Plan an integrated and internally consistent statement of policies, including but not limited to those mentioned below:

Circulation Element: Policy Area 1 – Maintenance and improvement of public rights of way and related infrastructure to accommodate growth.

16. Monitor and, where administratively and financially possible, consider expanding the City's bikeways and relates facilities in appropriate areas, such as near or linking schools, parks, and major commercial activities and employment centers, for functional as well as recreational uses, in a manner that best meets local conditions and needs.

Natural Resources and Open Space Element ; Policy Area 1 – Water Resources and Air Quality

p. Encourage and support the use of mass transit, wherever possible, and work with transit operators to provide the best, most efficient service for local businesses to reduce vehicular travel and air pollution.

q. Encourage the continuation of and improvement of local transportation programs.

r. Encourage bikeways, where feasible, to provide an alternative mode of transportation.

Furthermore, the CASMC is consistent with the Covina Town Center Specific Plan. The CASMCP includes as an objective to increase connectivity to the Town Center and incorporates actions from the Covina Town Center Specific Plan to connect the Metrolink to the Town Center and to capitalize on alley connections to increase accessibility and walkability between the Town Center and adjacent districts.

SECTION 3. After giving full consideration to all evidence presented at the March 19, 2024, Public Hearing, the City Council of the City of Covina hereby adopts the Covina Active Streets and Multi-Modal Connectivity Plan.

SECTION 4. City Council hereby finds and determines that the adoption of the CASMCP is exempt from review under CEQA and qualifies for a Statutory Exemption pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21080.20 because the CASMCP is an “active transportation plan” developed by the City that promotes and encourages people to choose walking, bicycling, or rolling through the creation of safe, comfortable, connected, and accessible walking, bicycling, or rolling networks, and encourages alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips. Staff of the City is hereby directed to prepare and post a notice of exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk shall certify as to the adoption of this Resolution.


APPROVED and **PASSED** this 19th day of March, 2024.

City of Covina, California

BY:


WALTER ALLEN, III, Mayor

ATTEST:



FABIAN VELEZ, Chief Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Fabian Velez, Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Covina, do hereby certify that Resolution CC 2024-12 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Covina at a regular meeting held on the 19th day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: CORTEZ, DELGADO, LINARES, KING, ALLEN
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: NONE

Dated: March 20th, 2024


FABIAN VELEZ, Chief Deputy City Clerk