

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



July 3, 2024

SCH #: 2024060037  
GTS #: 04-SM-2024-00580  
GTS ID: 33077  
Co/Rt/Pm: SM/VAR/VAR

Akanksha Chopra, Associate Planner  
City of San Carlos  
600 Elm Street  
San Carlos, CA 94070-3085

### **Re: 2045 General Plan Reset – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Akanksha Chopra:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 2045 General Plan (GP) Reset. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the June 2024 NOP.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purposes only.

#### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project is an update to the City of San Carlos' 2030 GP to amend the buildout capacity. Citywide development projections for growth through 2045 include the estimated net addition of 7,300 housing units, 14,000 new residents, 6,570,500 non-residential square footage, and 19,000 jobs. Sections of U.S. Route 101 (U.S. 101) and State Route 82 (SR-82) are within the San Carlos city limits.

#### **Travel Demand Analysis**

With the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743, Caltrans is focused on maximizing efficient development patterns, innovative travel demand reduction strategies, and multimodal improvements. For more information on how Caltrans assesses Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis for land use projects, please review Caltrans' Transportation Impact Study Guide ([link](#)).

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Per the Initial Study, this project may have a potentially significant VMT impact which will be further evaluated in the DEIR. Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the VMT analysis when the DEIR is available.

### **Multimodal Transportation Planning**

Please review and include the reference to the *Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan (2021)* and the *Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan (2018)* in the DEIR. These two plans studied existing conditions for walking and biking along and across the State Transportation Network (STN) in the nine-county Bay Area and developed a list of location-based and prioritized needs.

Please note that any Complete Streets reference should be updated to reflect Caltrans Director's Policy 37 ([link](#)) that highlights the importance of addressing the needs of non-motorists and prioritizing space-efficient forms of mobility, while also facilitating goods movement in a manner with the least environmental and social impacts. This supersedes Deputy Directive 64-R1, and further builds upon its goals of focusing on the movement of people and goods.

### **Equity and Public Engagement**

We will achieve equity when everyone has access to what they need to thrive no matter their race, socioeconomic status, identity, where they live, or how they travel. Caltrans is committed to advancing equity and livability in all communities. We look forward to collaborating with the City to prioritize projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities.

Caltrans encourages the City to foster meaningful, equitable and ongoing public engagement in the GP development process to ensure future transportation decisions and investments reflect community interests and values. The public engagement process should include community-sensitive and equity-focused approaches seeking out the needs of individuals from underserved, Tribal, and low-income communities, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

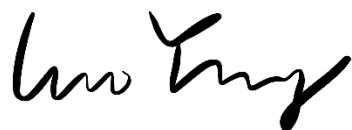
Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Luana Chen, Transportation Planner, via [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov). For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Akanksha Chopra, Associate Planner

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luo Yunsheng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luo" and the last name "Yunsheng" written in a single continuous stroke.

YUNSHENG LUO

Branch Chief, Local Development Review

Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse