

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 2048 | STOCKTON, CA 95201
(209) 948-7943 | FAX (209) 948-7179 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



August 1, 2024

10-MER-99-PM 24.783
Bellevue Road Reconstruction/Realignment
SCH#2024070541

Greg Thompson
City of Atwater
Community Development Department - Planning Division
750 Bellevue Road
Atwater, CA 95301

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The California Department of Transportation appreciates the opportunity to review the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Bellevue Road Reconstruction and Realignment Project. The project proposes a realignment of Bellevue Road from Olive Avenue to Parade Road. The new Bellevue Road will be realigned south of the existing Bellevue Road and made into an approximately 1.6 mile, 4-lane arterial road. The Department has the following comments.

1. Please prepare a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) for this project and submit it to Caltrans for review and comment prior to project approval. The proposed Bellevue Road Reconstruction/Realignment Project would provide connectivity between SR 99 and Atwater as well as the Castle Commerce Center located on the east side of the City. Therefore, the traffic patterns to and from the City via SR 99/Westside Blvd would be significantly increased, which potentially impacts the safety and operations at the interchange of SR 99/Westside Blvd.
 - a. The TIS is needed to determine how the interchange of SR 99/Westside Blvd may otherwise be affected by the proposed project, particularly as it relates to safety of the traveling public.
 - b. The TIS must include a safety analysis approach that reduces risks to all road users and focuses on multi-modal conflict analysis.
 - c. The TIS must focus on queuing, potential conflicts and impacts between free flow traffic on Westside Blvd and stop controls on the northbound and southbound off-ramps at the two ramps intersections.
2. The queue analysis needs to include the following:
 - a. Trip generation and distribution of the proposed project.
 - b. The analysis scenarios should include Existing Traffic Condition, Opening Year Condition, and Design Year Condition.
 - c. Studied intersections: northbound Ramps/Westside Blvd, southbound Ramps/Westside Blvd, Westside Blvd/Bellevue Road/Olive Ave, Westside Blvd/Central Ave.

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- d. Synchro/SimTraffic V12 is expected to be used for the queue analysis.
 - e. The analysis needs to include the raw traffic count data, figures to show traffic volumes (AM/PM) peak hours for each studied scenario, and Synchro/SimTraffic results.
 - f. The electronic files of Synchro/SimTraffic analysis need to be included with the TIS when submitted for review.
3. A signal warrant study at the northbound and southbound ramps/Westside Blvd intersections needs to be performed to determine if a traffic signal is required with the proposed project's additional generated trips. Please submit this for review and comment prior to project approval.
4. Due to the significant increase in traffic caused by the project, improvements to the SR 99/Westside Blvd interchange may be required.
5. Caltrans recommends a Complete Streets approach to planning this development and the surrounding area that promotes bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. This would include facilities such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes.
6. Caltrans recommends that the development and nearby destinations include public parks and facilities necessary to accommodate alternate modes of transportation such as bus stops and shelters, bike racks, park-and-ride lots, and solar charging stations for electric vehicles.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 483-2582 or Nicholas Fung at (209) 986-1552.

Sincerely,



Tom Dumas
Chief, Office of Metropolitan Planning