

California Department of Transportation



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August 21, 2024

Mr. Robert Stein
Assistant City Engineer
City of Newport Beach
100 Civic Center Drive; Bay B
Newport Beach, CA. 92660

File: LDR/CEQA
SCH: 2024070802
12-ORA-2024-02624
SR 1; 17.461

Dear Mr. Stein,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Collins Island Bridge Replacement Project. The proposed project has three major components: 1) bridge replacement, 2) seawall improvements, and 3) future pump station accommodations. The proposed bridge would be designed to be a total of 20 feet and 6 inches in width to accommodate one vehicle travel lane, one sidewalk, and concrete barriers on each side to provide protection from projected sea level rise. The slope profile along the roadway and sidewalk bridge approaches would be adjusted to comply with ADA standards. Street, sidewalk, and landscaping improvements are also proposed on the Balboa Island side along the Bay Front sidewalk and Park Avenue. The proposed seawall improvements would be designed to have an increased top of wall coping elevation to mitigate sea level rise impacts. The City is currently in the process of designing a new storm water pump station on Park Avenue near the Collins Island Bridge as part of a separate project. Therefore, future pump station accommodations are also proposed to accommodate this separate project.

Collins Island is located on the western tip of Balboa Island and is connected to the greater Balboa Island via the Collins Island Bridge. Regional access to the project site is provided via State Route 1 (SR 1; Pacific Coast Highway) and local access to the site is provided via Marine Avenue (across the Balboa Island North Channel), and North Bay Front and Park Avenue on Balboa Island.

Caltrans is a responsible agency on this project and has the following comments:

1. Consider the creation of an Emergency Plan that includes alternative routes and paths. This can alleviate congestion in the event of an emergency and allow EMS to easily access the site.
2. Please consider the implementation of a dedicated truck route. This dedicated route can allow for better traffic flow and reduce roadway congestion.
3. Please consider the installation of green conflict zone striping between Bayside Drive and the southbound Class III bikeway.
4. Please provide pedestrian scale lighting along the project area.
5. During construction, please ensure that appropriate detours and safety measures are in place to prioritize the mobility, access, and safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. If adjacent sidewalks or bike lanes need to be closed during construction, please ensure that closures and detours are clearly signed.
6. Understanding that the Project is anticipated to generate temporary construction truck traffic, mitigation for adverse traffic impacts on SR-1 during construction must be addressed.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Lugaro at Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley
Branch Chief,
LDR-Climate Change-Transit Planning
Caltrans, District 12






Collins Island Bridge Replacement Comment Letter

Final Audit Report

2024-08-21

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