

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: September 27, 2024

To: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Program

Lead Agency: City of Fresno

Contact: Sophia Pagoulatos
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Notice is Hereby Given: The City of Fresno (City) is the Lead Agency on the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Program and Related Environmental Analysis project (proposed project) and has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOP is intended to solicit the views of the public, interested parties, and/or agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is relevant to you or your agency’s statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Specifically, the City is requesting that commenters identify environmental topics (and/or special studies) that they believe need to be explored in the forthcoming EIR, and to identify other relevant environmental issues related to the scope and content of the forthcoming EIR.

Project Title: Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Program

Project Location: The proposed project will apply to development within the city limits of Fresno.

Project Description: The proposed project aims to establish a VMT Reduction Program with the intent of reducing citywide VMT by establishing mitigation for future development projects in Fresno. The VMT Reduction Program includes two major components that can be applied, individually or in combination, to new development with VMT impacts: an Urban Design Calculator (UDC), which estimates potential VMT reductions for development projects through incorporation of various design elements; and a mitigation fee (supported by a nexus study) and mitigation bank, which would be used to fund VMT-reducing projects throughout Fresno.

The VMT Reduction Program would identify relevant transportation demand management (TDM) strategies and VMT-reducing projects within Fresno to be funded by mitigation fees from developments that trigger potentially significant VMT impacts under CEQA. Potential VMT-reducing measures may include active transportation improvements, multi-modal transportation programs, and improved street connectivity, including bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities. The program intends to streamline the

Senate Bill (SB) 743 compliance process for development projects while funding future VMT improvement projects.

Areas of Potential Environmental Effects: Potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed project include, but may not be limited to, the following: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, Wildfire.

In addition, in accordance with Section 15126.6 of the CEQA Guidelines, the EIR will assess a range of reasonable alternatives to the project. The range of alternatives to be addressed will include alternatives that are specifically required by CEQA (e.g., the No Project Alternative), as well as other alternatives intended to reduce or eliminate potentially significant impacts as identified through the coordinated consultation and planning process.

Document Availability and Public Review Timeline: Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response to the NOP must be sent no later than 30 days after publication of this notice. The review period for the NOP will be from September 27, 2024, to October 28, 2024. Copies of the NOP can be reviewed at the City of Fresno, 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3043, Fresno, CA 93721. Electronic copies can also be accessed on the City's website at: <https://www.fresno.gov/planning/plans-projects-under-review/#sb-743-vehicle-miles-traveled>

Public Scoping Meeting: The CEQA process encourages comments and questions from the public throughout the planning process. Pursuant to Section 15083 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Public Scoping Meeting will be held to solicit public comments on the scope and content of the EIR. A public scoping meeting for this project will be conducted at 5:00 PM on Monday, October 21, 2024. See details below

VMT Reduction Program EIR Public Scoping Meeting
Fresno City Hall
2600 Fresno Street
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Submitting Comments: Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis of the EIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning the EIR for the proposed project should be directed to the City's Planning Manager, Sophia Pagoulatos, at the following address by 5:00 PM on October 28, 2024. Please include the commenter's full name, address, phone number and/or email so that we may contact you for clarification, if necessary. Please submit comments to:

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