

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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June 2, 2025

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Jay Lee, Planning Director
City of Milpitas
455 E. Calaveras Boulevard
Milpitas, CA 95035

Re: Gateway-Main Street Specific Plan Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Jay Lee:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Gateway-Main Street Specific Plan Project. 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 April 2025 DEIR.

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 will guide the land use and development of the Specific Plan's Focus Area. The Plan will implement the City's economic development strategy and will plan for high-density, transit-oriented housing to create a mixed-use community. The project area is located along State Route (SR)- 237 and Interstate 880 (I-880).

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](#)).

The project VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (LCI) Technical Advisory. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have a significant VMT impact. Please consider the following measures to mitigate the project's VMT impact.

Mitigation Strategies

Caltrans Smart Mobility Framework Guide defines a place type based on four physical elements: built form, land use, mobility options, and people. We encourage the project applicant to develop and implement an effective Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program to reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions from future development in this area. TDM programs should be documented with annual monitoring reports by a TDM coordinator to demonstrate effectiveness. If the project does not achieve the VMT reduction goals, the reports should also include next steps to take to achieve those targets.

Please also consider the measures listed below are quantified by California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and shown to have different efficiencies reducing regional VMT:

- Increase Residential Density
- Increase Job Density
- Provide Transit-Oriented Development
- Integrate Affordable and Below Market Rate Housing
- Improve Street Connectivity
- Locate Project/Developments in Area with High Destination Accessibility
- Improve Destination Accessibility in Underserved Areas
- Orient Project/Developments Toward Transit, Bike, or Pedestrian Facility
- Locate Project/Developments near Bike Path/Bike Lane
- Provide Pedestrian Network Improvement
- Construct or Improve Bike Facility
- Construct or Improve Bike Boulevard
- Expand Bikeway Network
- Implement Shared Vehicle Program (car/bike/E-bike/scooter)
- Provide Traffic Calming Measures
- Create Urban Non-motorized zones
- Dedicate Land for Bike Trails
- Extend Transit Network Coverage or Hours
- Increase Transit Service Frequency
- Implement Transit-Supportive Roadway Treatments
- Provide Bus Rapid Transit
- Reduce Transit Fares
- Improve Transit Access, Safety, and Comfort
- Provide Bike Parking Near Transit

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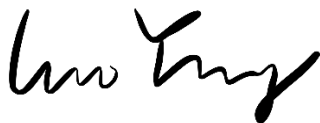
- Provide Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Limit Residential Parking Supply
- Implement Market Price Public Parking (On-Street)
- Provide Secure Bike Parking
- Implement Area or Cordon Pricing
- Replace Traffic Controls with Roundabout
- Required Project Contributions to Transportation Infrastructure Improvement
- Install Park-and-Ride Lots

VMT Mitigation Program

Please note that the Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Equitable VMT Mitigation Program for Santa Clara County ([link](#)) was awarded through Caltrans' Sustainable Transportation Planning Program to assist local agencies in identifying and quantifying mitigations to VMT impacts and improve multimodal transportation to serve Santa Clara's residents. The County is encouraged to collaborate with Caltrans and VTA to assess and develop a regional VMT mitigation program to reduce VMT in an effective and feasible manner.

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

Sincerely,



YUNSHENG LUO

Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse