

California Department of Transportation

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February 5, 2026

Dennis Joe, Principal Planner
Community Development Department
Development Services Division
City of Glendale
633 East Broadway, Room 103
Glendale, CA 91206

RE: Glendale - Los Angeles Garden River Bridge
Project
SCH # 2026010518
Vic. LA-134/PM R6.065, LA-5/PM 27.76
GTS # LA-2026-05003-MND

Dear Dennis Joe:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The Project proposes the construction of a three-span, curvilinear, landscaped bridge across the LA River between the Cities of Los Angeles and Glendale for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. It would feature extensive landscaping on the approaches, as well as on the bridge itself, and is thus named the "Garden River Bridge". A number of raised and in-ground planting beds would create dedicated zones for bicycle and pedestrian circulation, shade structures, canopied seating areas, and scenic views of the LA River. The intent of this multi-community resource is to increase access to Glendale Narrows Riverwalk and Griffith Park; to improve connections; and to increase the safety of paths used for pedestrians and cyclists. Dedicated access across the LA River at this key location would improve public safety and accessibility to important community resources by creating a connection between Glendale and Los Angeles across the LA River for pedestrians and cyclists.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/#guidelines-updates>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

The construction phase of the proposed project is expected to generate approximately 76 two-way construction trips per day, with 4 AM peak hour trips and 34 PM peak hour trips during the most intense phase. To mitigate potential off-site impacts, we concur with recommendation that employee and truck arrivals in the morning should avoid or minimize activity during the 7-9 AM peak period, and employee and truck departures in the afternoon should avoid or minimize activity during the 4-6 PM peak period.

The proposed project involves the construction of a bridge intended for use by bicyclists and pedestrians, aimed at improving and promoting pedestrian access. Only maintenance vehicles, which do not contribute to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), will be allowed on the bridge. As such, the project is not expected to result in an increase in VMT or trigger the requirement for a VMT analysis. The project will support and enhance alternative means of transportation, designed to increase interjurisdictional pedestrian and bicycle access to LA River amenities, including the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk, Griffith Park, and the nearby LA Zoo. Consequently, the impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Any large-size truck trips should be limited to off-peak commute periods for the construction phase and operation phase. Construction truck loads should be covered with a tarpaulin cover.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles County. Please be mindful that projects should be designed to discharge clean run-off water.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2026-05003-MND.

Sincerely,



Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse