



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2015
From: Jean Eisberg
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(415) 841-3539
To: Emily Alter, City of El Cerrito
Subject: Active Transportation Plan - Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Response to Comments

The Active Transportation Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (State Clearinghouse # 2015061080) evaluated potential impacts of the Active Transportation Plan on the environment. The comment period for the IS/MND extended from June 26, 2015 through July 27, 2015. This Response to Comments memo provides written responses to comments received on the IS/MND.

The City received one comment in response to the IS/MND: from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The comment and responses below supplement information provided in the IS/MND and should be considered by City of El Cerrito decision makers as they consider whether to adopt the MND.

Letter #1: Patrice Maurice, District Branch Chief, Caltrans, 7/27/15

This comment letter (attached) indicates that the I-80/Central Avenue operational improvement project is scheduled for implementation and requested that the City of El Cerrito coordinate its proposed improvements on Central Avenue to determine feasibility and address operations issues. The letter generally expressed support for the pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Central Avenue.

City staff will continue to engage Caltrans and other stakeholders, and incorporate approved Caltrans projects in the design and implementation of projects identified in the Active Transportation Plan. No changes are proposed to the IS/MND.

Encl.: Letter received from Caltrans

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUNDO G. BROWN Jr., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

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July 27, 2015

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CCVAR29
SCH #2015061080City of El Cerrito
Public Works

Ms. Yvetteh Ortiz
City of El Cerrito
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dear Ms. Ortiz:

The City of El Cerrito Active Transportation Plan & Initial Study Checklist-Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the project referenced above. The Active Transportation Plan (Plan) proposes nine focus area projects, revised bicycle and pedestrian networks, a policy toolkit, and program framework to making walking and biking easier in El Cerrito. The nine focus area projects are:

- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to Bay Trail Access Improvements at Carlson Boulevard, Class 1 Bicycle path along Cerrito Creek, Pierce Street, and Central Avenue under Interstate (I-) 80 and I-580,
- Ohlone Greenway Crossing Improvements,
- Citywide Wayfinding at key walking and biking routes,
- Arlington Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements,
- East Side Bicycle Boulevard to create a bicycle boulevard running north-south through the city,
- East Side Bicycle Boulevard,
- Key Boulevard Improvements to improve connections and enhance safety for bicyclist traveling to the Del North BART station,
- Fairmont Avenue Improvements, and
- Potrero Avenue Improvements.

Proposed Project for Central Avenue

Please note that an I-80/Central Avenue operational improvement project is scheduled for implementation in the near future to address issues resulting from closely-spaced freeway ramps,

Ms. Yvetteh Ortiz, City of El Cerrito
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frontage road issues, and conflicting traffic movements. The improvements for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity along Central Avenue proposed by the Plan are in line with Caltrans' 2015 Strategic Management Plan goal of increasing pedestrian and bicycle trips. Early coordination with Caltrans will be needed to determine the feasibility of proposed improvements and address any issues with traffic congestion and operations along Central Avenue.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Keith Wayne at 510-286-5737 or keith_wayne@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



for

PATRICIA MAURICE
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

C: State Clearing House