

1 RESOLUTION NO. 23589

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
3 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING “VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED”
4 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYZING
5 TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA
6 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

7 WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (“CEQA Guidelines”)
8 encourage public agencies to develop and publish generally applicable “thresholds of significance”
9 to be used in determining the significance of a project’s environmental effects; and

10 WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as “an
11 identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect,
12 noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the
13 agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than
14 significant”; and

15 WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(b) requires that thresholds of significance
16 must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review
17 process, and be supported by substantial evidence; and

18 WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(c), when adopting thresholds of
19 significance, a public agency may consider thresholds of significance adopted or recommended by
20 other public agencies provided that the decision of the agency is supported by substantial evidence;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 743, enacted in 2013 and codified in Public Resources Code section
23 21099, required changes to the CEQA Guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the
24 significance of transportation impacts of projects; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (“OPR”) proposed,
26 and the California Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted, new CEQA Guidelines section
27 15064.3 that identifies vehicle miles traveled (“VMT”) – meaning the amount and distance of
28 automobile travel attributable to a project – as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project’s
transportation impacts; and

1 WHEREAS, as a result, automobile delay, as measured by “level of service” and other
2 similar metrics, generally no longer constitutes a significant environmental effect under CEQA; and

3 WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 goes into effect on July 1, 2020, though
4 public agencies may elect to be governed by this section immediately; and

5 WHEREAS, the Public Works Department conducted a public review process, which
6 consisted of a staff presentation before the Planning Commission on May 14, 2020, an informational
7 website to provide resources to the public, and solicitation of comments from several community
8 organizations and local transportations consultants.

9 WHEREAS, the City of Riverside desires to adopt the VMT thresholds of significance,
10 recommended within the technical advisory document prepared by the Governor’s Office of
11 Planning and Research.

12 WHEREAS, the City of Riverside desires to support the targeted 15% reduction in baseline
13 VMT levels described within its Green Action Plan.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Riverside,
15 California, as follows:

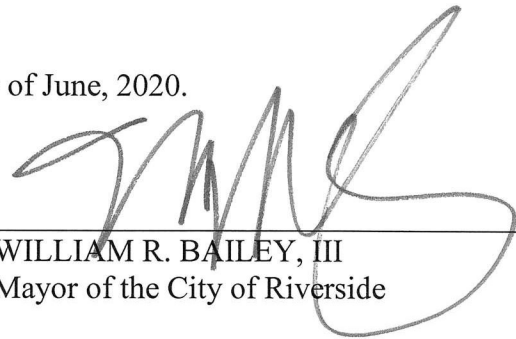
16 Section 1: The City of Riverside hereby adopts the following:

- 17 1. Utilizing the Riverside County Travel Demand Model (RIVTAM/RIVCOM) as its
18 methodology to measure VMT.
- 19 2. Utilizing the Riverside County Travel Demand Model (RIVTAM/RIVCOM) as its
20 method to analyze a project’s VMT impact.
- 21 3. For new residential projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with 15% below the
22 City’s current baseline VMT Per Capita.
- 23 4. For new office and industrial projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with 15%
24 below the City’s current baseline VMT Per Employee.
- 25 5. For new retail & other land use projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with the net
26 total VMT of the jurisdiction.

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Section 2: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 16th day of June, 2020.



WILLIAM R. BAILEY, III
Mayor of the City of Riverside

Attest:



COLLEEN J. NICOL
City Clerk of the City of Riverside

I, Colleen J. Nicol, City Clerk of the City of Riverside, California, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the City Council of said City at its meeting held on the 16th day of June, 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

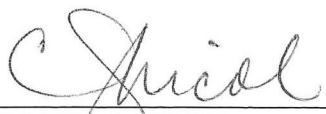
Ayes: Councilmembers Edwards, Melendrez, Fierro, Perry, and Hemenway and
Councilwoman Plascencia

Noes: Councilmember Conder

Absent: None

Abstain: None

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Riverside, California, this 19th day of June, 2020.



COLLEEN J. NICOL
City Clerk of the City of Riverside

CA: 20-0271