



**PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ADOPT VEHICLE MILES
TRAVELED THRESHOLDS FOR CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE
RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS**

Public Works Department

Planning Commission
Agenda Item: 6
May 14, 2020

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BACKGROUND

- Historically, delay and congestion were the metrics used when evaluating transportation impacts.
- To implement SB 743, the City of Riverside needs to determine appropriate VMT methodologies, thresholds, and feasible mitigation measures.
- WRCOG has prepared analysis to assist its member agencies in the transition.
- SB 743 must be implemented by July 1, 2020.



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DISCUSSION

- Since SB 743 represents a significant departure from the City of Riverside's current practice, the City must address the following questions below prior to taking any action:
 - A. Methodology
 - B. Thresholds
 - C. Mitigation



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METHODOLOGY

- Recommend use of the Riverside County Travel Demand Model (RIVTAM / RIVCOM)
- Jurisdictions and technical experts have been utilizing RIVTAM since 2009.
- A new version of the Riverside County Travel Demand Model is being developed by WRCOG and will be ready for use by Fall 2020.



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THRESHOLDS (OPTIONS)

- Thresholds consistent with OPR's Technical Advisory, recommending that proposed developments generate VMT per person that is 15% below existing VMT per capita;
- Thresholds consistent with Lead Agency air quality, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and energy conservation goals;
- Thresholds consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy future year VMT projects by jurisdiction or subregion; and
- Thresholds based on baseline VMT performance by jurisdiction or subregion.



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REGARDING OPR'S GUIDELINES

- State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has released guidelines supporting OPR-recommended thresholds.
- Other agencies, including Irvine, Los Angeles, Santa Ana, San Jose, and Beverly Hills have or are anticipated to adopt thresholds generally consistent with OPR / Caltrans



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RECOMMENDED THRESHOLDS

- For new residential projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with 15% below the City's current VMT Per Capita.
- For new office & industrial projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with 15% below the City's current VMT Per Employee.
- For new retail & other land use projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with the City's current net total VMT.



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MITIGATION

- Diversifying land use
- Improving pedestrian networks
- Implementing traffic calming infrastructure
- Building low-street bicycle network improvements



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MITIGATION

- Encouraging telecommuting and alternative work schedules
- Providing ride-share programs
- Transit passes
- Mitigation Bank (under development using SB 2 funds)



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UPDATED TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS GUIDELINES

- Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines Have Been Updated
- Include a broad set of project screening criteria
- Include a reference to the WRCOG-commissioned online Screening Map



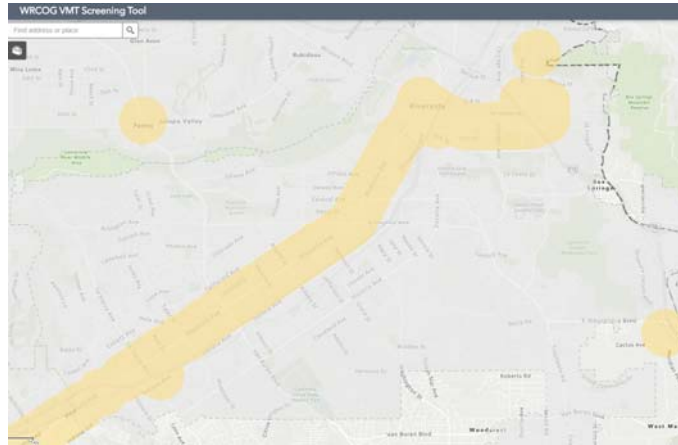
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SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

- Qualifying projects in Transit Priority Areas



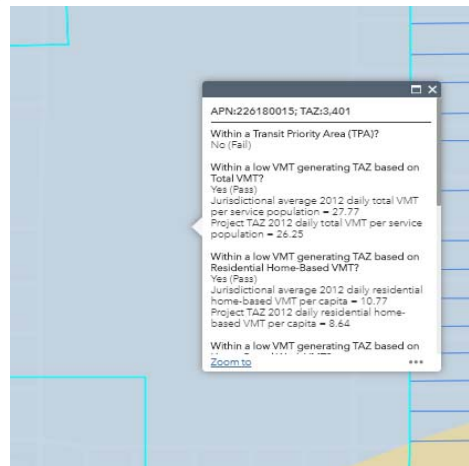
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SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

- Qualifying projects in low-VMT areas beneath thresholds



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SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

- A broad range of project-types including:
- Local serving retail projects less than 50,000 square feet may be presumed to have a less than significant impact absent substantial evidence to the contrary. Local serving retail generally improves the convenience of shopping close to home and has the effect of reducing vehicle travel.
- Local-serving K-12 schools
- Local parks



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SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

- Day care centers
- Local-serving gas stations & car-washes
- Local-serving banks
- Local-serving hotels (e.g. non-destination hotels)
- Student housing projects
- 100% Affordable housing projects



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SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

- Local serving community colleges that are consistent with the assumptions noted in the RTP/SCS
- Projects consisting of 100% affordable housing
- Projects generating less than 110 daily vehicle trips
 - This generally corresponds to the following “typical” development potentials:
 - 11 single family housing units
 - 16 multi-family, condominiums, or townhouse housing units
 - 10,000 sq. ft. of office
 - 15,000 sq. ft. of light industrial
 - 63,000 sq. ft. of warehousing



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RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Planning Commission recommend the City Council:
 1. Adopt a resolution approving Vehicle Miles Traveled thresholds for California Environmental Quality Act compliance related to transportation analysis.



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