

California Department of Transportation

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May 23, 2023

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR)
2023 Fresno County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update
SCH # 201803106
GTS #: 29653

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Chris Motta, Principal Planner
Fresno County - Department of Public Works and Planning
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Motta:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the Fresno County General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update. The DPEIR is a document that analyzes and discloses the potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the update of the Fresno County GP and Zoning Ordinance. The GP is a planning document that updates established policies and land uses that guide the growth and development for the City of Fresno, specifically looking toward the planning horizon of 2042.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. It is understood that the County has adopted transportation impact criteria based on the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as presented in the 2021 Fresno Council of Governments' Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines, as noted in the DPEIR Appendix TIS, Vehicle Miles Traveled Technical Memorandum for the GP update. Caltrans encourages the County and project proponents of future developments to coordinate with Caltrans regarding projects that have the potential to impact the State Highway System (SHS) facilities.
2. Please note that future further studies such as transportation impact studies, queueing analyses, or safety analyses may be needed for the land uses near the state route facilities.
3. Pages 36 of the EIR document includes the following policy:

T-1: **VMT Policy**- This is consistent with the recommended threshold identified for

unincorporated Fresno County in the *2021 Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines* (pursuant to OPR's SB 743 technical advisory).

4. Caltrans encourages local agencies to consider creating a VMT Mitigation Impact Fee to help reduce impacts on the state highway system.
5. Local agencies are also encouraged to consider implementing policies that support multimodal transportation systems (such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities and public transportation services) to provide connectivity of modes within communities which also helps reduce VMT.
6. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans supports reducing VMT and GHG emissions in ways that increase the likelihood that people will use and benefit from a multimodal transportation network.
7. The County should consider promoting the leveraging of strategic investments to maintain and modernize a multimodal freight transportation system with innovative approaches, including advanced technology to optimize integrated network efficiency, improve travel time reliability, and achieve sustainable congestion reduction.

If you have any other questions, please call or email: Keyomi Jones, Transportation Planner at (559) 981-7284 or keyomi.jones@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Mr. Dave Padilla, Branch Chief,
Transportation Planning – North