

Planning, Policy
&
Programming

JUNE 2022

Project Title:
Monitoring Vehicle Miles Traveled
(VMT) Reduction Claims in Local
Development Review

Task Number: 3348

Start Date: October 1, 2020

Completion Date: June 30, 2022

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Monitoring VMT Traveled Reduction Claims in Local Development Review

The research will provide an assessment of the available methods for estimating and mitigating VMT.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

In response to Senate Bill (SB) 743, California is in the process of shifting from a focus on level-of-service to a focus on reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This shift has created many challenges for transportation analysts, given the lack of established practices with respect to VMT estimation and mitigation.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The project will address three questions:

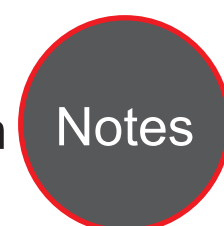
1. What is the current state-of-the-practice with respect to the estimation of VMT impacts and the selection of mitigation strategies in CEQA environmental review documents?
2. What tools/methods are cities adopting for estimating and mitigating VMT impacts in the development review process?
3. What are possible methods for monitoring the efficacy of the VMT mitigation strategies adopted as an outcome of the environmental review process?

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The research will provide an assessment of the available methods for estimating and mitigating VMT. It will also recommend a method for monitoring VMT impacts and the efficacy of mitigation measures.



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WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

With these results, the State, counties and cities will have information on established and effective practices with respect to VMT estimation and mitigation in response to SB 743.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

1. We had a kick-off meeting on October 13, 2020.
2. We identified jurisdictions (rural and suburban) that have adopted VMT impact standards.
3. Reviewed VMT estimation guidance, and/or VMT mitigation guidance pursuant to SB 743.
4. Reviewed literature on existing methods for estimating and mitigating VMT.
5. We provided stakeholders with a spreadsheet of catalogued data, and interviewed more cities that have adopted VMT impact standards.
6. We amended the task order to extend the timeframe to collect for data.
7. Followed up with cities and counties for which we were not able to obtain information regarding VMT impact thresholds, VMT estimation methods, and VMT impact monitoring methods.
8. Continued literature review. Identified additional local government officials and consultants to interview.
9. Began drafting analysis. Next step is to finalize spreadsheet on catalogued data on local governments' SB 742 implementation progress.

IMAGE

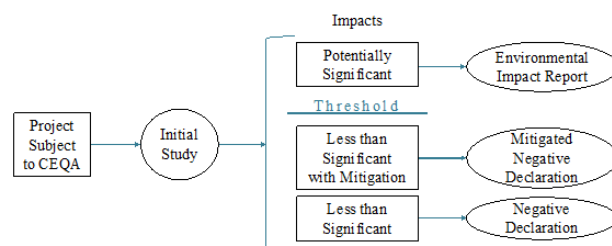


Image 1: California's Environmental Review Process