



Metro

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

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metro.net

March 3, 2015

Edson Ibanez
City of Azusa Community Development Department
213 E. Foothill Blvd.
Azusa, CA 91702

RE: The Azusa TOD Specific Plan

Dear Mr. Ibanez,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Azusa TOD Specific Plan Project. This letter conveys recommendations from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) concerning issues that are germane to our agency's statutory responsibility in relation to our facilities and services that may be affected by the proposed project.

It is noted that the central boundary of the site of the project is along Metro Gold Line light rail extension phase II. Following concerns related to the project's proximity to the ROW should be addressed:

1. The applicant should be aware that this ROW has been selected as the preferred alignment for the Gold Line Foothill Extension Phase 2B. The Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority released an EIR earlier this year as part of the CEQA process and is preparing a NEPA document currently. The Gold Line Foothill Extension will be the construction managers of this project when it is built.
2. For more information regarding the Gold Line Foothill Extension, please contact the project manager, Rick Meade at 213-922-7917 or MeadeR@metro.net

Beyond impacts to Metro facilities and operations, LACMTA must also notify the applicant of state requirements. A Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA), with roadway and transit components, is required under the State of California Congestion Management Program (CMP) statute. The CMP TIA Guidelines are published in the "2010 Congestion Management Program for Los Angeles County", Appendix D (attached). The geographic area examined in the TIA must include the following, at a minimum:

1. All CMP arterial monitoring intersections, including monitored freeway on/off-ramp intersections, where the proposed project will add 50 or more trips during either the a.m. or p.m. weekday peak hour (of adjacent street traffic).
2. If CMP arterial segments are being analyzed rather than intersections, the study area must include all segments where the proposed project will add 50 or more peak hour trips (total of both directions). Within the study area, the TIA must analyze at least one segment between monitored CMP intersections.
3. Mainline freeway-monitoring locations where the project will add 150 or more trips, in either direction, during either the a.m. or p.m. weekday peak hour.

4. Caltrans must also be consulted through the NOP process to identify other specific locations to be analyzed on the state highway system.

The CMP TIA requirement also contains two separate impact studies covering roadways and transit, as outlined in Sections D.8.1 – D.9.4. If the TIA identifies no facilities for study based on the criteria above, no further traffic analysis is required. However, projects must still consider transit impacts. For all CMP TIA requirements please see the attached guidelines.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Nareh Nazary at 213-922-4163 or by email at DevReview@metro.net. LACMTA looks forward to reviewing the Draft EIR. Please send it to the following address:

LACMTA Development Review
One Gateway Plaza MS 99-18-3
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Sincerely,



Nareh Nazary
Development Review Coordinator, Countywide Planning

Attachments: Noise Easement Deed
 CMP Appendix D: Guidelines for CMP Transportation Impact Analysis

RECORDING REQUESTED BY
AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Real Estate Department
Deputy Executive Officer - Real Estate
P: 213-922-2415
F: 213-922-2400
One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-18-4
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932

Space Above Line for Recorder's Use

[Recordation of this Public Document is Exempt from all Recording Fees and Taxes Pursuant to Government Code Section 6103]

Public Agency - No Tax Statement

NOISE EASEMENT DEED

For valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, **(Name of Owner)**, a _____, ("Grantor") for themselves, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, assigns, tenants, and lessees do hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey to the **LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**, a public agency existing under the authority of the laws of the State of California ("Grantee"), its successors and assigns, for the use and benefit of the public and its employees, a perpetual, assignable easement in that certain real property in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference,

Said easement shall encompass and cover the entirety of the Grantors' Property having the same boundaries as the described Property and extending from the sub-surface upwards to the limits of the atmosphere of the earth, the right to cause in said easement area such noise, vibrations, fumes, dust, fuel particles, light, sonic disturbances, and all other effects that may be caused or may have been caused by the operation of public transit vehicles traveling along the Project right of way.

Grantor hereby waives all rights to protest, object to, make a claim or bring suit or action of any purpose, including or not limited to, property damage or personal injuries, against Grantee, its successors and assigns, for any necessary operating and maintenance activities and changes related to the Project which may conflict with Grantors' use of Grantors' property for residential and other purposes, and Grantors hereby grants an easement to the Grantee for such activities.

The granting of said Easement shall also establish the Grantors' right to further modify or develop the Property for any permitted use. However, Grantor's rights of development shall not interfere with the continued operation of Grantee's Project.

It is understood and agreed that these covenants and agreements shall be permanent, perpetual, will run with the land and that notice shall be made to and shall be binding upon all heirs, administrators, executors, successors, assigns, tenants and lessees of the Grantor. The Grantee is hereby expressly granted the right of third party enforcement of this easement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused its/their signature to be affixed this day of, 2013.

By: _____
Name

By: _____
Name

(ATTACH NOTARY SEAL AND CERTIFICATE HERE.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

State of California
County of _____)

On _____ before me, _____
(insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared _____, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to be that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/ their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature _____ (Seal)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that the interest in the real property conveyed by the foregoing Noise Easement Deed from _____ to **LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**, a public agency existing under the authority of the laws of the State of California ("LACMTA"), is hereby accepted by the undersigned on behalf of the LACMTA pursuant to authority conferred by resolution of the Board of Directors of the LACMTA, and the Grantee hereby consents to the recordation of this Deed by its duly authorized officer.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20__

By: _____

Deputy Executive Officer - Real Estate

GUIDELINES FOR CMP TRANSPORTATION IMPACT ANALYSIS

Important Notice to User: This section provides detailed travel statistics for the Los Angeles area which will be updated on an ongoing basis. Updates will be distributed to all local jurisdictions when available. In order to ensure that impact analyses reflect the best available information, lead agencies may also contact MTA at the time of study initiation. Please contact MTA staff to request the most recent release of "Baseline Travel Data for CMP TIAs."

D.1 OBJECTIVE OF GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are intended to assist local agencies in evaluating impacts of land use decisions on the Congestion Management Program (CMP) system, through preparation of a regional transportation impact analysis (TIA). The following are the basic objectives of these guidelines:

- Promote consistency in the studies conducted by different jurisdictions, while maintaining flexibility for the variety of project types which could be affected by these guidelines.
- Establish procedures which can be implemented within existing project review processes and without ongoing review by MTA.
- Provide guidelines which can be implemented immediately, with the full intention of subsequent review and possible revision.

These guidelines are based on specific requirements of the Congestion Management Program, and travel data sources available specifically for Los Angeles County. References are listed in Section D.10 which provide additional information on possible methodologies and available resources for conducting TIAs.

D.2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Exhibit D-7 provides the model resolution that local jurisdictions adopted containing CMP TIA procedures in 1993. TIA requirements should be fulfilled within the existing environmental review process, extending local traffic impact studies to include impacts to the regional system. In order to monitor activities affected by these requirements, Notices of Preparation (NOPs) must be submitted to MTA as a responsible agency. Formal MTA approval of individual TIAs is not required.

The following sections describe CMP TIA requirements in detail. In general, the competing objectives of consistency & flexibility have been addressed by specifying standard, or minimum, requirements and requiring documentation when a TIA varies from these standards.

D.3 PROJECTS SUBJECT TO ANALYSIS

In general a CMP TIA is required for all projects required to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) based on local determination. A TIA is not required if the lead agency for the EIR finds that traffic is not a significant issue, and does not require local or regional traffic impact analysis in the EIR. Please refer to Chapter 5 for more detailed information.

CMP TIA guidelines, particularly intersection analyses, are largely geared toward analysis of projects where land use types and design details are known. Where likely land uses are not defined (such as where project descriptions are limited to zoning designation and parcel size with no information on access location), the level of detail in the TIA may be adjusted accordingly. This may apply, for example, to some redevelopment areas and citywide general plans, or community level specific plans. In such cases, where project definition is insufficient for meaningful intersection level of service analysis, CMP arterial segment analysis may substitute for intersection analysis.

D.4 STUDY AREA

The geographic area examined in the TIA must include the following, at a minimum:

- All CMP arterial monitoring intersections, including monitored freeway on- or off-ramp intersections, where the proposed project will add 50 or more trips during either the AM or PM weekday peak hours (of adjacent street traffic).
- If CMP arterial segments are being analyzed rather than intersections (see Section D.3), the study area must include all segments where the proposed project will add 50 or more peak hour trips (total of both directions). Within the study area, the TIA must analyze at least one segment between monitored CMP intersections.
- Mainline freeway monitoring locations where the project will add 150 or more trips, in either direction, during either the AM or PM weekday peak hours.
- Caltrans must also be consulted through the Notice of Preparation (NOP) process to identify other specific locations to be analyzed on the state highway system.

If the TIA identifies no facilities for study based on these criteria, no further traffic analysis is required. However, projects must still consider transit impacts (Section D.8.4).

D.5 BACKGROUND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

The following sections describe the procedures for documenting and estimating background, or non-project related traffic conditions. Note that for the purpose of a TIA, these background estimates must include traffic from all sources without regard to the exemptions specified in CMP statute (e.g., traffic generated by the provision of low and very low income housing, or trips originating outside Los Angeles County. Refer to Chapter 5, Section 5.2.3 for a complete list of exempted projects).

D.5.1 Existing Traffic Conditions. Existing traffic volumes and levels of service (LOS) on the CMP highway system within the study area must be documented. Traffic counts must

be less than one year old at the time the study is initiated, and collected in accordance with CMP highway monitoring requirements (see Appendix A). Section D.8.1 describes TIA LOS calculation requirements in greater detail. Freeway traffic volume and LOS data provided by Caltrans is also provided in Appendix A.

D.5.2 Selection of Horizon Year and Background Traffic Growth. Horizon year(s) selection is left to the lead agency, based on individual characteristics of the project being analyzed. In general, the horizon year should reflect a realistic estimate of the project completion date. For large developments phased over several years, review of intermediate milestones prior to buildout should also be considered.

At a minimum, horizon year background traffic growth estimates must use the generalized growth factors shown in Exhibit D-1. These growth factors are based on regional modeling efforts, and estimate the general effect of cumulative development and other socioeconomic changes on traffic throughout the region. Beyond this minimum, selection among the various methodologies available to estimate horizon year background traffic in greater detail is left to the lead agency. Suggested approaches include consultation with the jurisdiction in which the intersection under study is located, in order to obtain more detailed traffic estimates based on ongoing development in the vicinity.

D.6 PROPOSED PROJECT TRAFFIC GENERATION

Traffic generation estimates must conform to the procedures of the current edition of Trip Generation, by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). If an alternative methodology is used, the basis for this methodology must be fully documented.

Increases in site traffic generation may be reduced for existing land uses to be removed, if the existing use was operating during the year the traffic counts were collected. Current traffic generation should be substantiated by actual driveway counts; however, if infeasible, traffic may be estimated based on a methodology consistent with that used for the proposed use.

Regional transportation impact analysis also requires consideration of trip lengths. Total site traffic generation must therefore be divided into work and non-work-related trip purposes in order to reflect observed trip length differences. Exhibit D-2 provides factors which indicate trip purpose breakdowns for various land use types.

For lead agencies who also participate in CMP highway monitoring, it is recommended that any traffic counts on CMP facilities needed to prepare the TIA should be done in the manner outlined in Chapter 2 and Appendix A. If the TIA traffic counts are taken within one year of the deadline for submittal of CMP highway monitoring data, the local jurisdiction would save the cost of having to conduct the traffic counts twice.

D.7 TRIP DISTRIBUTION

For trip distribution by direct/manual assignment, generalized trip distribution factors are provided in Exhibit D-3, based on regional modeling efforts. These factors indicate Regional Statistical Area (RSA)-level tripmaking for work and non-work trip purposes.

(These RSAs are illustrated in Exhibit D-4.) For locations where it is difficult to determine the project site RSA, census tract/RSA correspondence tables are available from MTA.

Exhibit D-5 describes a general approach to applying the preceding factors. Project trip distribution must be consistent with these trip distribution and purpose factors; the basis for variation must be documented.

Local agency travel demand models disaggregated from the SCAG regional model are presumed to conform to this requirement, as long as the trip distribution functions are consistent with the regional distribution patterns. For retail commercial developments, alternative trip distribution factors may be appropriate based on the market area for the specific planned use. Such market area analysis must clearly identify the basis for the trip distribution pattern expected.

D.8 IMPACT ANALYSIS

CMP Transportation Impact Analyses contain two separate impact studies covering roadways and transit. Section Nos. D.8.1-D.8.3 cover required roadway analysis while Section No. D.8.4 covers the required transit impact analysis. Section Nos. D.9.1-D.9.4 define the requirement for discussion and evaluation of alternative mitigation measures.

D.8.1 Intersection Level of Service Analysis. The LA County CMP recognizes that individual jurisdictions have wide ranging experience with LOS analysis, reflecting the variety of community characteristics, traffic controls and street standards throughout the county. As a result, the CMP acknowledges the possibility that no single set of assumptions should be mandated for all TIAs within the county.

However, in order to promote consistency in the TIAs prepared by different jurisdictions, CMP TIAs must conduct intersection LOS calculations using either of the following methods:

- The Intersection Capacity Utilization (ICU) method as specified for CMP highway monitoring (see Appendix A); or
- The Critical Movement Analysis (CMA) / Circular 212 method.

Variation from the standard assumptions under either of these methods for circumstances at particular intersections must be fully documented.

TIAs using the 1985 or 1994 Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) operational analysis must provide converted volume-to-capacity based LOS values, as specified for CMP highway monitoring in Appendix A.

D.8.2 Arterial Segment Analysis. For TIAs involving arterial segment analysis, volume-to-capacity ratios must be calculated for each segment and LOS values assigned using the V/C-LOS equivalency specified for arterial intersections. A capacity of 800 vehicles per hour per through traffic lane must be used, unless localized conditions necessitate alternative values to approximate current intersection congestion levels.

D.8.3 Freeway Segment (Mainline) Analysis. For the purpose of CMP TIAs, a simplified analysis of freeway impacts is required. This analysis consists of a demand-to-capacity calculation for the affected segments, and is indicated in Exhibit D-6.

D.8.4 Transit Impact Review. CMP transit analysis requirements are met by completing and incorporating into an EIR the following transit impact analysis:

- Evidence that affected transit operators received the Notice of Preparation.
- A summary of existing transit services in the project area. Include local fixed-route services within a ¼ mile radius of the project; express bus routes within a 2 mile radius of the project, and; rail service within a 2 mile radius of the project.
- Information on trip generation and mode assignment for both AM and PM peak hour periods as well as for daily periods. Trips assigned to transit will also need to be calculated for the same peak hour and daily periods. Peak hours are defined as 7:30-8:30 AM and 4:30-5:30 PM. Both “peak hour” and “daily” refer to average weekdays, unless special seasonal variations are expected. If expected, seasonal variations should be described.
- Documentation of the assumption and analyses that were used to determine the number and percent of trips assigned to transit. Trips assigned to transit may be calculated along the following guidelines:
 - Multiply the total trips generated by 1.4 to convert vehicle trips to person trips;
 - For each time period, multiply the result by one of the following factors:
 - 3.5% of Total Person Trips Generated for most cases, except:
 - 10% primarily Residential within 1/4 mile of a CMP transit center
 - 15% primarily Commercial within 1/4 mile of a CMP transit center
 - 7% primarily Residential within 1/4 mile of a CMP multi-modal transportation center
 - 9% primarily Commercial within 1/4 mile of a CMP multi-modal transportation center
 - 5% primarily Residential within 1/4 mile of a CMP transit corridor
 - 7% primarily Commercial within 1/4 mile of a CMP transit corridor
 - 0% if no fixed route transit services operate within one mile of the project

To determine whether a project is primarily residential or commercial in nature, please refer to the CMP land use categories listed and defined in Appendix E, *Guidelines for New Development Activity Tracking and Self Certification*. For projects that are only partially within the above one-quarter mile radius, the base rate (3.5% of total trips generated) should be applied to all of the project buildings that touch the radius perimeter.

- Information on facilities and/or programs that will be incorporated in the development plan that will encourage public transit use. Include not only the jurisdiction’s TDM Ordinance measures, but other project specific measures.

- Analysis of expected project impacts on current and future transit services and proposed project mitigation measures, and;
- Selection of final mitigation measures remains at the discretion of the local jurisdiction/lead agency. Once a mitigation program is selected, the jurisdiction self-monitors implementation through the existing mitigation monitoring requirements of CEQA.

D.9 IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF MITIGATION

D.9.1 Criteria for Determining a Significant Impact. For purposes of the CMP, a significant impact occurs when the proposed project increases traffic demand on a CMP facility by 2% of capacity ($V/C \geq 0.02$), causing LOS F ($V/C > 1.00$); if the facility is already at LOS F, a significant impact occurs when the proposed project increases traffic demand on a CMP facility by 2% of capacity ($V/C \geq 0.02$). The lead agency may apply a more stringent criteria if desired.

D.9.2 Identification of Mitigation. Once the project has been determined to cause a significant impact, the lead agency must investigate measures which will mitigate the impact of the project. Mitigation measures proposed must clearly indicate the following:

- Cost estimates, indicating the fair share costs to mitigate the impact of the proposed project. If the improvement from a proposed mitigation measure will exceed the impact of the project, the TIA must indicate the proportion of total mitigation costs which is attributable to the project. This fulfills the statutory requirement to exclude the costs of mitigating inter-regional trips.
- Implementation responsibilities. Where the agency responsible for implementing mitigation is not the lead agency, the TIA must document consultation with the implementing agency regarding project impacts, mitigation feasibility and responsibility.

Final selection of mitigation measures remains at the discretion of the lead agency. The TIA must, however, provide a summary of impacts and mitigation measures. Once a mitigation program is selected, the jurisdiction self-monitors implementation through the mitigation monitoring requirements contained in CEQA.

D.9.3 Project Contribution to Planned Regional Improvements. If the TIA concludes that project impacts will be mitigated by anticipated regional transportation improvements, such as rail transit or high occupancy vehicle facilities, the TIA must document:

- Any project contribution to the improvement, and
- The means by which trips generated at the site will access the regional facility.

D.9.4 Transportation Demand Management (TDM). If the TIA concludes or assumes that project impacts will be reduced through the implementation of TDM measures, the TIA must document specific actions to be implemented by the project which substantiate these conclusions.

D.10 REFERENCES

1. *Traffic Access and Impact Studies for Site Development: A Recommended Practice*, Institute of Transportation Engineers, 1991.
2. *Trip Generation*, 5th Edition, Institute of Transportation Engineers, 1991.
3. *Travel Forecast Summary: 1987 Base Model - Los Angeles Regional Transportation Study (LARTS)*, California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), February 1990.
4. *Traffic Study Guidelines*, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), July 1991.
5. *Traffic/Access Guidelines*, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.
6. *Building Better Communities*, Sourcebook, Coordinating Land Use and Transit Planning, American Public Transit Association.
7. *Design Guidelines for Bus Facilities*, Orange County Transit District, 2nd Edition, November 1987.
8. *Coordination of Transit and Project Development*, Orange County Transit District, 1988.
9. *Encouraging Public Transportation Through Effective Land Use Actions*, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, May 1987.