

Agenda Item: File ID 20-00725 (10:10 A.M.)
Agenda Date: 06/18/2020

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Information Packet

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ITEM(S)

File ID 20-00725 (10:10 A.M.) – Hearing to consider adoption of Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds pursuant to Senate Bill 743, which requires local jurisdictions in California to adopt such thresholds by July 1, 2020

Contents of Supplement: Bullet Summary of item

Item(s)

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SUMMARY OF STAFF REPORT FOR ITEM #20-00725

June 18, 2020

ITEM SUBJECT:

Hearing to consider adoption of Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds pursuant to Senate Bill 743, which requires local jurisdictions in California to adopt such thresholds by July 1, 2020:

1. **RESOLUTION** - Adopting Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds as described in the "CEQA Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled Thresholds" document dated June 18, 2020, prepared pursuant to the requirements of California Public Resources Code Section 21099, and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.3(b) and 15064.7.
2. Direct staff to pursue a mitigation program that includes creation of a citywide mitigation bank, exchange, or other mechanism to allow more options for VMT mitigation.

SUMMARY:

- Today the City Council is taking formal action needed to adopt CEQA thresholds for transportation, as required by state law. The new metric to determine transportation impact is vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which replaces the previous metric of delay/congestion.
- VMT measures total trips multiplied by trip distance to get the total vehicle miles related to any given project.
- Project level VMT are then compared to a regional average to determine impact. The regional average is expressed either in VMT per capita for residential projects; VMT per employee for office projects, or total VMT per capita for retail projects.
- There are three different project types, each with different thresholds. These are listed in Tables 1-3 on the following page. Note that the first project type, Development Projects, has a multi-faceted threshold because of the many types of projects that could be proposed.
- If the Council does not take action by the required date of July 1, 2020, then the state's threshold would apply. The state's threshold for Development Projects calls for a 15% reduction in VMT, and staff is proposing that Fresno adopt at 13% reduction threshold, consistent with Fresno Council of Government Guidelines.

SUMMARY OF STAFF REPORT FOR ITEM #20-725

Table 1: Development Project Thresholds

Type of Project	Residential	Office/Industrial	Retail	Mixed Use	Public Facilities
Proposed Thresholds	13% below existing regional VMT per capita	13% below existing regional VMT per employee	Any net increase in total VMT	Apply thresholds that correspond to uses	Most would be screened out

Table 2: Transportation Thresholds

Type of Project	Transportation Projects
Proposed Threshold	Any increase in VMT attributable to the project

Table 3: Land Use Plan Thresholds

Type of Project	Land Use Plan
Proposed Threshold	Any net increase in per capita VMT when comparing horizon year to base year.

- Finally, staff is requesting Council direction on development of a citywide mitigation bank, exchange, or other mechanism to allow more options for VMT mitigation. Development of a citywide mitigation program would provide more certainty with regard to VMT mitigation by establishing cost of reductions and ensuring legal defensibility for those reductions.