

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0124

A RESOLUTION OF THE MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPACT ANALYSIS GUIDELINES INCLUDING “VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED” THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE BILL 743 AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as “an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant”; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b) encourages public agencies to develop and publish thresholds of significance that the agency uses in the determination of the significance of environmental effects, and requires that thresholds of significance be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review process, and be supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(c), when adopting thresholds of significance, a public agency may consider thresholds of significance adopted or recommended by other public agencies provided that the decision of the agency is supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 743 (SB 743), enacted in 2013 and codified in Public Resources Code Section 21099, required changes to the CEQA Guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (“OPR”) proposed, and the California Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted new CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 that identifies vehicle miles traveled (“VMT”) – meaning the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project – as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project’s transportation impacts; and

WHEREAS, as a result, automobile delay, as measured by “level of service” (“LOS”) and other similar metrics, will generally no longer constitute a significant environmental effect under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 became applicable statewide July 1, 2020, though public agencies may elect to be governed by the section immediately; and

WHEREAS, as a result, automobile delay, as measured by “level of service” and other similar metrics, generally no longer constitutes a significant environmental effect under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, City staff has prepared Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines (“TIA Guidelines”) to outline the specific steps for complying with CEQA requirements for VMT analysis, and the goals and policies of the City’s Mobility Plan, which guidelines are on file with the Community Development Department and attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the TIA Guidelines include proposed VMT Thresholds of Significance; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2020, the City Council conducted a public review process before the City Council, and received public comment; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends approval of the TIA Guidelines by adoption of this Resolution; and

THE MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitations are true and correct, and are incorporated herein by this reference

SECTION 2. Based on the information provided in the agenda report accompanying this resolution, and the input received during the public review process, the City Council finds as follows:

A. That the thresholds of significance for VMT described in the proposed TIA Guidelines comply with Public Resources Code Section 21099 and CEQA Guidelines;

B. That implementation of the proposed TIA Guidelines will preserve the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and visitors to the City; and

C. That the proposed TIA Guidelines are consistent with the City General Plan and Mobility Plan update.

SECTION 2. Based upon the foregoing, the Council hereby adopts the City of Manhattan Beach Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b), all future state legislation and revisions to the CEQA Guidelines requiring revisions to the City’s TIA Guidelines regarding VMT developed through a public review process and supported by substantial evidences shall hereafter be considered part of the City’s TIA Guidelines without further action by the City Council. The City Council

hereby authorizes and instructs the City Manager and Community Development Director to amend the City's TIA Guidelines as needed to comply with such required revisions,

SECTION 7. The proposed TIA Guidelines are hereby found to be Categorically Exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment), Class 8, as they involve regulatory procedures for protection of the environment in compliance with State mandates under SB 743 and CEQA.

SECTION 8. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

SECTION 9. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution.

ADOPTED on November 4, 2020.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RICHARD MONTGOMERY
Mayor

ATTEST:

LIZA TAMURA
City Clerk