

RESOLUTION 2020-

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS ADOPTING VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYZING TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 743, signed into law in 2013 by Governor Edmund G. Brown, directed the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop updated criteria for measuring transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) using alternative metrics that promote a reduction in greenhouse gases, the development of multimodal transportation, and a diversity of land uses, all towards achieving the State's climate action goals; and

WHEREAS, Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines, added as part of the 2018 update, identifies Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts under CEQA, and states that a project's effect on automobile delay shall not constitute a significant environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has recommended using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to analyze transportation impacts; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b) allows lead agencies to adopt thresholds of significance for the lead agency's general use in its environmental review process. Lead agencies are required to begin using the VMT metric by July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Town has analyzed and drafted appropriate VMT thresholds of significance, considering local conditions and guidance from OPR; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council and Planning Commission held a joint Study Session on October 8, 2019 on the topic as an introduction to the new requirements, concepts, and other provisions; and

WHEREAS, On February 18, 2020, the Town Council was presented with two threshold setting options and approved the option to set thresholds consistent with the General Plan future year Vehicle Miles Traveled projections; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020 the Town completed a document titled “SB 743 Implementation Decisions for the Town of Los Gatos” to provide background on the changes in the CEQA Transportation Analysis and technical information pertaining to decisions the Town Council will need to make; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council held a public hearing on November 17, 2020 to establish VMT thresholds for use in implementing CEQA pursuant to SB 743 and considered all evidence presented at said hearing;

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds and determines, based upon staff and consultant reports and research as well as testimony in the record, that the revised CEQA thresholds of significance are consistent with State requirements as to how transportation impacts should be evaluated for purposes of CEQA review of projects. The thresholds of significance are based upon the VMT metric that is specifically required in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3. Additionally, the Town is setting the new CEQA thresholds at a level and in a manner consistent with and based upon review of OPR guidance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED does hereby RESOLVE as follows:

Based upon the foregoing, the Council hereby adopts the revised CEQA Thresholds of Significance for Transportation Impacts for land use projects and land use plans for the Town of Los Gatos, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Los Gatos, California, held on the 17th day of November 2020 by the following vote:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

SIGNED:

MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS
LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT A
Town of Los Gatos
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Thresholds of Significance for Transportation Impacts

Consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, the Town of Los Gatos has adopted the following thresholds of significance to guide in determining when a land use project or a land use plan will have a significant transportation impact.

A. Baseline Thresholds

A.1. Land Use Projects

Project Impact: A significant impact would occur if the total VMT per service population for the project would exceed a level of 11.3% below the total VMT per service population for the Town of Los Gatos baseline conditions.

Project Effect: A significant impact would occur if the project increases total (boundary) County-wide VMT by 6.5% compared to baseline conditions.

A.2. Land Use Plans

Project Impact: A significant impact would occur if the total VMT per service population for the plan area would exceed a level of 11.3% below the total VMT per service population for the Town of Los Gatos baseline conditions.

B. Cumulative Thresholds

B.1. Land Use Projects

Project Effect: A significant impact would occur if the project increases total (boundary) County-wide VMT by 6.5% compared to cumulative no project conditions.

B.2. Land Use Plans

Project Effect: A significant impact would occur if the project increases total (boundary) County-wide VMT by 6.5% compared to cumulative no project conditions.

B.3. All land use and transportation projects

A significant impact would occur if the project is inconsistent with the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy Plan (Plan Bay Area).