Introduction to SB 743/
The Transportation Engineer’s Perspective

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SB 743 – Preparing for Implementation
ITE/AEP SB 743 Workshop
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Outline

- Introduction to SB 743
- Summary of Current Draft Guidelines (January 2016)
- The Transportation Engineer’s Perspective
- Next Steps in SB 743 Process
- Websites for More Information
Introduction to SB 743

SB 743 Passed in Fall of 2013

Governors Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to Write New CEQA Guidelines for Transportation Analyses

Reduced Emphasis on Roadway Capacity/Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

Increased Emphasis on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) or Similar Measures

Purpose is to Encourage Smart Growth, Multimodal Travel and Infill Developments and Reduce Vehicle Travel

Minimum Geographic Area: Transit Priority Areas
Revised Draft SB 743 Guidelines - CEQA Guidelines

- VMT is performance measure. Auto delay is excluded.
- Lead agencies can choose thresholds if supported by substantial evidence.
- Projects in transit areas may be exempted.
- Induced travel required for roadway projects.
- Two-year opt in period.
- Changes must be formally incorporated into CEQA.
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Summary of Current Guidelines - Technical Advisory

- Technical Guidance on SB 743 Implementation
- Subject to Change by OPR Without Approval by Others
VMT Screening/Exemptions – Land Development Projects

- Projects with less than 100 ADT exempt
- Map-based screening for residential and office projects
- Exemptions for projects near transit stations
VMT Thresholds – Land Development Projects

- Residential: VMT/capita 15% below regional average or city average
- Office: VMT/employee 15% below regional average
- Retail: Net decrease in VMT. Local-serving retail exempt.
- Mixed Use: Evaluate each component separately and take credit for internal capture
- Other Projects: To be determined by lead agency
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Exempt Projects: Auxiliary lanes, roundabouts, turn lanes, local streets, collector streets

Induced travel analysis

Sketch planning methods described for induced travel using elasticity (e.g. 0.8% increase in VMT per 1.0% increase in lane miles)

VMT Threshold: Increase of less than 2,075,220 VMT/year (5,685 VMT/day)
Case Studies

- Sacramento Mixed-Use Development
- Mission Viejo Office Development
- Kern County Roadway Widening
Opportunities

- Facilitated environmental process for BRT, bicycle, and other environmentally-friendly projects
- Mitigation of VMT impacts could lead to development of complete streets projects and transit/bicycle/pedestrian improvements
- Greater awareness of VMT impacts and mitigation should reduce VMT and greenhouse gases
Challenges

• Methodology for VMT calculation for individual projects not well developed (especially small projects and projects outside of transportation model coverage areas)
• Redevelopment Projects
• VMT mitigation not always feasible
• Small projects with VMT impacts may require a higher level of environmental study
• Mitigation strategies needed for roadway improvements in auto-oriented areas
Preparing for Implementation

- Determine new methodologies and thresholds for VMT-based analyses.
- Determine new procedures for requiring roadway improvements for development projects.
- Consider VMT fees for mitigation.
- Consider tiered environmental studies for small land development and roadway projects (to avoid preparation of an EIR).
- Consider updating transportation impact study guidelines.
Current SB 743 Activities

- Early Implementers: Pasadena, San Francisco, Oakland
- SACOG/SCAG Study
- Development of Local Guidelines
  - City of Los Angeles
  - OCTA
  - San Diego ITE Section
  - SANDAG
Next Steps in SB 743 Process

- Final Guidelines and incorporation of SB 743 into CEQA by Natural Resources Agency (6 months)
- Opt-in Period
- Local Agency Thresholds
- Required Implementation
What to Expect in Final Guidelines

› Opt-in Period: January 1, 2019?

› Not much Change for Land Development Projects

› Roadway Project Threshold Determined Locally Rather Than Statewide

› Goods Movement Excluded
Websites for More Information

› California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
  www.opr.ca.gov
  Check: CEQA / Alt Transportation Metrics (SB 743)

› Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Western District
  www.westernite.org
  Check: Legislation Around the District

› ITE Community Forum: www.ite.org

› ITE San Diego Section: www.sandiegoite.org