

### SB 743 VMT Analysis

Screening, Case Studies, and Mitigation

FEHR PEERS

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### **Project Work Plan**

### Key Project Tasks

- SB 743 Overview and Local Plan Review
- VMT Methodology and Metric Form
- VMT Thresholds
  - Case studies
- VMT Mitigation
- VMT Screening Tool



# Project Schedule and Input Opportunities

### Key Dates

- 7 Months from Dec 2020 Jun 2021
- 3 Stakeholder Meetings
  - Jan 28 (Overview)
  - Mar 25 (Methodology and Thresholds)
  - Apr 22 (Mitigation and Screening)
- BCAG Board Acceptance Jun 24



## Screening Decisions

Technical Advisory

- 1. Small Project: the project is estimated to generate or attract fewer than 110 daily vehicle trips.
- 2. Low VMT Areas: the project is located in a TAZ where VMT generation is 15 percent or more below the applicable land use threshold.
  - a) Residential projects 15 percent or more below the regional home-based VMT per resident.
  - Office projects 15 percent or more below the regional homebased work VMT per worker.



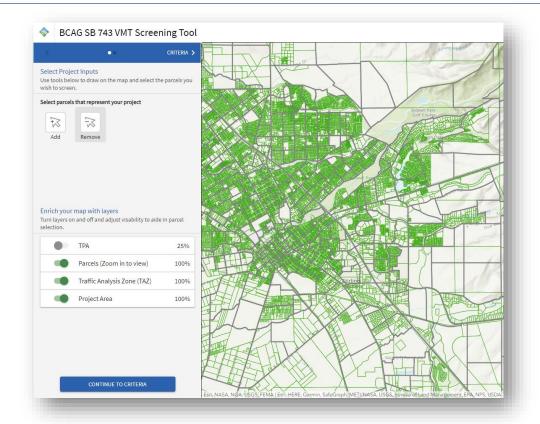
# Screening Decisions - Technical Advisory

- 3. Affordable Residential Development: the project consists of 100 percent affordable housing units.
- 4. Local Serving Retail: the project is anticipated to be local serving (as opposed to regional-serving retail development) and is less than 50,000 square feet (<50 KSF) in size.



### **VMT Impact Screening Tool**

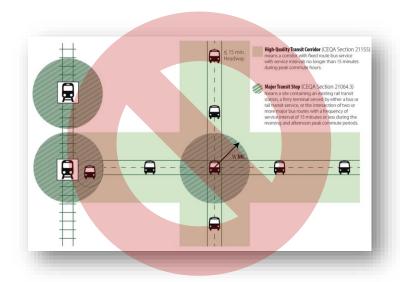
# Low VMT Screening Residential and Office





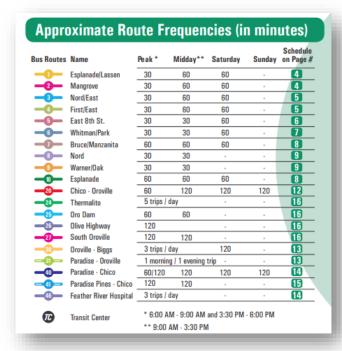
Screening
Decisions
- Technical
Advisory

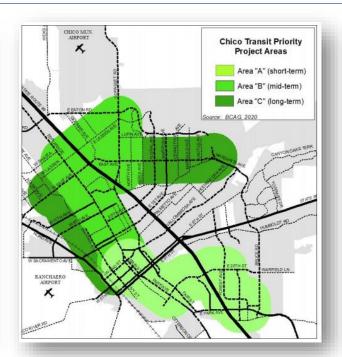
Projects within a Transit Priority Area (TPA)





# Screening Decisions Other transit factors

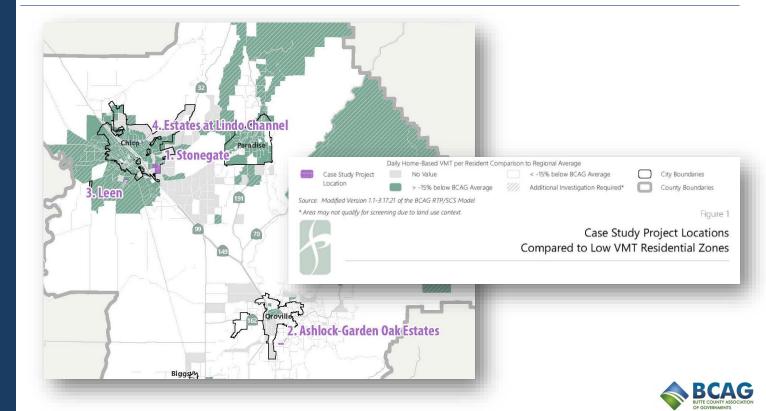






### **Case Studies**

VMT
Impact
Analysis
- Screening
by Land Use





### **Case Studies**

### VMT Impact Analysis - Findings

#### **Screening Criteria**

				100%	Local	
Project	Land Use	Small Project	Low VMT Area	Affordable Residential	Serving Retail	Screening Outcome
Case Study 1 – Stonegate	SFR Units MFR Units Commercial Park	Fail	N/A N/A N/A N/A	Fail Fail N/A N/A	N/A N/A Fail N/A(1)	Fail Fail Fail N/A
Case Study 2 – Ashlock- Garden Oak Estates	SFR Units MFR Units Commercial	Fail	Fail Fail N/A	Fail Fail N/A	N/A N/A Pass	Fail Fail Pass
Case Study 3 – Leen	SFR Units	Fail	Pass	Fail	N/A	Pass
Case Study 4 – Estates at Lindo Channel	SFR Units	Fail	Pass	Fail	N/A	Pass

Notes:

N/A = Not Applicable.

(1) A small local park may qualify as local serving and have the same beneficial VMT effects presumed for local serving retail.





### CEQA Mitigation

### **CEQA Guidelines Section 15364**

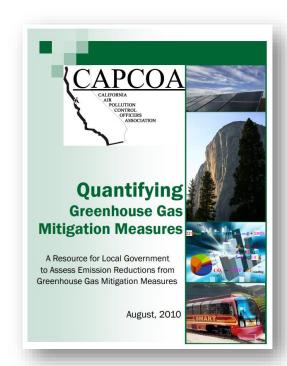
Feasible means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.



# Mitigation Decisions - Feasibility

### What is Feasible Mitigation?

- Two types of VMT reduction strategies
  - Built-environment changes
  - Transportation demand management (TDM)
- Limitations
  - Is changing the project or transportation network feasible?
  - Will TDM be effective given dependence on building tenant performance?



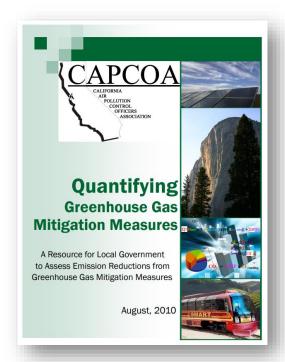


### What is Feasible Mitigation?

# Mitigation Decisions - Feasibility

## **Butte County - Community Strategies**

- 1. Pedestrian network improvements
- 2. Bicycle/traffic calming network improvements
- 3. Increase transit frequency
- 4. Car-Sharing
- 5. School Pools

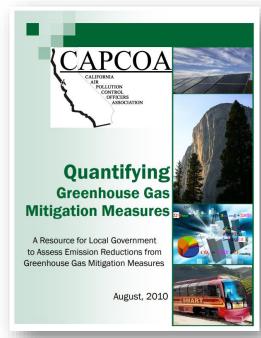




### What is Feasible Mitigation?

### **Butte County – Project Strategies**

- L. Land use diversity
- 2. Ride-sharing programs
- 3. End of trip bicycle facilities
- 4. Subsidized transit passes
- 5. Telecommute and alternative work schedules
- 6. Employer marketing of commute alternatives
- 7. Employer- sponsored vanpools/shuttles
- 8. Parking management



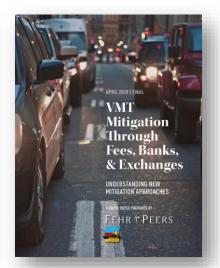


Mitigation
Decisions
- Feasibility

### VMT Mitigation Effectiveness

- Impact Fee Program
- VMT Mitigation Bank
- VMT Mitigation Exchange







## Mitigation Decisions

- Project vs Program

## Mitigation Options

### Mitigation Program Comparison

**Table 1: VMT Mitigation Program Type Comparison** 

Program Type	Pros	Cons
Impact Fee Program	<ul> <li>Common and accepted practice</li> <li>Accepted for CEQA mitigation</li> <li>Adds certainty to development costs</li> <li>Allows for regional scale mitigation projects</li> <li>Increases potential VMT reduction compared to project site mitigation only</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Time consuming and expensive to develop and maintain</li> <li>Requires clear nexus between CIP projects and VMT reduction</li> <li>Increases mitigation costs for developers because it increases feasible mitigation options</li> </ul>
Mitigation Exchange	<ul> <li>Limited complexity</li> <li>Reduced nexus obligation</li> <li>Expands mitigation to include costs for programs, operations, and maintenance</li> <li>Allows for regional scale mitigation projects</li> <li>Allows for mitigation projects to be in other jurisdictions</li> <li>Increases potential VMT reduction compared to project site mitigation only</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Requires additionality</li> <li>Potential for mismatch between mitigation need (project site) and mitigation project location</li> <li>Increases mitigation costs for developers because it increases feasible mitigation options</li> <li>Unknown timeframe for mitigation life</li> </ul>
Mitigation Bank	<ul> <li>Adds certainty to development costs</li> <li>Allows for regional scale projects</li> <li>Allows for mitigation projects to be in other jurisdictions</li> <li>Allows regional or state transfers</li> <li>Expands mitigation options to include costs for programs, operations, and maintenance</li> <li>Increases potential VMT reduction compared to project site mitigation only</li> </ul>	Requires additionality     Time consuming and expensive to develop and maintain     Requires strong nexus     Political difficulty distributing mitigation dollars/projects     Increases mitigation costs for developers because it increases feasible mitigation options     Unknown timeframe for mitigation life



### Plan/Policy Recommendations

CEQA Strategy  Use of General Plan EIRs to provide CEQA streamlining

- Section 15183 Exemption
  - VMT reduction addressed in general plan
  - VMT analysis is project level and so is mitigation



#### BCAG SB 743 Implementation –

Consistency Assessment

#### BACKGROUND

As lead agencies transition to vehicle miles of travel (VMT) as the new metric for transportation impact analysis under CEQA, assessing their adopted plans is often useful in understanding whether they have already established expectations about VMT reduction. This information is important to consider when establishing VMT impact significance thresholds.

#### LOCAL PLANS

The following local plans were reviewed for this assessment.

Butte County 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) 2020-2040, BCAG, December 10, 2020

2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, BCAG, October 2020

http://www.bcap.org/documents/planning/RTP%20SC5/2020%20RTP%20SC5/Document%20Chapters/2
20%20RTP%20SC5%20Document.ALL%20REVISED.ddf
http://www.bcap.org/documents/planning/RTP%20SC5/2020%20RTP%20SC5/SER/\_2020%20RTP%20-

The 2020 RTP/SCS contains multiple policies supportive of VMT and associated air pollution and GHG emissions reduction. The plan acknowledges that these reductions need to be balanced with improving accessibility and connectivity to destinations as framed in Policy 13.1.1 below.

13.1.1. Tailor transportation improvements to better connect people with jobs and other activities such as "Smart Mobility" concepts to increase system efficiencies and strive to reduce GHGs.

The plan does not comain a specific VMT reduction goal but the SCS did achieve GHG per capital reductions in except the SB375 supports for the region of which VMT per capital reductions contributed. As documented in Table 4.9 -1 of the 2020 RTP/SCS SBR, total VMT generated in the county was projected to increase from 1,005.41 Tunder 2018 baseline conditions to 5,332.827 under 2020 conditions with exproposed plan. This represents a 13.3 percent increase although total VMT per capita was projected to decline about 3.4 correct from 20.7 to 20.0 between 2018 baseline and 2009.1

<sup>1</sup> The VMT forecasts exclude trip lengths external to the county and total VMT includes commercial vehicles



### What's Next?

### Study Process

- Final Document Package
- Screening Tool

- BCAG Board Meeting
- Lead Agency Decisions



### **Questions and Answers**

