



DATE: June 26, 2019

AGENDA ITEM # 5

TO: Complete Streets Commission

FROM: Jaime O. Rodriguez, Interim Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Cumulative Study Scenarios

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive update on the status of software options being considered for the use of Cumulative Tracking of Vehicle Trips.

INTRODUCTION

The Complete Streets Commission received an update at its May 22, 2019 meeting regarding the process used by the City and region to evaluate Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) studies. One of the items discussed during the TIA studies discussion was identifying software solutions that the City could implement to better estimate the cumulative effect of development within and around the City. This report summarizes software options available to the City for cumulative traffic and Level of Service intersection monitoring.

DISCUSSION

PTV Vistro

Level of Service (LOS) software tools are the primary type of software being explored by staff to help track the cumulative effect of traffic from development activity. The City of Los Altos currently doesn't have a software tool of its own. The Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) recently completed a software tool search of its own with input from local county agencies and opted to use a PTV Vistro as the tool to track LOS for the Congestion Management Program (CMP) that tracks LOS at selected intersections throughout the County.

Staff is currently investigating further use of an expanded PTV Vistro model for the City of Los Altos. The software tool allows the new traffic to be tracked by intersection from individual public or private projects to help measure the cumulative effects at each intersection over time. Baseline data collection is required for the Existing conditions including turning movement and bike-pedestrian counts at monitored intersections within the model. The cumulative effect of multiple projects can be tracked immediately in comparison to Existing conditions and future conditions as "Planned" projects that are built and occupied. As projects are completed, they move off the "Planned" list into the Existing condition data sets.

Staff is currently talking to the PTV Vistro staff for pricing regarding development of an expanded model within the City of Los Altos that is integrated into the Countywide model.

California Senate Bill 743

Statewide, the use of LOS to estimate mitigations for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impacts will not be allowed after July 1, 2020 as a result of California Senate Bill 743. SB743 changes the focus of TIA studies in CEQA from measuring the impacts to driver (normally a measure of “delay” estimated via LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs). This provides a streamlined review of land use and transportation projects to help reduce future VMT growth. How VMT measures will be taken estimated consistently is still being developed. The VTA is taking the lead in trying to identify consistent VMT measures for the County. The only local agency to have developed a VMT policy is the City of San Jose, while other agencies within the County are beginning to initiate studies to develop VMT policies. The City of Los Altos may need to begin a VMT policy discussion of its own to have policies in place by July 1, 2020 to avoid the ability to apply mitigation measures on future projects. A VMT policy analysis will also help advise decisions on investments in building a PTV Vistro model for LOS measures to make sure the model effort is not conflicting with future VMT requirements.

Recommendations

This is an information memo to encourage a discussion with the Complete Streets Commission. Staff will return to the commission with additional updates on Cumulative Traffic tracking options.