



What is Senate Bill 743?



SB 743 REQUIRES CITIES TO EVALUATE TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS WITH METRICS THAT SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS, AND DIVERSIFICATION OF LAND USES

On March 10, 2020 the Planning Commission will have a discussion item during their regular scheduled meeting regarding SB 743 and the future transition from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review purposes.

Traditionally, CEQA transportation analysis has used Level of Service (LOS) to define transportation impacts; however, SB 743 changes the requirements to better address sustainable transportation goals. LOS can no longer be used to measure transportation impacts for CEQA purposes as LOS does not measure impacts to the environment; instead, it measures convenience for automobile traveling. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has recommended that lead CEQA agencies replace LOS with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). This shift in metrics will better align transportation impact analysis and mitigation outcomes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage infill development, and improve public health. Cities can still use LOS within the local development review process to inform site access and traffic operations, but LOS cannot be used to evaluate CEQA impacts anymore.

More information regarding SB 743 and changes that must be implemented by July 1, 2020 may be found in this [fact sheet](#).