

Molinar, Tess

From: Ken Perry <kenpasadena@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Tornek, Terry; Gordo, Victor; Masuda, Gene; McAustin, Margaret; Madison, Steve; Wilson, Andy; Mermell, Steve; Kennedy, John
Cc: Jomsky, Mark; Molinar, Tess
Subject: Pasadena Needs To Better Understand the Impacts VMT Will Have on the City

TO: Mayor and City Council

CC: Mark Jomsky, City Clerk; Commissioner Felicia Williams, Chair, and the Pasadena Planning Commission

Please Add to Public Record for this issue

VMT – Vehicle Miles Traveled – is a new formula for allowing more cars and more traffic caused by development to impact our already overcrowded city streets without any mitigation.

While the Department of Transportation keeps arguing that the CEQA will not be activated in some cases, the thresholds proposed by DOT are so high many projects won't ever be legally required to conduct a full environmental impact analysis. Obviously, when we exempt CEQA, we lose the ability to understand how our local environment and air quality are impacted by more development, more people and more cars.

For example, when all of the currently planned development in the Hastings Ranch commercial district near Foothill and Rosemead is built - under the old rules - the streets will be at capacity. That used to mean that any further development in the area would put it over capacity. With VMT, who knows what the impacts are going to be in East Pasadena – or in other parts of the city.

I know many of you on council were confused when the DOT first presented VMT to you. That's ok. Very few people understand the complex formula. Both the Transportation Advisory Commission and the Planning Commission have many smart and engaged commissioners. But they are confused. The public is not engaged on this issue because they don't understand it.

But before you vote to approve something, you should understand what you are voting for or against. You should know what kind of projects will be exempt from CEQA. You should know how many more cars are being added to city streets and what the impacts on traffic will be.

We need to preserve local control over development. VMT is another tool being used by Sacramento bureaucrats to circumvent it. I join with other concerned Pasadena citizens and neighborhood organizations asking you as a council to take a stronger stand and stop this from happening.

Ken Perry

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