

TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

All new development generates travel and parking demands that affect traffic flow and parking in surrounding areas. In order to estimate these impacts and ensure that appropriate mitigation is implemented, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation uses national average trip standards to project the level of traffic generated by new construction. The national trip standards average congestion figures from states as diverse as New York and Georgia in order to predict congestion levels in Los Angeles. It is unclear whether these national averages accurately reflect the extreme reliance on automobiles and the sprawling density unique to Los Angeles.

The City of San Diego currently employs proprietary city averages when projecting congestion levels caused by development. The San Diego formula provides a nuanced look at traffic generation, allowing planners to shift projections depending on the unique nature of the neighborhood. For example, San Diego uses different formulae to calculate congestion figures in "urbanized" and "urbanizing" communities.

To effectively provide solutions to our congestion crisis, we must have an accurate picture of the problem.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Department of Transportation to report on the extent to which the national trip standards, which are currently used to evaluate new development, accurately reflect the unique conditions found in Los Angeles. Specifically, the report should address whether the national standards properly calculate new development's impact on transportation infrastructure, taking into account the City's goal to increase transit oriented developments and other smart growth strategies.

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