

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BEAUMONT ADOPTING “VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED”
THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR PURPOSES OF
ANALYZING TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS UNDER THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (“CEQA Guidelines”) encourage public agencies to develop and publish generally applicable “thresholds of significance” to be used in determining the significance of a project’s environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as “an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant”; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(b) requires that thresholds of significance must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review process, and be supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(c), when adopting thresholds of significance, a public agency may consider thresholds of significance adopted or recommended by other public agencies provided that the decision of the agency is supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 743, enacted in 2013 and codified in Public Resources Code section 21099, required changes to the CEQA Guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (“OPR”) proposed, and the California Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted, new CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 that identifies vehicle miles traveled (“VMT”) – meaning the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project – as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project’s transportation impacts; and

WHEREAS, as a result, automobile delay, as measured by “level of service” and other similar metrics, generally no longer constitutes a significant environmental effect under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 goes into effect on July 1, 2020, though public agencies may elect to be governed by this section immediately; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beaumont, following a public review process consisting of staff presentations before the City Council, wishes to adopt the VMT thresholds of significance for determining the significance of transportation impacts that are recommended in an analysis conducted by the Western Riverside Council of Governments on behalf of its member jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Beaumont as follows:

Section 1. The City of Beaumont hereby adopts the following:

1. Utilizing the Riverside County Travel Demand Model (RIVTAM/RIVCOM) as its methodology to measure VMT.
2. Utilizing the Riverside County Travel Demand Model (RIVTAM/RIVCOM) as its method to analyze a project's VMT impact.
3. Utilizing a threshold consistent with the City's current average VMT per service population (population plus employment).

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution.

ADOPTED this ____ day of June, 2020.

Rey Santos
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
John Pinkney, City Attorney

By: _____
Steve Mehlman
City Clerk

AYES: Councilmembers _____

NOES: Councilmembers _____

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers _____

NOT PRESENT: Councilmembers _____

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTATION AND ORIGINALITY

I, Steve Mehlman, Clerk of the Council, do hereby attest to and certify the attached Resolution No. 2020-XXX to be the original resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of BEAUMONT on June 16_____, 2020.

Date: _____

Clerk of the Council
City of _____