VMT Traffic Thresholds of Significance

Community Development Department

March 12, 2024

Introduction

General Plan Guidance

- Air quality

  Goal NR 2: Improved Air Quality. Air quality that enhances the health and well-being for all residents of Temple City.

- Land Use Mix and Balance

  Goal NR 3: Land Use Mix and Balance. A balanced mix of land uses that promote clean air and reduce automobile trips and energy consumption.

- Mobility

  Goal M 6: Sustainable Transportation. A sustainable transportation system that can be built, operated, and maintained within the City's existing and future resource limitations.

Introduction

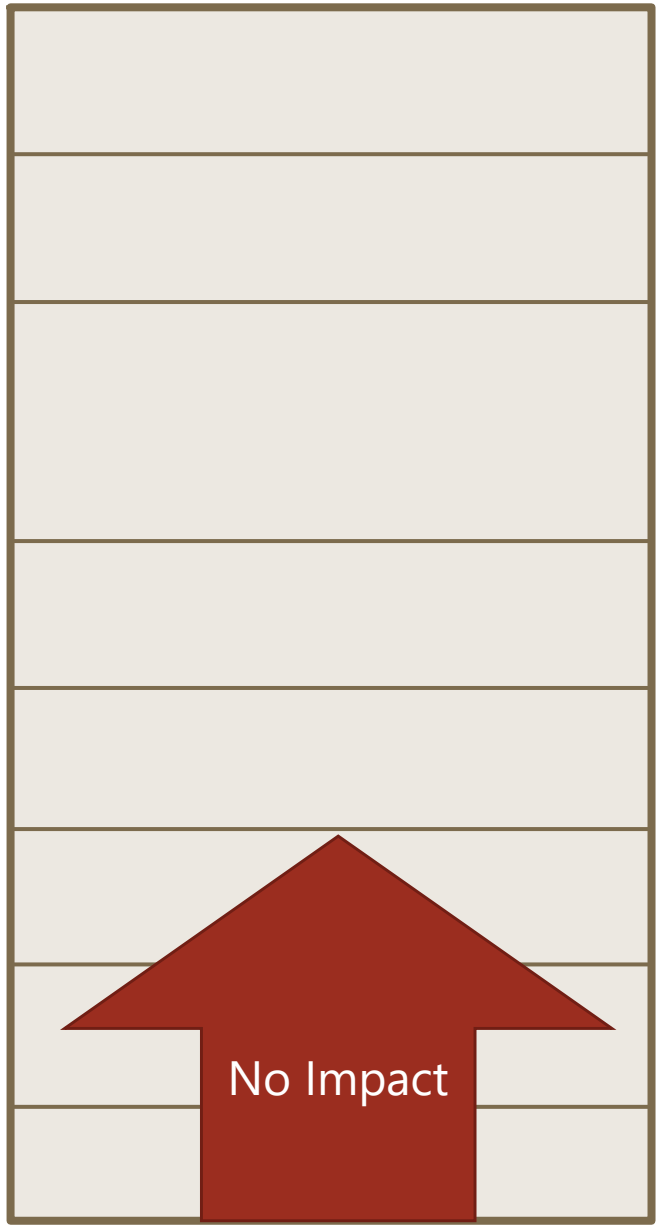
- Council action required to adopt new “thresholds of significance” for CEQA
- CEQA requires review of a project’s impacts
- Requires project’s impacts to be:
  - Mitigated (reduced)
  - Disclosed

CEQA & Thresholds of Significance

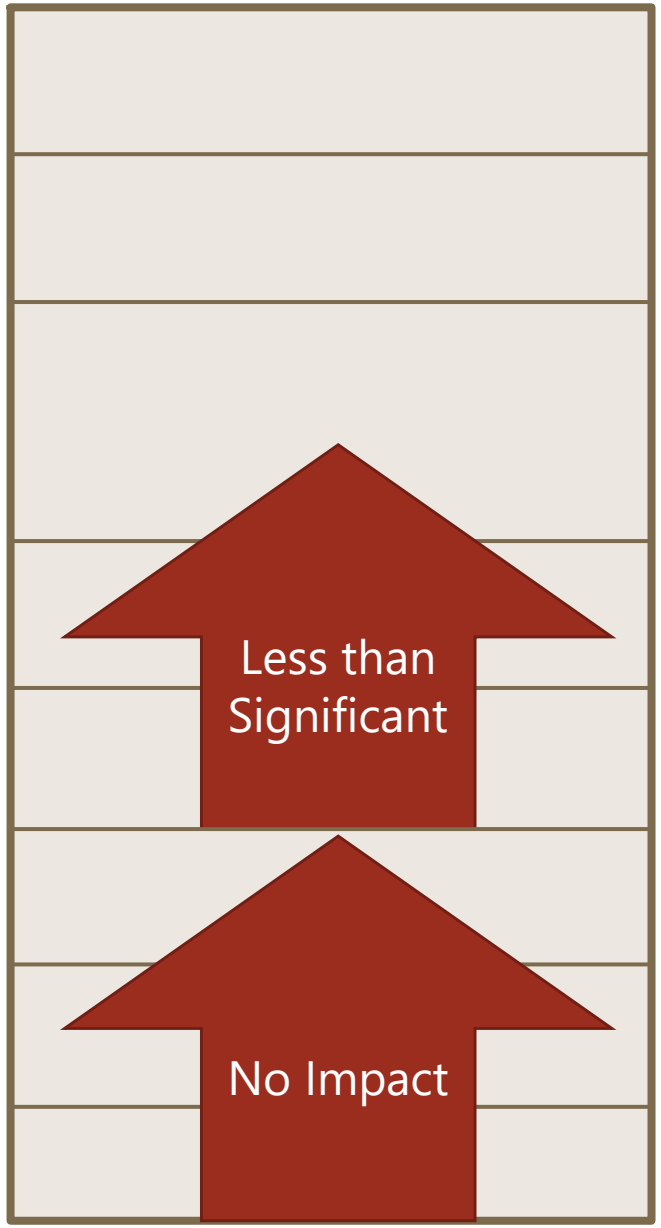
- **Types of Impacts**
  A. No impact
  B. Less than significant impact *(Negative Declaration)*
  C. Less than significant with mitigation measures *(Mitigated Negative Declaration)*
  D. Significant and unavoidable impact *(Environmental Impact Report)*

- **Thresholds of Significance** – Sets when an impact is significant

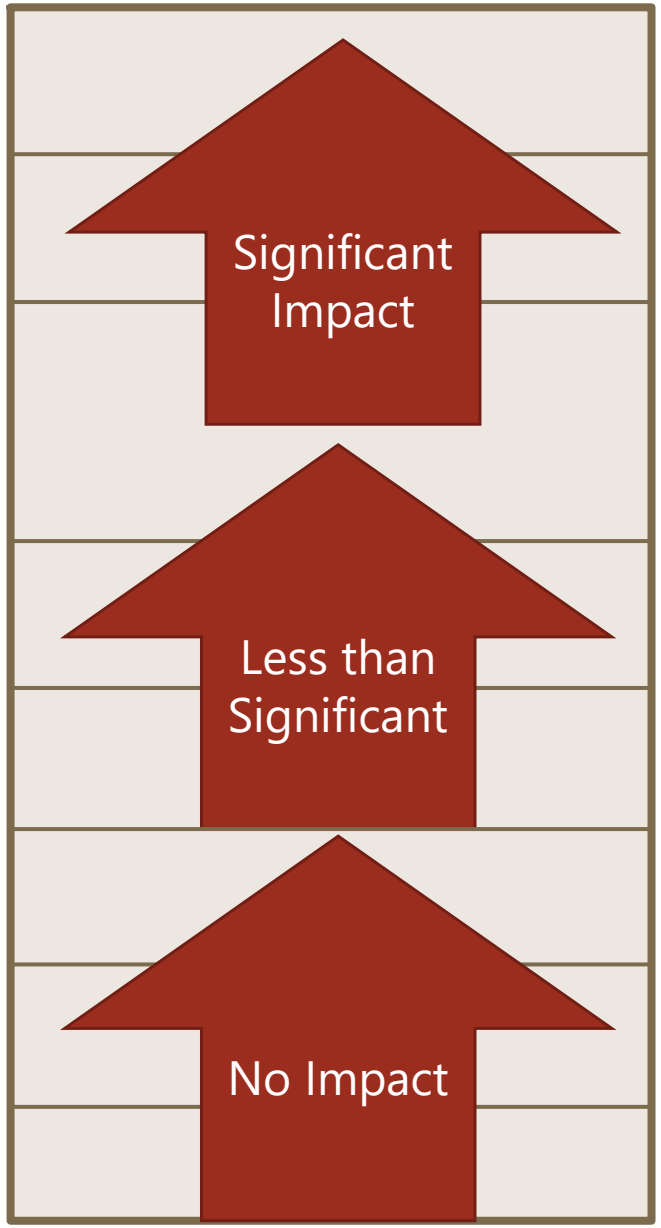
CEQA & Thresholds of Significance



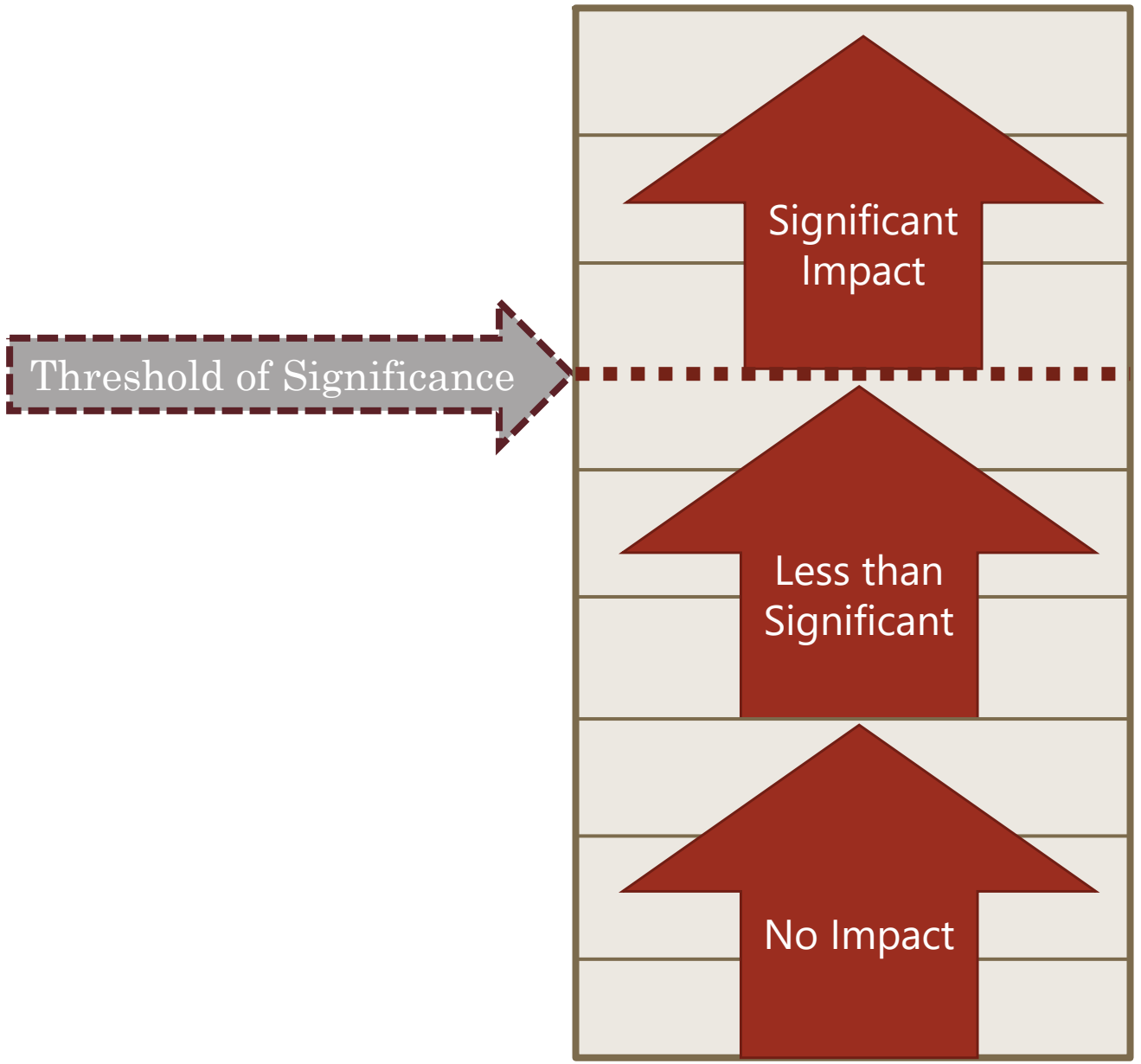
CEQA & Thresholds of Significance



CEQA & Thresholds of Significance



CEQA & Thresholds of Significance



Changes in Planning

- **SB 743 – Vehicle Miles Traveled**
  - Requires use of VMT - looks at total trips and length of trips
    - Air quality
    - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - City kept auto delay/LOS standards as a General Plan policy.

Changes to the Model

- SCAG updated its traffic model for the region
  - Traffic counts
  - Roadway network improvements
  - Transit service changes
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Trip based to activity-based model



Home-Based VMT per Capita



VMT per Capita (Tour-Based)

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VMT Discussion Points

- **We will keep screening out local serving projects**
  - Likely reduce the distance people drive to get services and goods
  - Examples of local serving projects:
    - Retail less than 50,000 sq ft
    - Local parks
    - K-12 schools
    - Daycare centers
    - Churches



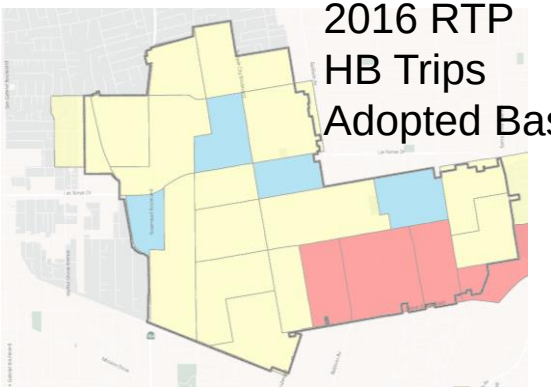


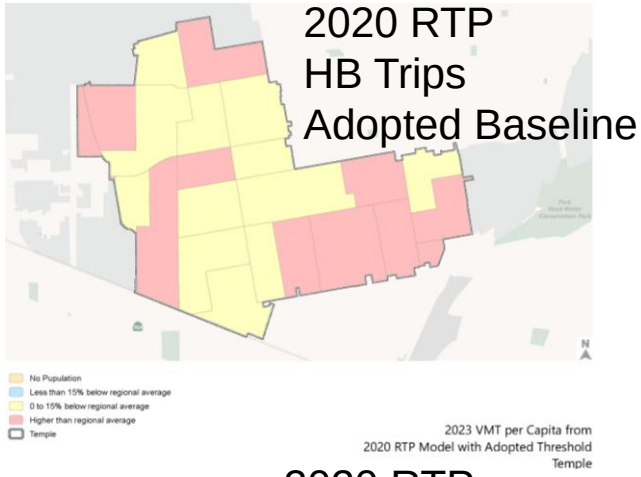


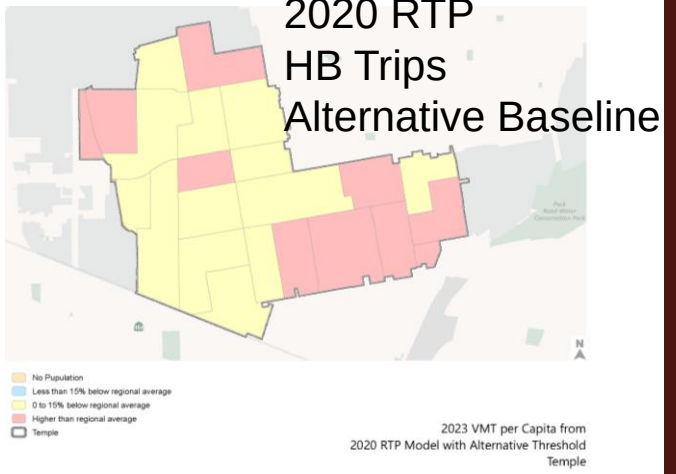


VMT Discussion Points

- **Keep screening out projects in <u>Low VMT Areas</u>**
  - The VMT areas in Temple City changed
- **Keep screening out project in <u>Transit Priority Areas</u>**
- **Keep screening out <u>Affordable Housing</u>**







VMT Discussion Points

- **Projects not screened out, need to set a baseline VMT**
  - Compare the project's VMT to the "baseline" VMT
  - Baseline VMT = Average VMT in an area
    - City
    - Subarea of the COG (Alhambra, San Gabriel, Temple City, and El Monte)
    - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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VMT Baseline

- Staff recommends choosing…

Type of Project	Recommendation
VMT per employee (Non-residential projects)	15 % below Southwest Subarea
VMT per capita (Residential projects)	15 % below City
VMT per service population (Mixed-use projects)	15 % below SGVCOG region

VMT Baseline

- Will result in:
  - Easier CEQA process for projects with limited VMT
  - Mitigation and more analysis of projects causing jumps in VMT
- Next time, the highest of the City, Sub-area and region will be chosen

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Next Steps

Planning Commission
(March 12)

City Council
(April 2)

Conclusion

Recommendation

Adopt the attached resolution recommending that the City Council find that the action is exempt from CEQA and adopt the proposed thresholds of significance.