




# SB 743 & PLACER COUNTY

Senate Bill 743 (SB 743) changes the way California measures transportation impacts by replacing Level of Service (LOS) with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

## WHAT DOES SB 743 DO?

SB 743 requires CEQA lead agencies, such as Placer, to change their transportation metric. Previously, the industry standard for assessing transportation impacts was Level of Service (LOS), which looks at the quality of a roadway based on measures like speed, density, congestion, etc. This change is intended to capture the impacts of driving on the environment rather than the impacts of delay on drivers. SB 743 requires lead agencies to use Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to evaluate transportation impacts. It has the following legislative intents:

-  Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
-  Infill development
-  Public health through active transportation

**VMT** is a measurement of the number of miles traveled over a given time period

**SB 743** requires the use of VMT instead of LOS for project evaluation starting **July 1, 2020**.



**SB 743** allows jurisdictions to establish their own thresholds, if supported by substantial evidence.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PROJECTS?

LOS analysis may still occur as part of a project's land use entitlements, and a project will still be required to participate in the County's impact fee programs. However, LOS will no longer be allowed as a basis for transportation impacts under CEQA.

## WHAT DOES SB 743 IMPLEMENTATION LOOK LIKE IN PLACER COUNTY?

Placer County has developed a SB 743 Implementation Plan. Through this plan, the County has established a methodology, VMT metric, thresholds, and screening criteria to analyze VMT in CEQA documents.

Any discretionary project that will be in a public review process will need to assess VMT in their environmental document.

## WHAT ARE POTENTIAL MITIGATION TYPES?

  
Commute Reduction Strategies

  
Provide rideshare programs

  
Regional VMT Mitigation Program

  
Build low-stress bicycle network improvements

  
Diversifying land use

  
Improved pedestrian network

## Questions?

Project applicants who have questions about VMT should direct questions to

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