

6. Encourage telecommuting and alternative work schedules – This strategy relies on effective internet access and speeds to individual project sites/buildings to provide the opportunity for telecommuting. The effectiveness of the strategy depends on the ultimate building tenants and this should be a factor in considering the potential VMT reduction.

7. Provide ride-sharing programs – This strategy focuses on encouraging carpooling and vanpooling by project site/building tenants and has similar limitations as strategy 6 above.

Because of the limitations noted above, strategies 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 are initially considered the highest priorities for individual land use project mitigation subject to review and discussion with the project team and advisory committee.

Transportation staff has been participating in SACOG’s Local Agency Working Group discussions on SB 743 Implementation tools. Mitigation measures for VMT impacts is an evolving area of study statewide and regionally. Potential regional mitigation measures can be included in the El Dorado County toolbox once the research and implementation has occurred.

At this time, staff is recommending the use of the mitigation measures above, as applicable, and potentially incorporating new mitigation measures as they become appropriate for use in El Dorado County. Active transportation, transit, and affordable housing projects are presumed to not have an impact under specific circumstances. Mitigation measures that accommodate these types of projects are encouraged as they are consistent with the legislative intent of SB 743.

Transportation Projects Methodology

The Technical Guidance is clear that transportation projects require a different analysis than land use projects. The flow chart for a transportation project, from the Case Study Evaluations in the proposed implementation plan, is shown below.

The Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, as amended December 1, 2019 states in Section 15064.3(b)(2) Determining the Significance of Transportation Impacts, Criteria for Analyzing Transportation Impacts – Transportation Projects, “Transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, such as in a regional transportation plan EIR, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.”

