

Council Meeting of  
December 11, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**Subject: Public Works - Information on the functions of the Public Works Department and capital projects in the Central Torrance area**

The Public Works Department is comprised of five divisions that include Sanitation, Streetscape, Street Operations, Water, and Engineering. The Department is responsible for maintaining and operating the public infrastructure and designing and managing capital improvement projects.

**SANITATION:**

The Sanitation Division is responsible for residential refuse/recycling and the now fully implemented green waste recycling collection. The division maintains 287 miles of City-owned sewer lines and 9 sewer lift stations. This division is also responsible for many of the City's storm drain compliance activities that include catch basin cleaning and weekly street sweeping. Goals for the division include:

- Implementation of mandated recycling programs for commercial and multifamily facilities;
- Reducing wastewater overflows; and
- Street sweeping posting/signage changes.

**STREETSCAPE:**

The Streetscape Division plants and maintains trees and landscaped medians within the public right-of-way. Recent projects include:

- Built/Constructed a bin and provided public access to "mulch" bark chips at Lago Seco Park;
- Ongoing "grid trimming" of central Torrance areas;
- Sycamore tree trimming started in November;
- Provided assistance/materials for West Torrance High School Native Plant Garden; and
- Upgraded and enhanced the landscaping on Torrance Boulevard at Van Ness Avenue.

**STREET OPERATIONS:**

The Operations Division is responsible for street maintenance repairs, concrete repairs (curb/gutter/sidewalk) and traffic & lighting maintenance. The division also

maintains the storm water retention basins (sumps) and open ditches in the city. This includes street name signs at over 2,000 intersections, hazard markers, guardrails, and signs in City-owned parking lots. Selected street areas repaired in preparation of the Slurry Seal project and general street repair. Improvements include crack sealing, grinding, asphalt overlay, and minor pavement removal and replacement in the areas bound by:

- Plaza Del Amo, Torrance Boulevard, Madrona Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard;
- 235<sup>th</sup> Street, Sepulveda Boulevard, Juniper Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard;
- Sepulveda Boulevard, Torrance Boulevard, Anza Avenue and Ocean Avenue;
- Calle De Arboles, Calle Mayor, Via Monte D'oro and Via Valmonte;
- Sepulveda Boulevard – Hawthorne Boulevard to Western Avenue;
- Prairie Avenue – Del Amo Boulevard to 190<sup>th</sup> Street; and
- Anza Avenue – Pacific Coast Highway to 234<sup>th</sup> Street

#### Crack-Sealing Main Arterials

- Anza Avenue – Pacific Coast Highway to 190<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Van Ness Avenue - 190<sup>th</sup> Street to 182<sup>nd</sup> Street;
- Madrona Avenue – Sepulveda Boulevard to 190<sup>th</sup> Street; and
- Carson Street – Prairie Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard

#### **WATER:**

Torrance Municipal Water serves approximately 115,000 residents and business customers covering 78 percent of the city. The division is responsible for local water supply, the monitoring and maintenance of water quality, planning preventative and predicative maintenance, the operation and repair of the water system distribution system, and interfacing with the State Department of Health Services and other agencies regarding water quality matters. Division enhancements include water system security, reliability and sufficiency for fire protection.

Projects in this area include the design of new water mains along Cravens Avenue, between Torrance Boulevard and Carson Street, in conjunction with a grant funded capital project for street “calming” and rechannelization by the Community Development Department.

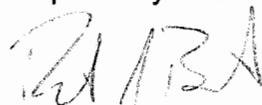
#### **ENGINEERING:**

The Engineering Division is responsible for the development, design and construction of projects included in the City's Capital Improvement Program that rehabilitate the city's existing roadways, traffic signals, signing and striping, storm drains, sanitary sewer and water system facilities. The Engineering Division also is responsible for Traffic Engineering, which includes the design of traffic signals, timing and coordination of traffic signals. Recent projects include:

- Completion of the Del Amo Boulevard Extension. This new roadway segment will improve traffic circulation throughout the City and reduce traffic volumes along Torrance Boulevard;

- Undergrounding of utilities along Crenshaw Boulevard, between Monterey Street and north of Sepulveda Boulevard. This area of undergrounding includes a small segment along Plaza Del Amo west of Crenshaw Boulevard, as well as Jefferson Street between Crenshaw and Oak Street;
- Crenshaw Boulevard Street Rehabilitation, between Sepulveda Boulevard and Skypark Drive, will provide for pavement rehabilitation. Design efforts will start in summer/fall of 2013 with construction anticipated in the fall of 2014.
- Slurry sealing streets is part of the Public Works Department's maintenance efforts to extend the life of streets and improve aesthetics. In the summer of 2013, the City will slurry seal residential streets in the neighborhoods bounded by:
  - Torrance Boulevard (on the north); Sepulveda Boulevard (on the south); Ocean Avenue (on the east); and Anza Avenue (on the west); and
  - Torrance Boulevard (on the north); Carson Street (on the south); Crenshaw Boulevard (on the east); and Madrona Avenue (on the west); and
  - Sepulveda Boulevard (on the north); 234<sup>th</sup> Street (on the south); Crenshaw Boulevard (on the east); and Juniper Avenue (on the west).
- Rehabilitation and Beautification of the Pacific Electric Railway Bridge (a.k.a. Torrance Bridge) which spans over Torrance Boulevard, just west of Western Avenue to repair the concrete spalls and cracks on the bridge structure, remove the ivy, repair the wooden railing and add lights to accentuate the arches. Construction is anticipated to begin February 2013 to coincide with the centennial anniversary of when the bridge was originally built, back in 1913.
- Rehabilitation of residential street in the area north of Torrance Boulevard, west of Van Ness Avenue, south of Dominguez Street and east of the BNSF railroad tracks. Additionally, Bow Avenue, south of Torrance Boulevard will also be included in this project. Improvements include installation of new curb and gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps and pavement rehabilitation. Design is complete and construction is anticipated to begin in April 2013.
- Hawthorne Boulevard Median Landscaping Project between Del Amo and Torrance Boulevard is currently under construction with an anticipated completion in the spring of 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT J. BESTE  
Public Works Director

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

