

Council Meeting of  
March 27, 2007

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

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Public Works – Relinquishment of Hawthorne Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway to the City of Torrance**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Public Works Director recommends that the City Council approve sending a letter of interest to Caltrans to initiate the relinquishment process for Hawthorne Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway within the City of Torrance.

**FUNDING**

Not applicable.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The City may want to consider obtaining control of the 6-mile segment of Hawthorne Boulevard and the 5-mile segment of Pacific Coast Highway from Caltrans through the relinquishment process. This would allow the City to regulate the rights-of-way without Caltrans approval, better control signal timing, and improve the condition of the roadways.

The relinquishment process is as follows:

- The City shall submit a letter of interest.
- The City must provide Caltrans with an estimate of the cost of improvements necessary to bring the roadway to a "State of Good Repair" for Caltrans to review and to initiate the negotiation of a one-time disbursement amount. Staff has estimated that each roadway will require approximately \$25-30 million to bring the streets to an acceptable level of repair. Negotiations usually take about six months to one year to complete.
- Upon completion of negotiations of the settlement amount, Caltrans will prepare a cooperative agreement for approval of Council to proceed; the City needs to then work with a legislator (typically our State Assembly person) to introduce a Bill to delete the highway from State Highway System and to authorize the relinquishment. If negotiations were completed this year, a Bill could be

introduced in January 2008 and signed by the Governor in September 2008, becoming effective in January 2009.

Discussion of benefits:

- The City would have control over the location of infrastructure, including driveways for new developments, and landscaping of the parkways.
- Would eliminate the need for lengthy encroachment permit processing for public improvements the City chooses to implement.
- Would allow the City to improve both north/south and east/west signal timing on all of the arterials in the City.
- Would allow for installation of curb and gutter along Hawthorne Boulevard to improve drainage.
- Would allow the City to pursue improvements to the Pacific Coast Highway/Hawthorne Boulevard intersection.

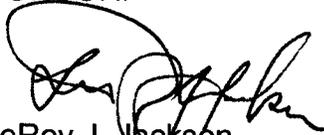
Staff anticipates the need for additional funding to complete upgrades to traffic signals and landscaping along both corridors that would not be included in the Caltrans payment. Also, the City would be taking on all future maintenance of the rights-of-way and this would require additional staff and/or yearly funding.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT J. BESTE  
Public Works Director

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager