Council Meeting of
May 15, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Executive Summary to Item 10c - Circulation Enhancements at the Vicinity of Sam Levy School as part of Hull Middle School Relocation

Expenditure: $139,000

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Development Director recommends that the City Council review and consider the options presented by staff, accept public input, and concur with staff recommendations to improve and enhance traffic circulation at the vicinity of Sam Levy School. Staff recommends approval of Categories I and II, and further exploration of Category III.

FUNDING

Primary funding will be available through the Community Development Department-Transportation Planning Division Operational Budget in the amount of $83,000. The remaining funding will be through the Public Works Department Capital Budget I-94, Residential Street Rehabilitation in the amount of $56,000.

BACKGROUND

On March 26, 2007, the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) Board approved the relocation of the Hull Middle School (HMS) functions to the Sam Levy School (Levy) campus located at 3720 229th Place.

In order to minimize potential adverse impacts of this relocation, staff has anticipated probable routes that students within the HMS boundaries will be traveling to get to the Levy campus. Staff has identified several potential improvements that may be implemented to minimize the impacts to neighborhood traffic.

ANALYSIS

The relocation of Hull Middle School functions will be transferred to the Sam Levy School campus in September 2007. Due to the time constraint, staff has categorized several potential improvements based on implementation time frames. Each category will discuss the traffic impact to the neighborhood, time line to implement the required changes, budgetary considerations, and potential environmental impacts, if any. The following improvements are necessary to minimize the adverse impacts of the relocation:

- Short-Term (Category I): improvements that may be completed within 2 – 3 months and low cost.

- Mid-Range (Category II): improvements that may be completed within 4 – 8 months and have a significant cost associated with them.

- Long-Term (Category III): improvements that may take as long as 12 – 24 months to complete with the most significant cost.

The higher costs of both the Mid-Range and Long-Term improvements will have an impact on the City's Capital Budget by requiring the re-allocation and re-prioritization of funding from previously approved projects. Long-Term improvements may also trigger a CEQA evaluation.

CATEGORY I - SHORT-TERM - COST: $14,000 TO $41,000

1. Create a drop off area within the parking lot off Madison Street: $2,000
2. Intersection Modifications on Madison at 230th St./229th Place: $10,000
3. Create a drop off area within the parking lot off 229th Place: $1,000
4. Turn restriction on 229th Place during designated hours: $1,000

Enforcement will cost $27,000 for the 180 school days and utilization of a crossing guard is optional.

CATEGORY II - MID-RANGE – COST: $125,000

5. Intersection Modification on 230th Street at Hawthorne Blvd.: $25,000
6. Intersection Modification on Madison at Sepulveda: $50,000
7. Improvements at Lomita and Madison: $50,000

CATEGORY III - LONG-TERM - COST: $1,650,000

8. Reconstruct the NE corner of Madison at Lomita: $1,150,000; and
9. Madrona Avenue Exit Road: $500,000

Due to the time constraint, the Community Development Director recommends that the City Council direct staff to pursue the recommended improvements in Categories I and II, and further explore the feasibility of the recommended improvements in Category III.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

By _____
Ted Semaan, Manager
Transportation Planning, Development
Engineering & Records Division

CONCUR:

_____
JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

_____
LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager

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FUNDING

Primary funding will be available through the Community Development Department-Transportation Planning Division Operational Budget in the amount of $83,000. The remaining funding will be through the Public Works Department Capital Budget I-94, Residential Street Rehabilitation in the amount of $56,000.

BACKGROUND

On March 26, 2007, the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) Board approved the relocation of the Hull Middle School (HMS) functions to the Sam Levy School (Levy) campus located at 3720 229th Place.

The HMS campus is located east of Arlington Avenue between 231st and 233rd Streets. The School area boundary limits are Crenshaw Blvd., Western Avenue, Torrance Boulevard and the south City limit.

The Sam Levy School campus is located on 229th Place south of Sepulveda Boulevard between Nadine Circle and Madison Street. TUSD has identified the relocation of functions as being temporary in nature and therefore maintained the original Hull Middle School area boundaries.

In order to minimize any potential adverse impacts of this relocation, staff has anticipated probable routes that students within the HMS boundaries will be traveling to get to the Levy campus. Staff has identified several potential improvements that may be implemented to minimize the impacts to neighborhood traffic.

ANALYSIS

The relocation of Hull Middle School functions will be transferred to the Sam Levy School campus in September 2007. Due to the time constraint, staff has categorized several potential improvements based on implementation time frames. Each category will discuss the traffic impact to the neighborhood, time line to implement the required changes, budgetary considerations, and potential environmental impacts, if any. The following improvements are necessary to minimize the adverse impacts of the relocation:

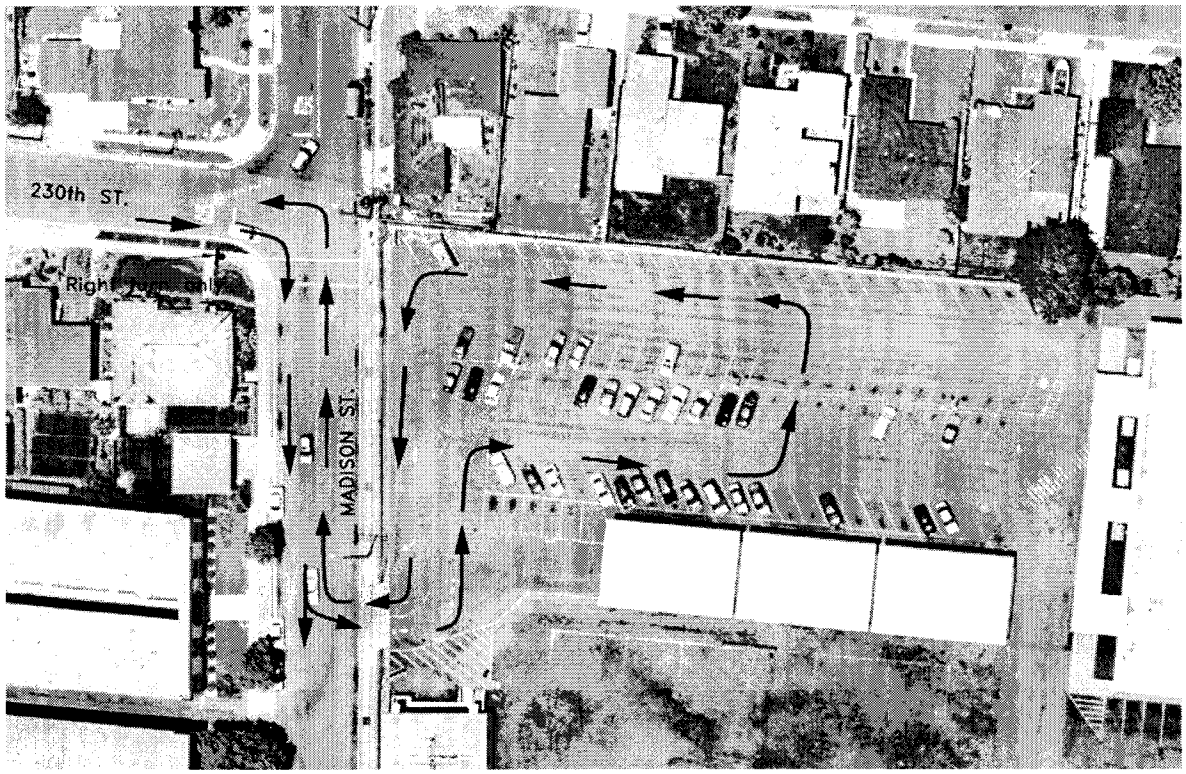
- Short Term (Category I): improvements that may be completed within 2 – 3 months and low cost.
- Mid-Range (Category II): improvements that may be completed within 4 – 8 months and have a significant cost associated with them.
- Long-Range (Category III): improvements that may take as long as 12 – 24 months to complete with the most significant cost.

The higher costs of both the Mid-Range and Long-Range improvements will have an impact on the City's Capital Budget by requiring the re-allocation and re-prioritization of funding from previously approved projects. The Long-Range improvements may also trigger a CEQA evaluation.

CATEGORY I: SHORT-TERM - COST $14,000 TO $41,000

1. Create a drop off area within the parking lot of Madison Street: $2,000

- TUSD has agreed to create a drop-off area in the existing parking lot located along the east side of Madison south of 230th Street. Access to the parking lot will be from vehicles traveling westbound on Lomita to northbound Hawthorne to eastbound 230th. At Madison, vehicles will only be allowed to turn right (southbound), then turn left into parking lot. After dropping the student off, vehicles will be required to turn right onto to Madison, then left on 230th back towards Hawthorne Boulevard.
- Turn restrictions may be implemented with signage at a nominal cost of approximately $2,000.
- This improvement will have minimal impact to the neighborhood.



2. Intersection Modifications on Madison at 230th St./229th Pl.: $10,000

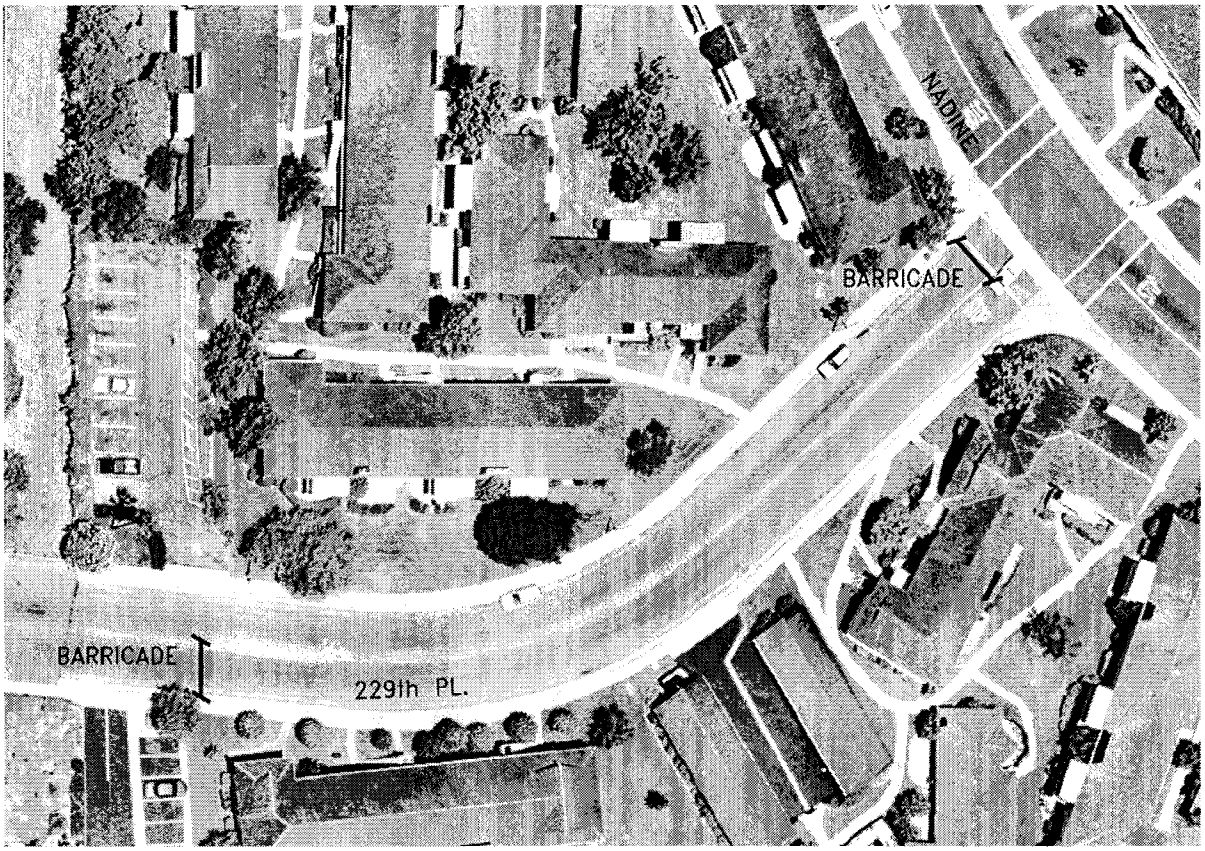
- Installation of new Stop Signs for Southbound (SB) and Northbound (NB) Madison at 229th Place.
- Installation of crosswalks on Madison, 230th and 229th; and removal of the existing crosswalk on Madison south of 230th St.
- This improvement will better assign the vehicles right of way and will not impact the neighborhood.
- Cost $10,000
- Designate a crossing guard in this area $15,000 (OPTIONAL)

3. Create a drop off area within the parking lot off 229th Place: $1,000

- TUSD has agreed to create a secondary drop-off area in the existing parking lot along the south side of 229th Place. Access to the parking lot will be from vehicles traveling southbound Madison to eastbound 229th Pl. After dropping off the student, vehicles will be required to turn left onto to 229th Pl. back towards Madison Street.
- Turn restrictions may be implemented with signage at a nominal cost of approximately $1,000.

4. Turn restriction on 229th Place during designated hours: $1,000

- Placement of barricades on 229th Place east of the school driveway to prohibit left turns and trough movements from 229th Place to Nadine Circle during designated hours.
- Placement of barricades on 229th Place west of Nadine Circle to prohibit left turns and right turn movements from Nadine Circle to 229th Place during designated hours.
- TUSD has agreed to provide this service during the school year.
- Turn restrictions may be implemented with signage at a nominal cost of approximately $1,000.
- Barricades can be given to TUSD at a nominal cost of approximately $1,000.



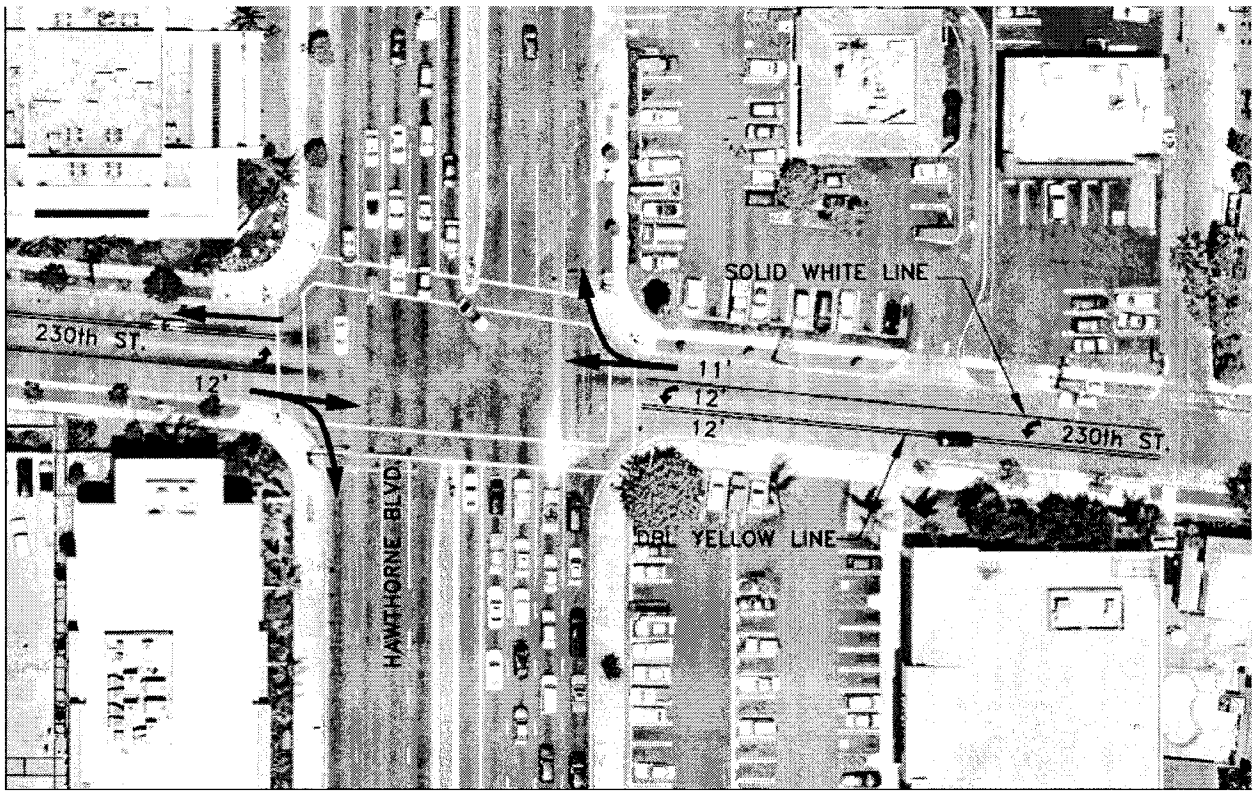
An enforcement officer may be needed to patrol the school vicinity and direct traffic during the two critical hours of the day at an approximate annual cost of $27,000 (TPD 2 hrs/day x180 school days @ $75/H).

CATEGORY II: MID-RANGE - COST $125,000

There are two more improvements that may be completed within 4 to 8 months and they have a more significant cost associated with them. However, their completion will enhance the recommended improvements in Category 1.

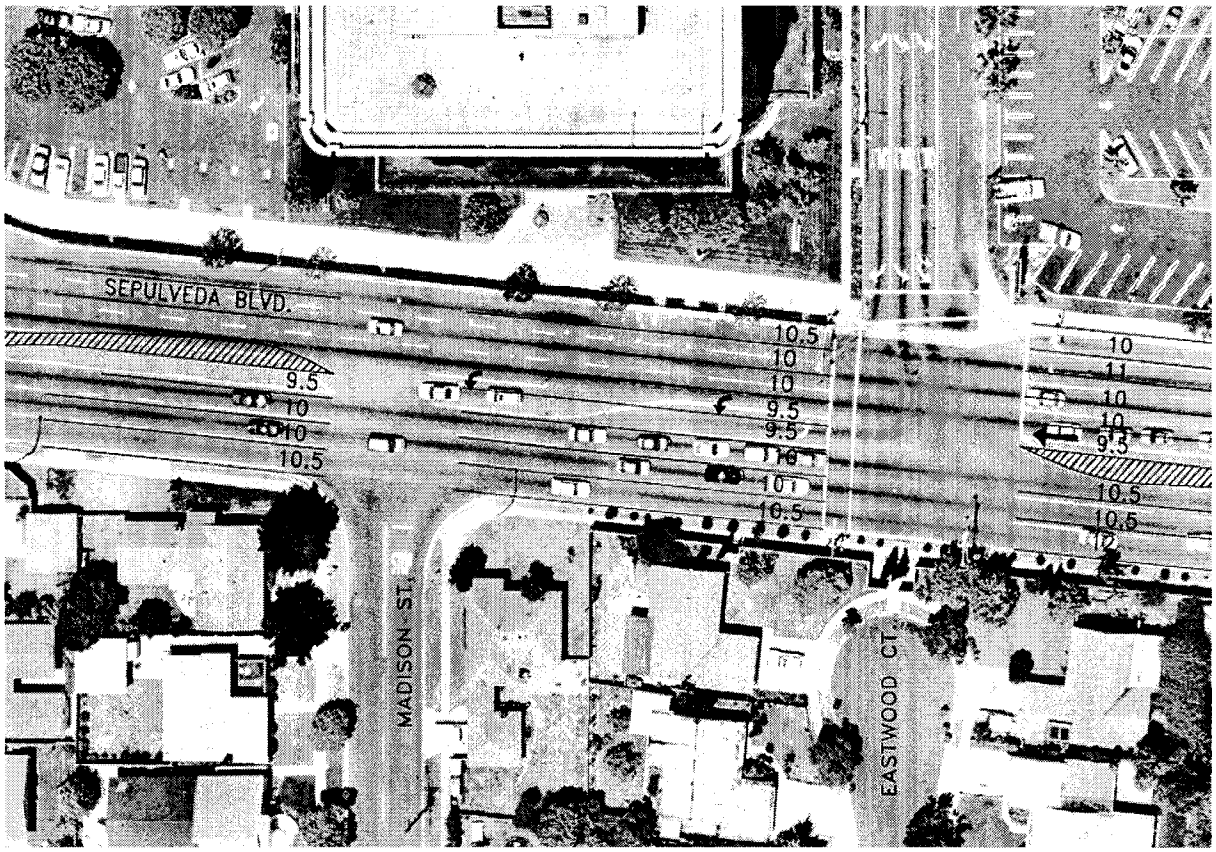
5. Intersection Modification on 230th Street at Hawthorne Blvd $25,000

- Re-channelization of 230th Street to a separate dedicated left turn lane and a shared right and through lane and related signal modification (loop detectors).
- Coordination with Caltrans to get an encroachment permit
- Cost $25,000



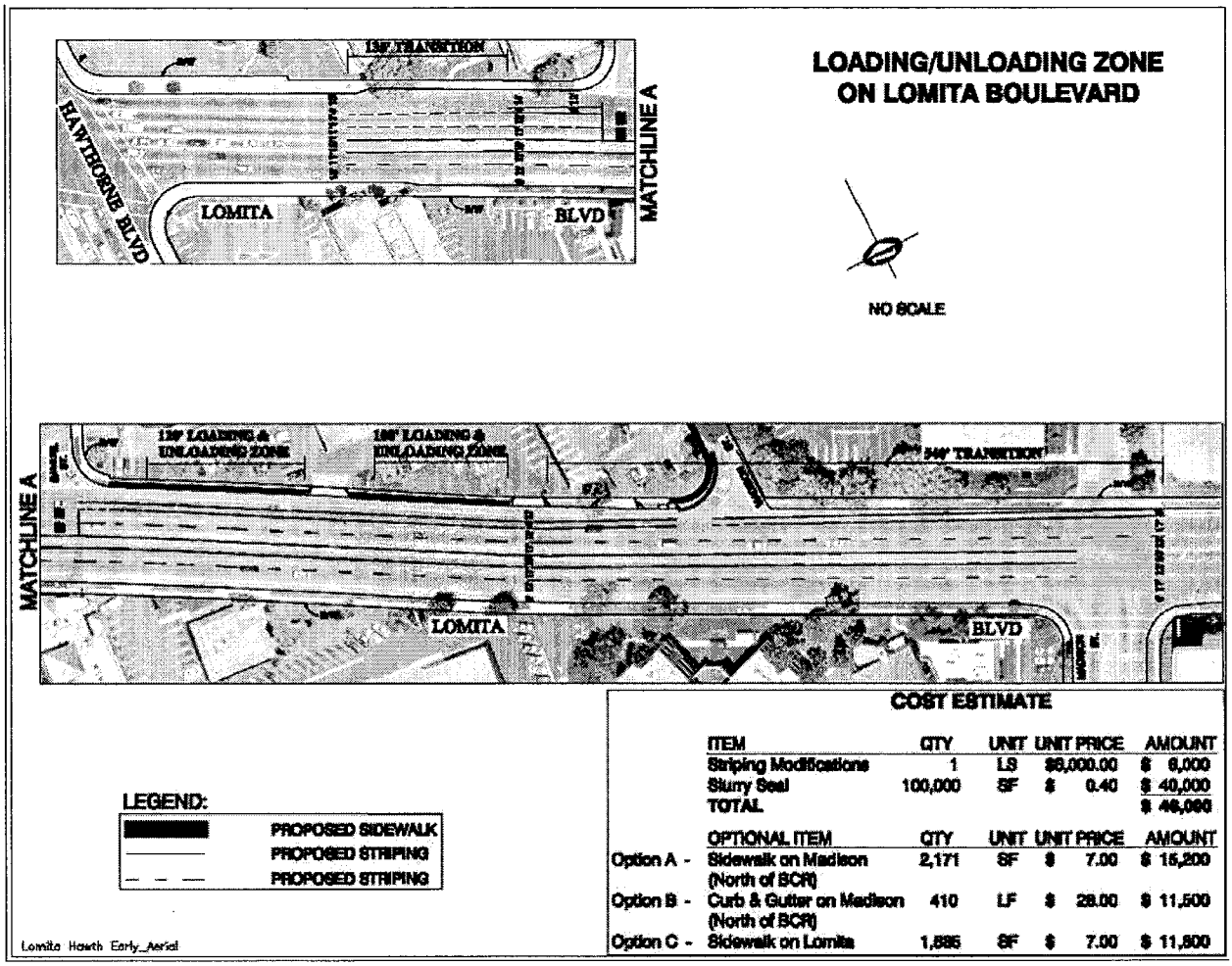
6. Intersection Modification on Madison at Sepulveda $50,000

- Traffic Signal timing and phasing modification at the intersection of Sepulveda and Madison to facilitate the westbound left turn movement on Sepulveda to southbound Madison, and create additional storage east of Del Amo Circle. Cost: $50,000



7. Improvements at Lomita and Madison $50,000

- Create a drop off zone within the existing Right of Way (ROW) at the North/West (NW) corner of Madison at Lomita,
- Cost: $50,000.



COST ESTIMATE

	ITEM	QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
	Striping Modifications	1	LS	$6,000.00	$ 6,000
	Slurry Seal	100,000	SF	$ 0.40	$ 40,000
	TOTAL				$ 46,000
	OPTIONAL ITEM	QTY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
Option A -	Sidewalk on Madison (North of BCR)	2,171	SF	$ 7.00	$ 15,200
Option B -	Curb & Gutter on Madison (North of BCR)	410	LF	$ 28.00	$ 11,500
Option C -	Sidewalk on Lomita	1,886	SF	$ 7.00	$ 11,500

Upon implementation of Category 1 and 2 improvements, staff will monitor the traffic circulation in the vicinity of the school for 3 months and re-evaluate traffic circulation patterns if needed.

CATEGORY III: LONG-TERM - COST $1,650,000

The Long-Term improvements may take as long as 12 – 24 months to complete with the most significant cost. Staff has considered two additional improvements that are more substantial, and will require additional staff time to explore. The following two options include:

9. Reconstruct the North/East (NE) corner of Madison at Lomita-Cost $1,150,000

- Reconstruction of the NE corner of Madison at Lomita Blvd to allow northbound traffic during restricted time periods by installing posts and sleeves, and
- Reconstruct Madison Street per public standards to allow two- way traffic.
- Cost: $1,150,000
- Timeline: 12 to 18 months after the ROW acquisition
- Environmental Impact: Yes

10. Madrona Avenue Exit Road - Cost $500,000

- Construction of a one-way northbound 15' wide road to be used as egress to Sepulveda during the morning and afternoon;
- Install post and sleeves to allow removal/re-locking of the posts in the sleeves to convert this road to a bicycle and pedestrian path;
- TUSD to open and close the access road
- Cost: $500,000
- Timeline: 6-9 months after the ROW acquisition
- Environmental Impact: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

By_____
Ted Semaan, Manager
Transportation Planning, Development
Engineering & Records Division

CONCUR:

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