Council Meeting of
June 12, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Development – Approve a Consulting Services Agreement with Albert Grover & Associates to Conduct Citywide Engineering & Traffic (Speed) Survey. Expenditure: $65,100

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Development Director recommends that the City Council approve a Consulting Services Agreement in the amount of $65,100 with Albert Grover & Associates to conduct Citywide Engineering & Traffic Survey.

FUNDING

Funding is available from the Capital Budget through project: T-46 Five Year Engineering and Traffic Surveys

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The California Vehicle Code (Sections 40801 and 40803) prohibits the use of "speed traps" for enforcement of speed limits and further prohibits any evidence obtained from them from being admissible in the prosecution of speed violations. One of the purposes of anti-speed trap legislation is to insure that local authorities do not post unreasonably low speed limits. The California Vehicle Code requires that when the enforcement of a speed law involves the use of radar, it must be justified by an Engineering & Traffic (Speed) (E&T) survey conducted within five years prior to the date of the alleged violation or radar evidence will be considered as a speed trap and inadmissible (Vehicle Code Section 40802).

An E&T survey is defined in the California Vehicle Code as a survey of highway and traffic conditions conducted in accordance with methods as determined by the California Department of Transportation for use by state and local authorities. The survey includes prevailing speeds, accident records, highway traffic and roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver (California Vehicle Code Section 627). The

study concludes that posted speed limits are the recommended speeds. Approval of an E&T survey will permit the Police Department to enforce the posted speed limits using radar equipment.

The Community Development Department has been conducting E&T Surveys on specific roadway segments and regularly maintaining their validity. The previous efforts have been to conduct and certify an E&T survey for a set of street segments at a time resulting in different expiration dates for various groups of streets. The approach requires routine updating and renewal of previously certified surveys and hindrances the speed enforcement efforts. By conducting a Citywide E&T Survey, the City will have the ability to certify a single document that encompasses all collector and arterial roadway segments within the City's operational control. Furthermore, a single Citywide E&T Survey facilitates enforcement efforts by the Torrance Police Department as well as the appeal process at the Torrance Courthouse.

As a component of the Citywide E&T Survey, a Travel Time survey will also be conducted to collect and analyze traffic data related to travel time, delay time and number of stops along 11 major arterial roadways within the city. The collected data will allow staff the ability to establish a baseline for any future traffic improvements related to Intelligent Transportation System.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

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

CONCUR:

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Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director

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LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A. Consulting Services Agreement (Limited Distribution)