

Council Meeting of
August 28, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Public Works – Approval of filing an application to the State Grade Separation Fund for Plaza Del Amo at the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad. Expenditure: Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works Director recommends that the City Council approve filing an application for ranking on the State Grade Separation Priority List for Plaza Del Amo at the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad.

Funding

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The circulation element of the General Plan identifies two street improvements to complete the City's arterial network:

1. Del Amo Boulevard, between Maple Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard; and
2. Plaza Del Amo, extending east from Crenshaw Boulevard to an alignment with 223rd Street at Western Avenue.

The first missing segment, Del Amo Boulevard, is nearing design completion, which will leave Plaza Del Amo as the only missing arterial link. Because of planning in the 1974 and 1992 General Plans, much of the improvements for the Plaza Del Amo arterial have been completed.

Completion of the missing portion of Plaza Del Amo will provide an east/west arterial to relieve traffic on Carson Street and Sepulveda Boulevard and provide a new arterial connection to Del Amo Fashion Square. This connection would also provide some relief for the Carson/Crenshaw intersection, which has an evening rush hour level of service (LOS) of E+ on a scale of A to F.

A grade separation would allow for Fire, Police and ambulance response when a train blocks the crossings at Carson Street and Sepulveda Boulevard.

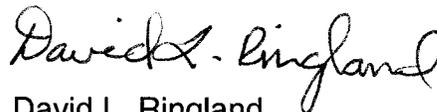
This grade separation would replace the Washington Avenue at grade crossing into the east side of Wilson Park. The railroad runs between the main campus of Torrance High School and the school's athletic fields west of the tracks. A grade separation would provide safe passage for students who currently cross the tracks to the athletic fields.

The State Grade Separation Fund provides \$5,000,000 toward the construction of a grade separation and elimination of an existing at-grade crossing. This amount would be a portion of the total cost and other funding sources would be needed. Most projects remain on the list for many years until higher priority projects are constructed. This application would not obligate the City to do the construction; however, being on the list would provide the project's statewide ranking.

Last year State Measure 'B' included \$100,000,000 for State Grade Separation funding. This infusion of funds will move forward a number of high priority projects currently on the list. Approval is requested for Staff to prepare and submit an application for ranking on the State Separation Funding list.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director

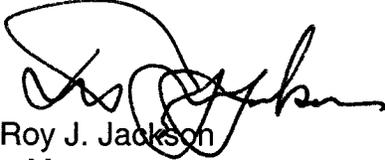


By: David L. Ringland
Project Manager

CONCUR:



Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director

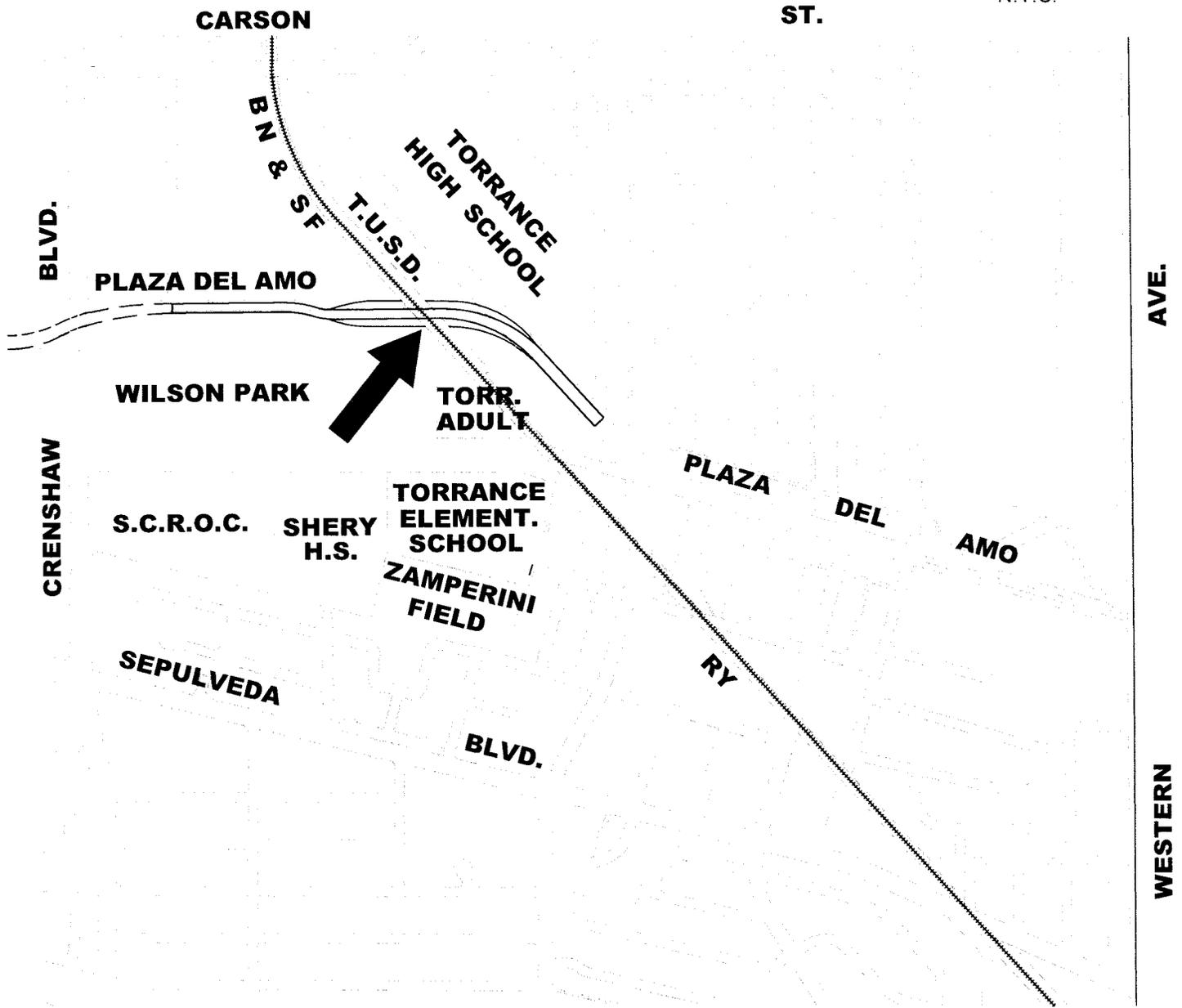


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A. Location Map



N.T.S.



GRADE SEPARATION AT PLAZA DEL AMO AND THE BN & SF RY

