COUNCIL MEETING OF
October 9, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Development, Public Works, and Police Department – Status of Traffic Circulation for Hull Middle School at Sam Levy.

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Development Director, Public Works Director and the Torrance Police Chief recommend that City Council receive and file a status report on the traffic circulation in the vicinity of Sam Levy School since the start of the school year.

Funding
Not Applicable

BACKGROUND

On May 15, 2007, Your Honorable Body recommended circulation enhancements in the vicinity of Sam Levy School as part of the Hull Middle School relocation.

On August 21, 2007, Your Honorable Body reviewed the status report of the recommended enhancement **(Attachment A).** Staff was directed to bring back a status report to City Council in one month.

ANALYSIS

Since the beginning of the school year, staff from Community Development, Public Works and Torrance Police Department, as well as staff from Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) and Hull Middle School have been monitoring the traffic circulation for Hull Middle School at Levy School. Based on numerous days of observing the traffic circulation in the vicinity of the Levy Campus, input from TUSD and feedback from residents and parents, the following changes have been made to enhance traffic operations:

- The barricade for eastbound 229th was removed the first week of school based on mutual agreement of TUSD, New Horizons and City Staff;
- The westbound barricade at Nadine Circle remains. However due to the residents' complaints, we have asked TUSD to place the barricades promptly 15 minutes before the bell rings and to take them down once the school traffic has cleared;
- TPD conducted an educational phase and is now citing violators at the no-entry barricade on 229th Place at Nadine Circle;
- Turn restriction signs at 230th & Madison, and 229th school parking lot, were removed for lack of necessity and access concerns by local residents.

Since these changes have occurred, traffic flow has been excellent in the morning and improved to the point of no significant back up in the afternoon. Afternoon traffic clears up to normal within 7-10 minutes of the end of school.

Torrance Police Department will continue monitoring this area and staff will work with TUSD and the residents to resolve any future concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

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

CONCUR:

_____
Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director

_____
Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director

_____
John Neu
Chief of Police

_____
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment: A) August 21, 2007 City Council Meeting - Item 10E

Attachment A

COUNCIL MEETING
August 21, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Development and Public Works – Status Report on Circulation Enhancements in Vicinity of Sam Levy School. Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Development Director and Public Works Director recommend that City Council receive and file a status report on the Circulation Enhancements in vicinity of Sam Levy School as part of the Hull Middle School relocation.

Funding
Not Applicable

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On May 15, 2007, Your Honorable Body recommended circulation enhancements in the vicinity of Sam Levy School as part of the Hull Middle School relocation. Implementation of the recommendation has been a cooperative effort between Community Development, Public Works and Police Departments with feedback and input from the City Manager's office.

This is an outline and status of the recommendations:

1. **Create a drop off area within the parking lot of Madison Street** – Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) has modified the Madison Street parking lot at Levy School and will be utilizing the Madison Street parking lot for drop-off and pick-up of students. "No Parking" signs during the hours of 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on school days have been ordered by the Public Works department and will be installed prior to the start of school. The signs will be installed along the east side of Madison Street fronting the school parking lot.

2. **Intersection Modifications on Madison at 230th St./229th Place** – The Public Works Department has installed the new crosswalks, STOP signs, "No Parking" signs, and access ramps at the intersections. The signs have been ordered for the left and right-turn restrictions from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on school days. These remaining signs will be installed prior to the start of school.

   The Torrance Police Department will have a crossing-guard assigned to the intersection of 229th/230th and Madison. The Police Department will also have a traffic officer assist

with the traffic circulation at this location in addition to other circulation needs in vicinity of the school.

3. **Create a drop-off area within the parking lot off 229th Place** – TUSD will be utilizing the 229th Place parking lot at Levy School for drop-off and pick-up of students. The Public Works department is awaiting delivery of the "No Right Turn" sign to be installed at the easterly driveway directing drivers westbound on 229th Place to Madison Street.

4. **Turn restriction on 229th Place during designated hours** – Turn restrictions by signage have been implemented as outlined in item 3 above. In addition, the City has provided TUSD with the barricades to be placed by District staff to prohibit eastbound movements between the school's easterly driveway and Nadine Circle as well as westerly movements from Nadine Circle towards Madison Street. The barricades will be supplemented by No Left and No Right turn regulatory signs to be installed prior to the start of school.

5. **Intersection Modification on 230th Street at Hawthorne Blvd** – In June 2007, the Public Works Department submitted an application and design plans to Caltrans-District 7 for the installation of designated left-turn and through lanes on 230th Street at the intersection with Hawthorne Boulevard. The submittal to Caltrans is required because Hawthorne Blvd. is a state highway and the improvements will require a permit for the installation of new traffic signal detector loops in the pavement. Comments were received from Caltrans on August 10th and revised design plans were re-submitted to Caltrans on August 16th. Although Caltrans may not issue the encroachment permit in a timely manner, the City has informed Caltrans that the new striping will be installed on 230th Street (city owned and maintained) prior to the start of school.

6. **Westbound right-turn movement on Lomita Blvd at Hawthorne Blvd** – Over the last several months, the Public Works Department was focused on completing the design and installation of the above items. However, staff was able to perform a preliminary investigation of any improvements that could be made to the westbound right-turn movement on Lomita Boulevard at the intersection with Hawthorne Boulevard. Since several options are available, it is requested that Your Honorable Body have the opportunity to consider and select from the list of options before proceeding with design. The options are:

Option		Impact
A	Install dual right-turn lanes on Lomita Blvd with a protected right-turn green arrow.	• Requires the elimination of the southbound "U" turn movement on Hawthorne Blvd. • Requires street widening on the north side of Lomita Blvd. • The westbound bike lane on Lomita Blvd would require modification or elimination within 500-feet, east of the intersection.

B	Install a protected right-turn green arrow on Lomita Blvd to improve circulation of the existing right-turn lane.	• Requires the elimination of the southbound "U" turn movement on Hawthorne Blvd.
C	Permit the westbound right-turn movement from the existing #2 through lane.	• The westbound bike lane on Lomita Blvd would require modification or elimination within 500-feet, east of the intersection. • Potential conflict between westbound right-turn movement and westbound cyclists traveling through the intersection.

It should be noted that because Options A and B require the elimination of the southbound "U" turn movement on Hawthorne Blvd, there is a concern of the impact to local businesses and overall traffic circulation in the area.

Staff is requesting the opportunity to observe the operation of this intersection after the beginning of the school year. This would be consistent with our planned observations for the intersections of Madison Street at 229th Place and 230th Street. Based on the observations, we can then determine which Option, if any, would be best at the intersection of Lomita Blvd and Hawthorne Blvd. For either Option, staff must obtain a permit from Caltrans-District 7.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

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

CONCUR:

_____
(for) Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director

_____
Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director

_____
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments:
A. Power Point Presentation (Material Available Monday, August 20)
B. Torrance Unified School District Informational Packet

ATTACHMENT B

J. H. Hull Middle School at Levy

Pursuing Student Success Through Teamwork
3420 West 229th Place
Torrance, CA 90505
310-533-4516

August 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

This past spring, the TUSD Board of Education unanimously approved the Hull Relocation Committee's recommendation to relocate J.H. Hull Middle School to the Levy Curriculum Center site (3420 West 229th Place) beginning with the school year 2007-2008. Due to this unique situation, the school district will be providing daily bus transportation – **bus service will be provided from Hull to Levy and from Levy to Hull.** The bus service can accommodate up to 400 students. It is strongly recommended that you take advantage of this transportation service. There will be an early bus run and a later bus run (with four buses traveling each trip) for both morning and afternoon transportation.

There is a very important change for the upcoming school year – the starting and ending times are 25 minutes later. The new school **start time is 8:40 a.m., and end time is 3:27 p.m.**

If you will be taking and/or picking up your child, there are **specific directions to the new school site on the back of this letter**. For student safety purposes, there will be two (2) designated drop off zones at the school (see map on back). To reach this goal, traffic will only be allowed to enter the school area from 230th Street east of Hawthorne Blvd. or Madrona Avenue south of Sepulveda. Please be sure to follow the specified routes to ensure the safe drop off and pick up of your children.

The following is a detailed Hull/Levy Departure/Arrival Schedule:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Hull to Levy		**All week (afternoons) Levy to Hull**		**Late Start Tuesday (9:50 start) Hull to Levy**	
7:50	Depart Hull (1st trip)	3:40	Depart Levy (1st trip)	9:00	Depart Hull (1st trip)
8:00	Arrive Levy	3:50	Arrive Hull	9:10	Arrive Levy
8:20	Depart Hull (2nd trip)	4:10	Depart Levy (2nd trip)	9:30	Depart Hull (2nd trip)
8:30	Arrive Levy	4:20	Arrive Hull	9:40	Arrive Levy

If you have further questions about the plan for transportation to this new site, please see me or Mr. Baker during registration.

Thank you for your patience during this transition.

Sincerely,

Barry Lafferty, Principal
J. H. Hull Middle School at Levy

RECEIVED
AUG 16 2007
CITY OF TORRANCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

Enclosure: Transportation Preference Postcard:

1) If you choose bus transportation, please fill out the enclosed postcard, place a stamp on the address side, and mail it, or
2) You may also bring this to the school office at Levy starting August 20th between 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Directions from J.H. Hull to J.H. Hull @ Levy Campus

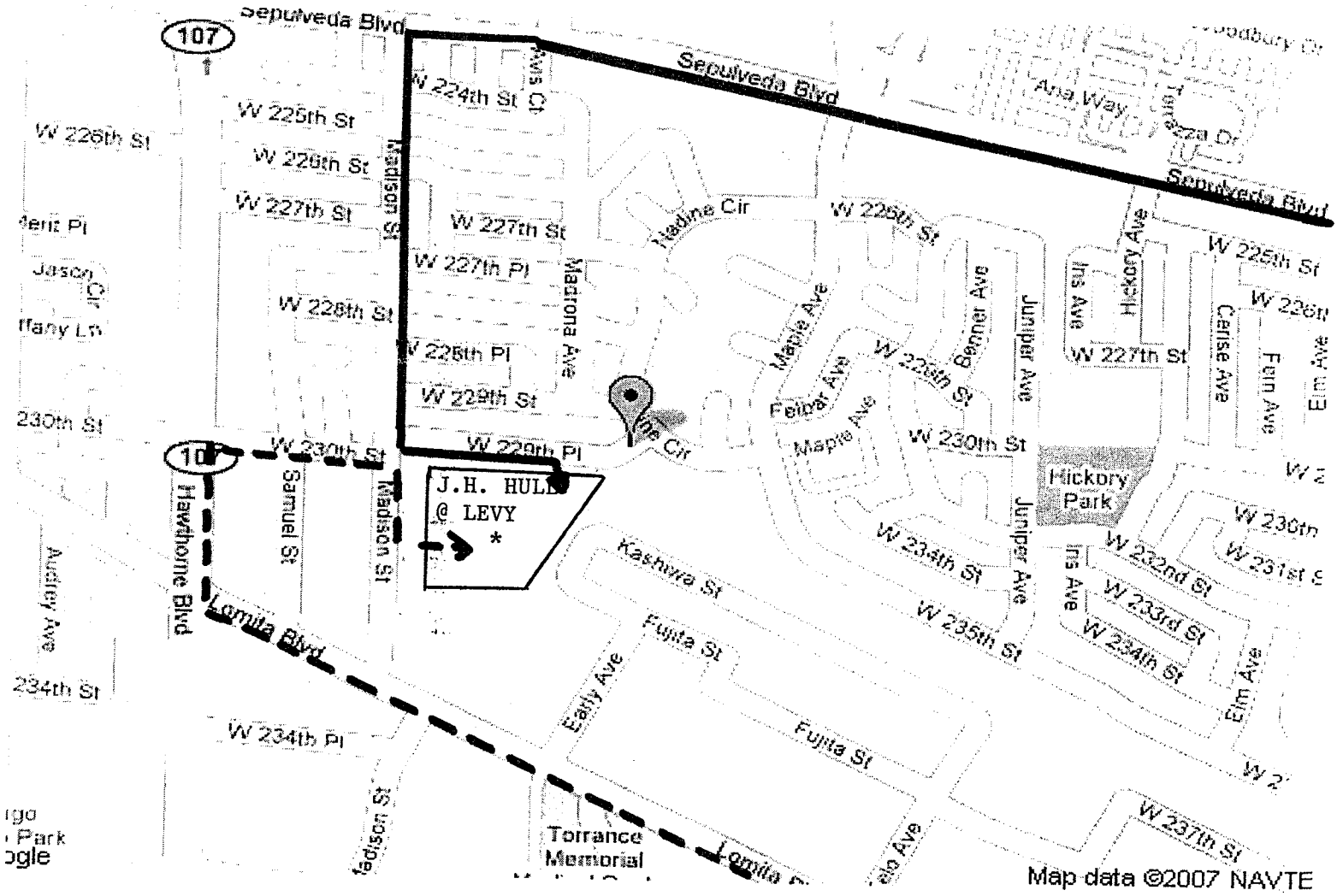
SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD ROUTE: Map Legend: _____

- HEAD **WEST** ON SEPULVEDA BLVD.
- TURN **LEFT** ONTO **MADISON STREET**
- TURN **LEFT** ONTO **W. 229th PLACE**
- TURN **RIGHT** INTO **SCHOOL ENTRANCE**

LOMITA BOULEVARD ROUTE: Map Legend: _ _ _ _

- HEAD **WEST** ON **LOMITA BLVD.**
- TURN **RIGHT** ONTO **HAWTHORNE BLVD.**
- TURN **RIGHT** ONTO **W. 230st STREET**
- TURN **RIGHT** ONTO **MADISON**
- TURN **LEFT** INTO **SCHOOL ENTRANCE**

NOTE: There will be turn restrictions on 229th Place during hours before and after school. Therefore, please be sure to follow the specified routes to ensure safe drop off and pick up of your child. Thank you.



J.H. Hull @ Levy Bus Procedures

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for using our bus transportation service. Not only does this help get your child to school in a safe and efficient manner, but you are also doing your important part in saving energy and time.

We would like to inform you of a couple procedural matters regarding the use of the busses. As noted in our August 2nd letter to you, our bus schedule is as follows:

M -W-Th-F	Depart Adult Ed.	Arrive Hull@Levy	Depart Hull@Levy	Arrive Adult Ed.
Blue Pass	7:50	8:00	3:40	3:50
White Pass	8:20	8:30	4:10	4:20
Late Start Tuesday Schedule	**Depart Adult Ed.**	**Arrive Hull@Levy**	**Depart Hull@Levy**	**Arrive Adult Ed.**
Blue Pass	9:00	9:10	3:40	3:55
White Pass	9:30	9:40	4:10	4:20

It is important to note that the bus pass your child received during registration indicates which time and bus they are to use. If your child received a blue pass, they will follow the "Blue Pass" schedule. Their bus will depart the Adult Education campus (the old J.H. Hull campus) at 7:50. If they have a white pass, they will follow the "White Pass" schedule. They will depart the Adult Education Campus at 8:20 in the morning. At the completion of the school day, blue pass holders will arrive at the Adult School campus at 3:50 and the white bus pass holders will arrive at 4:20.

For those students who will be doing the later departure, a supervised study hall time will be provided to them and it will be held in the J.H. Hull @ Levy cafeteria.

Also, the letter written on the pass is important. This letter indicates which bus your child will use. For example, if they have the letter "A", they are to always use the bus with the "A" sign in the window. This will help ensure that all students are accounted for and will provide for a safe and smooth transition between the two campuses.

Once the student ID's are printed which should be sometime in October, your child will then utilize their student identification card as their bus pass. On the identification card there will be a blue or white sticker and a letter indicating the bus and schedule your child will be using.

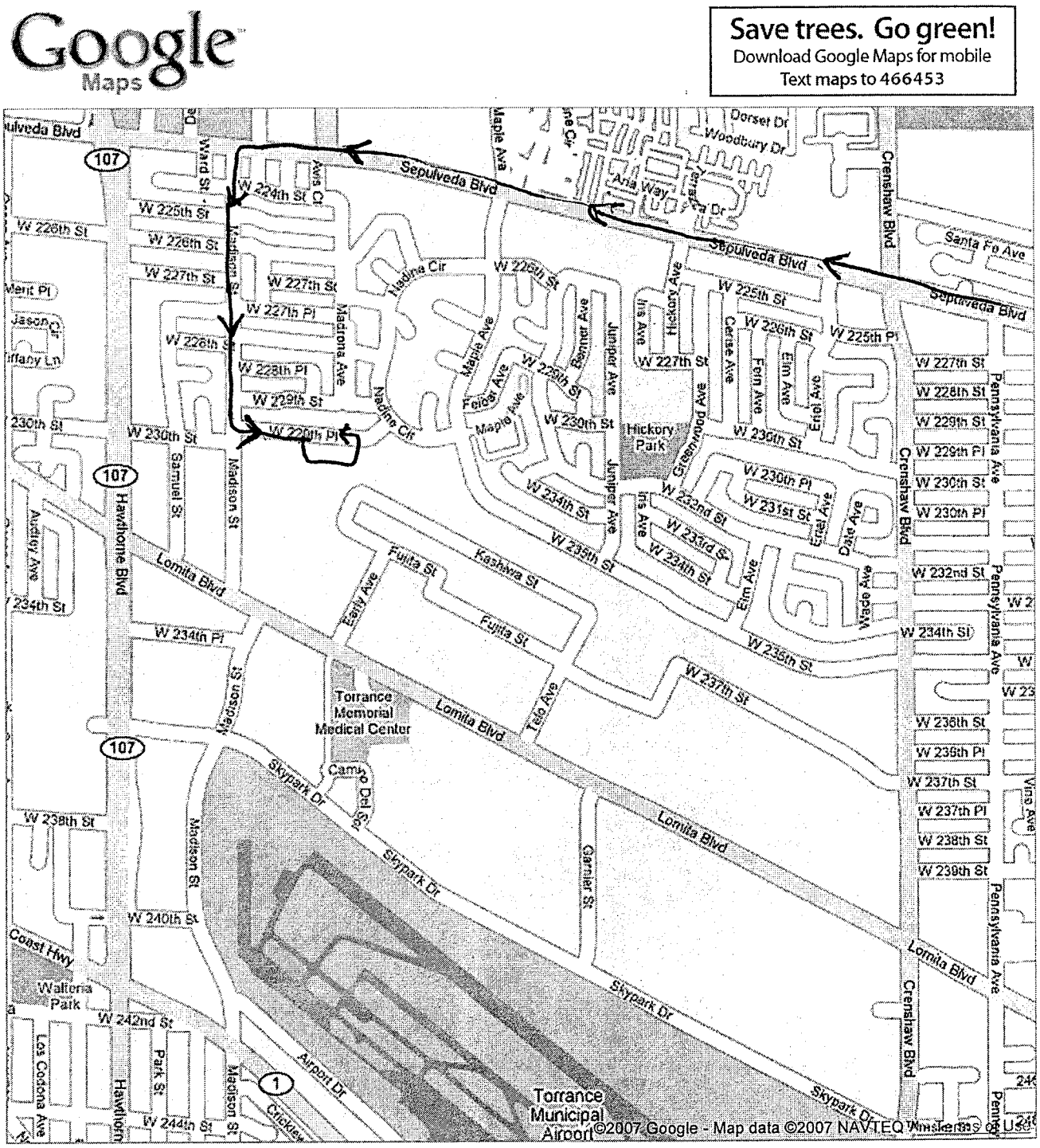
Your help, patience, and understanding is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us. Our phone numbers are the same- 310-533-4516. We are looking forward to a wonderful and productive 2007 – 2008 academic year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Barry Lafferty
Principal

Mr. William Baker
Assistant Principal

J. H. Hull @ Levy
Bus Transportation
Route



J. H. Hull @ Levy
Bus Transportation
Route
(Return by same route)