

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: **Community Development** – Consider Functional Classification Changes from *collector roadway* to *local street* along 12 street segments within the City of Torrance

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Development Director and the Traffic Commission that the City Council adopt the attached RESOLUTION recommending to the Federal Highway Administration to modify the California Roadway System map to declassify 162nd, 164th, 166th, 168th, 171st, 186th & 235th Streets, Cherry Avenue, Paseo De La Playa, Paseo De Las Tortugas, Newton Street and Ocean Avenue from the current classification, *collector roadway*, to local streets per the guidelines set forth by the Federal Highway Administration and direct staff to forward the attached RESOLUTION to Caltrans district coordinator to initiate the Functional Classification Change process.

Funding

No funding required for this item

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Community Development Department is in the process of updating the City's General Plan, which subsequently provides an opportunity to update the City's classification of roadways. After looking at roadway characteristics, including, but not limited to, segment length, number of travel lanes, and volumes, staff has determined that 12 collector street segments have characteristics similar to that of local streets with no future intentions of widening for additional travel lanes. Staff reviewed these street segments for potential declassification from their current *collector roadway* classification to local streets. Once these street segments have been reclassified as local streets, the prima facie speed as per the California Vehicle Code will default to 25 miles per hour. As a result the Police Department can conduct speed enforcement using radar equipment or any electronic device at anytime without a need for speed studies.

As part of this effort, staff has been working with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) local district, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for their comments and input and has received responses from the agencies. After addressing the comments and concerns raised by the agencies, staff received a preliminary approval from Caltrans to proceed with the proposed classification change process. Staff has also received written concurrences from both SCAG and the Metro as required by the functional classification process. These conceptual approval emails have been attached for your reference.

Below are the 12 street segments staff is recommending to declassify from the current collector classification to local streets:

- 1) 162nd Street between Van Ness Avenue and east City limits;
- 2) 164th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits;
- 3) 166th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits;
- 4) 168th Street between Yukon Avenue and Cherry Avenue;
- 5) 171st Street between Prairie Avenue and Van Ness Avenue;
- 6) 186th Street between Kingsdale Avenue and Bailey Drive & between Van Ness Avenue and Western Avenue;
- 7) 235th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue;
- 8) Cherry Avenue between 168th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard;
- 9) Paseo De La Playa between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Calle Miramar;
- 10) Newton Street between Calle Mayor and Hawthorne Boulevard;
- 11) Paseo De Las Tortugas between Calle De Arboles and Vista Montana; and
- 12) Ocean Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway

Staff has also reviewed any potential implications of the proposed declassification to ensure that there will be no significant impacts on these streets and determined that the City is unlikely to either increase the current capacity of these roadway segments through future right-of-way acquisitions or to change the adjacent land use designations. Therefore, staff concludes that based on the current traffic volumes, roadway length and width, number of travel lanes and adjacent land use characteristics, local classification is an appropriate classification for these street segments.

With regard to State or Federal funding, there will be no potential loss of State or Federal funding to the City as a result of the proposed declassification of the above-referenced street segments.

Per Functional Classification Guidelines, if the Council concurs and approves the attached resolution, staff will submit the formal request to Caltrans' District Coordinator who will review and write an independent letter on the proposed changes per the established Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines. Caltrans will then

forward the documents to its headquarters in Sacramento. Caltrans headquarters will present the proposed changes to FHWA for approval. The proposed roadway functional classification becomes effective only after FHWA approves the changes. Per Caltrans District Coordinator, this process will take approximately three (3) months after the formal request has been received by Caltrans.

Respectfully submitted

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

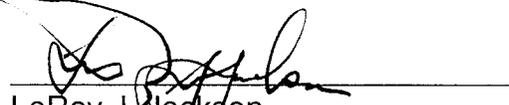
BY  _____

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

CONCUR:



Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Resolution
- B. Location Map
- C. Traffic Commission Item August 4, 2008
- D. SCAG Written Concurrence
- E. Metro Written Concurrence

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE RECOMMENDING THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO MODIFY THE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PORTION OF 162ND, 164TH, 166TH, 168TH, 171ST, 186TH & 235TH STREETS, CHERRY AVENUE, PASEO DE LA PLAYA, PASEO DE LAS TORTUGAS, NEWTON STREET AND OCEAN AVENUE

WHEREAS, The Community Development Director has determined that

- 162nd Street between Van Ness Avenue and east City limits,
 - 164th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits,
 - 166th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits,
 - 168th Street between Yukon Avenue and Cherry Avenue,
 - 171st Street between Prairie Avenue and Van Ness Avenue,
 - 186th Street between Kingsdale Avenue and Bailey Drive and between Van Ness Avenue and Western Avenue,
 - 235th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue,
 - Cherry Avenue between 168th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard,
 - Paseo De La Playa between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Calle Miramar,
 - Paseo De Las Tortugas between Calle De Arboles and Vista Montana,
 - Newton Street between Calle Mayor and Hawthorne Boulevard,
 - Ocean Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway
- meet the Federal Highway Administration Guidelines for Functional Classification as Urban Local Roadways; and

WHEREAS, in discussions with Southern California Association of Governments and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the agencies have indicated their concurrence with the list of twelve city roads the City of Torrance determined met the Federal Highway Administration Guidelines for functional reclassification.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE that the Mayor and City Clerk hereby approve the functional reclassification of

- 162nd Street between Van Ness Avenue and east City limits,
- 164th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits,
- 166th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits,
- 168th Street between Yukon Avenue and Cherry Avenue,

- 171st Street between Prairie Avenue and Van Ness Avenue,
- 186th Street between Kingsdale Avenue and Bailey Drive and between Van Ness Avenue and Western Avenue,
- 235th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue,
- Cherry Avenue between 168th Streets and Crenshaw Boulevard,
- Paseo De La Playa between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Calle Miramar,
- Paseo De Las Tortugas between Calle De Arboles and Vista Montana,
- Newton Street between Calle Mayor and Hawthorne Boulevard,
- Ocean Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway as Urban Local Roadways per the Federal Highway Administration criteria

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____day of _____, 2008

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

Mayor Frank Scotto
ATTEST:

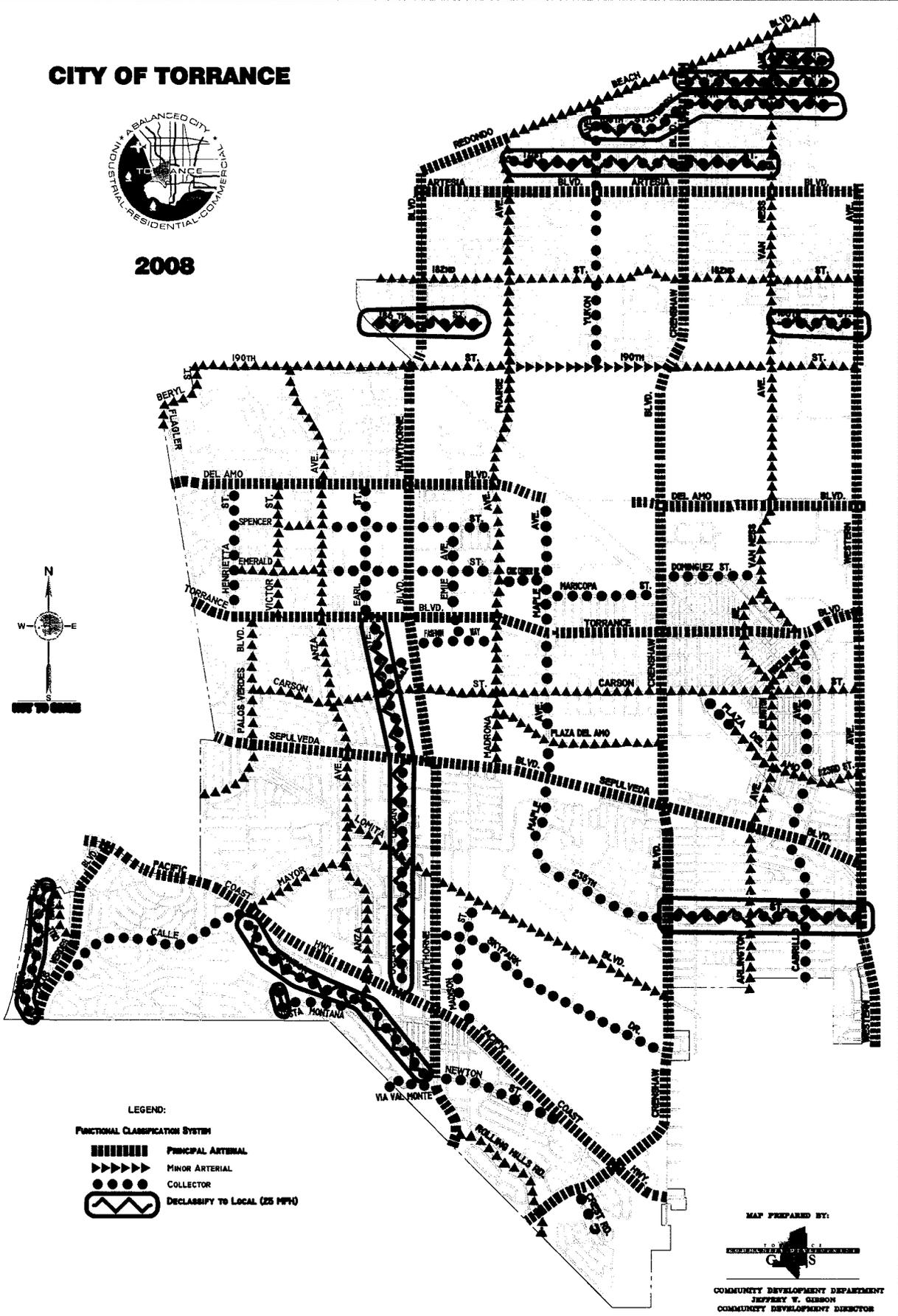
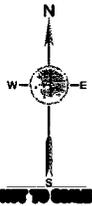
By: _____
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk

CITY OF TORRANCE



2008



- LEGEND:
- FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM
- PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL
 - MINOR ARTERIAL
 - COLLECTOR
 - DECLASSIFY TO LOCAL (25 MPH)

MAP PREPARED BY:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
JEFFREY V. GIBSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

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Traffic Commission Meeting
August 4, 2008

Agenda Item No. 7A

TO: Traffic Commission

FROM: Ted Semaan, Manager
 Transportation Planning, Development Engineering and Records
 Divisions

SUBJECT: Proposed Roadway Declassification along street segments within the
 City of Torrance

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Development Director recommends that the Traffic Commission review, provide comments, and concur with staff's recommendation for the City Council to adopt a resolution recommending the declassification of 12 collector streets to local streets within the City of Torrance.

BACKGROUND

City of Torrance is in the process of updating its General Plan, and subsequently providing opportunities to update the City of Torrance's Roadway Classification. In addition, the Community Development Department staff has recently completed a citywide speed survey analysis, which will help modify the existing roadway classifications. As part of the speed survey, staff concluded that the following 12 street segments that are currently classified as collector streets can be declassified into local streets due to their characteristics:

- 1) 162nd Street between Van Ness Avenue and east City limits
- 2) 164th Street between Van Ness Avenue and east City limits
- 3) 166th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and east City limits
- 4) 168th Street between Yukon Avenue and Cherry Avenue
- 5) 171st Street between Prairie Avenue and Van Ness Avenue
- 6) 186th Street between Kingsdale Avenue and Bailey Drive & between Van Ness Avenue and Western Avenue
- 7) 235th Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Western Avenue
- 8) Cherry Avenue between 168th Street and Crenshaw Boulevard
- 9) Paseo De Playa between Palos Verdes Boulevard and Calle Miramar
- 10) Newton Street between Calle Mayor and Hawthorne Boulevard
- 11) Paseo De Las Tortugas between Calle De Arbloes and Vista Montana

12) Ocean Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway

ANALYSIS

Staff reviewed the implication of the proposed declassification to ensure that there will be no significant impact on these streets with respect to their capacity, design, and adjacent land uses. Our review indicates that the roadway capacity and the adjacent residential land use designations along these street segments are unlikely to change in the future. Therefore, staff concludes that local classification is an appropriate classification for these street segments.

Per Functional Classification Guidelines, after the Council approves the resolution recommending the modification of the functional classification of these street segments, staff will formally submit the application to Caltrans District Coordinator who will review and write an independent recommendation or concurrence letter per the established Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines on the proposed changes. Caltrans will then forward the documents to its headquarters. Caltrans headquarters will present the proposed changes to FHWA for approval. The proposed roadway functional classification becomes effective only after FHWA approves the changes. Per Caltrans district coordinator, this process will take approximately 3 months after the formal request has been received by Caltrans.

Once these streets have been classified as local streets, the prima facie speed as per the California Vehicle Code, will default to 25 miles per hour. As a result, the Police Department can conduct speed enforcement using radar equipment or any electronic device at anytime without the need for speed study.

With regard to State or Federal funding, there will not be any loss of potential State or Federal funding to the City as a result of the proposed declassification of the above-referenced street segments.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFERY W. GIBSON
Community Development Director

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

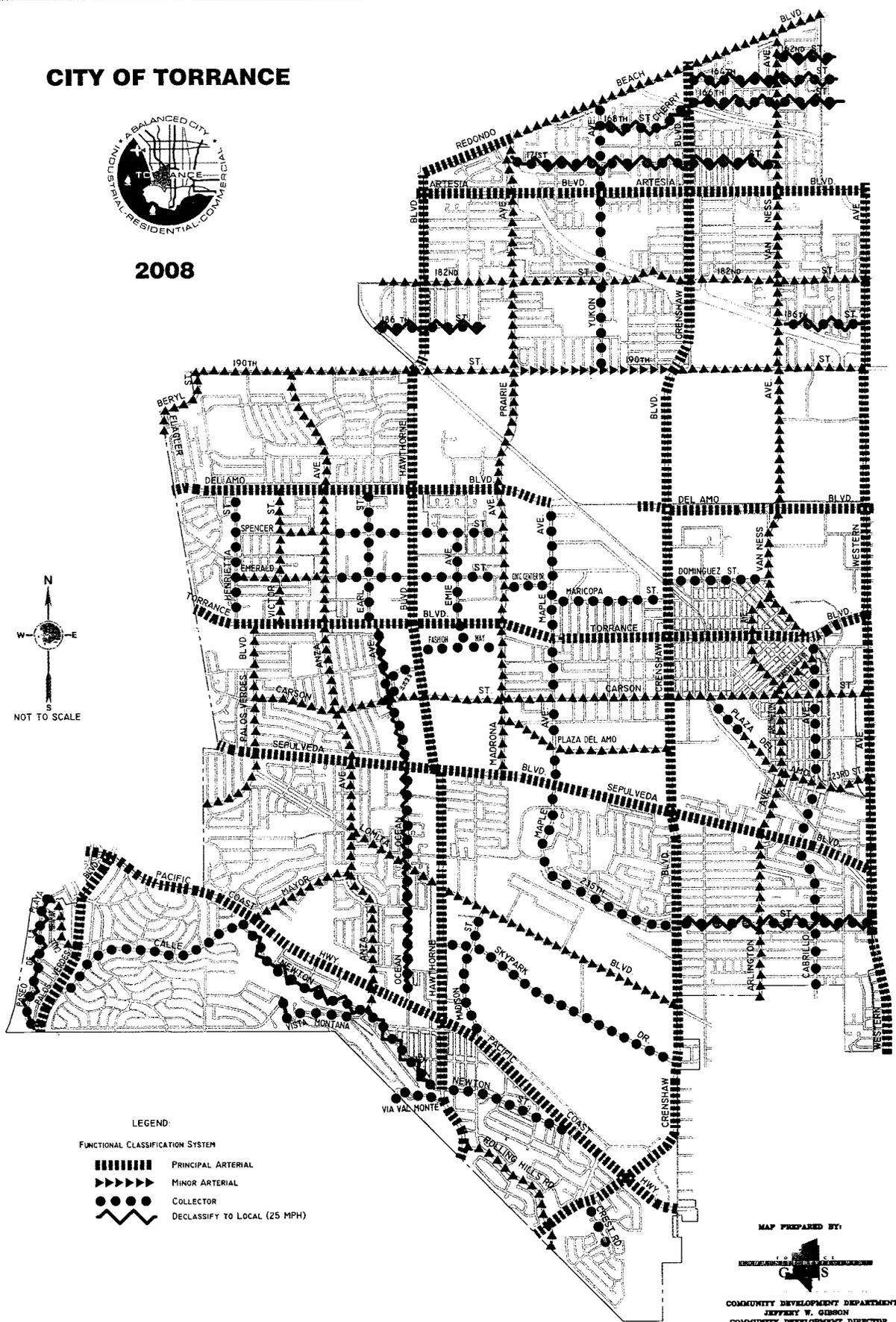
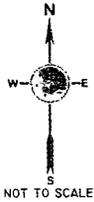
Attachment:

A) Location Map

CITY OF TORRANCE



2008



LEGEND:

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

-  PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL
-  MINOR ARTERIAL
-  COLLECTOR
-  DECLASSIFY TO LOCAL (25 MPH)

MAP PREPARED BY:



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
JEFFREY W. GIBSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA


**ASSOCIATION of
GOVERNMENTS**
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www.scag.ca.gov

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Debbie Cook, Huntington Beach

Transportation and Communications
Mike Ten, South Pasadena

June 18, 2008

Neil S. Hashiba
Sr. Transportation Planner
Caltrans Office of Advance Planning Transportation System Information (TSI)
100 S. Main St. MS16
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS MAP CHANGE – CITY OF TORRANCE

Dear Mr. Hashiba,

SCAG has received a request from the City of Torrance regarding the Functional Classification Change Request Form and Map to be submitted to Caltrans (attached). Caltrans' Functional Classification Guidelines require that local agencies submit an MPO/RTPA concurrence letter along with the Functional Classification Change Request Form to the Caltrans District Coordinator. This letter serves as the concurrence from SCAG on the changes requested by the City of Torrance.

It is our understanding that the requested changes are based upon an analysis performed as part of a citywide speed survey. These changes better reflect current system usage as well as neighborhood characteristics and zoning. As the designated MPO covering six counties in Southern California, SCAG does not typically perform transportation planning for local streets or roads. The SCAG regional travel demand model includes roadway facilities from interstates (Urban 11 and Rural 01) down to the equivalent of collectors (Urban 17 and Rural 07) on the Caltrans Functional Classification system.

SCAG will update its regional highway network to reflect the changes requested by Torrance upon the final approval by Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration.

If you have any further questions, please contact Philip Law of my staff at 213-236-1841 or law@scag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Naresh Amatya
Interim Manager, Transportation Planning & Modeling

Attachment

cc: Peerapol Suree, City of Torrance
Philip Law, SCAG
Guoxiong Huang, SCAG
Sreedharan Nambisan, SCAG

The Regional Council is comprised of 76 elected officials representing 187 cities, six counties, five County Transportation Commissions, and a Tribal Government representative within Southern California. #14422

Submitted by CITY OF TORRANCE

Date _____

Functional Classification Request Form

Transportation System Information Program
Office of Highway System Engineering

RS Map Sheet Number	Coordinate	OT Distinct	County	Jurisdiction	Section ID (if known)	Change - Add new - Delete	Road	From	To	(From) Class	(To) New Class	Length (mi)	Number of Through Lanes	Current AADT
13V42	J4	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	162nd Street	Van Ness Avenue	East City Limits	17	19	0.24	2	n/a
13V42	H5 & J5	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	164th Street	Crenshaw Boulevard	East City Limits	17	19	0.74	2	3,400
13V42	H5 & J5	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	166th Street	Crenshaw Boulevard	East City Limits	17	19	0.74	2	5,600
13V42	H5	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	Cherry Avenue	168th Street	Crenshaw Boulevard	17	19	0.18	2	n/a
13V42	G5 & H5	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	168th Street	Yukon Avenue	Cherry Avenue	17	19	0.37	2	n/a
13V42	F5, G5, H5 & J5	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	171st Street	Prairie Avenue	Van Ness Avenue	17	19	1.54	2	2,000
13V42	E7 & F7	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	186th Street	Kingsdale Avenue	Bailey Drive	17	19	0.56	2	n/a
13V42	J7 & K7	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	186th Street	Van Ness Avenue	Western Street	17	19	0.50	2	n/a
13V42	E10	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	Ocean Avenue	Torrance Boulevard	Carson Street	17	19	0.24	2	1,400
13V52	E1, E2, E3 & E4	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	Ocean Avenue	Carson Street	Pacific Coast Highway	17	19	1.93	2	7,900
13V52	A3, A4 & B3	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	Paseo De La Playa	Palos Verdes Boulevard	Calle Miramar	17	19	0.79	2	2,396
13V52	D3, D4, E4 & E5	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	Newton Street	Calle Mayor	Hawthorne Boulevard	17	19	1.51	2	6,200
13V52	D4	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	Paseo De Las Tortugas	Calle De Arboles	Vista Montana	17	19	0.14	2	n/a
13V52	H3, J3 & K3	7	LA	TORRANCE		Change	235th Street	Crenshaw Boulevard	Western Avenue	17	19	1.10	2	7,000

Functional Classification Codes

- Rural Functional Class Codes:**
 01= Principal Arterial Interstate
 02= Other Principal Arterial
 06= Minor Arterial
 07= Major Collector
 08= Minor Collector
 09= Local

- Urban Functional Class Codes:**
 11= Principal Arterial Interstate
 12= Principal Arterial - Other Freys or Express
 14= Other Principal Arterial
 16= Minor Arterial
 17= Collector
 19= Local

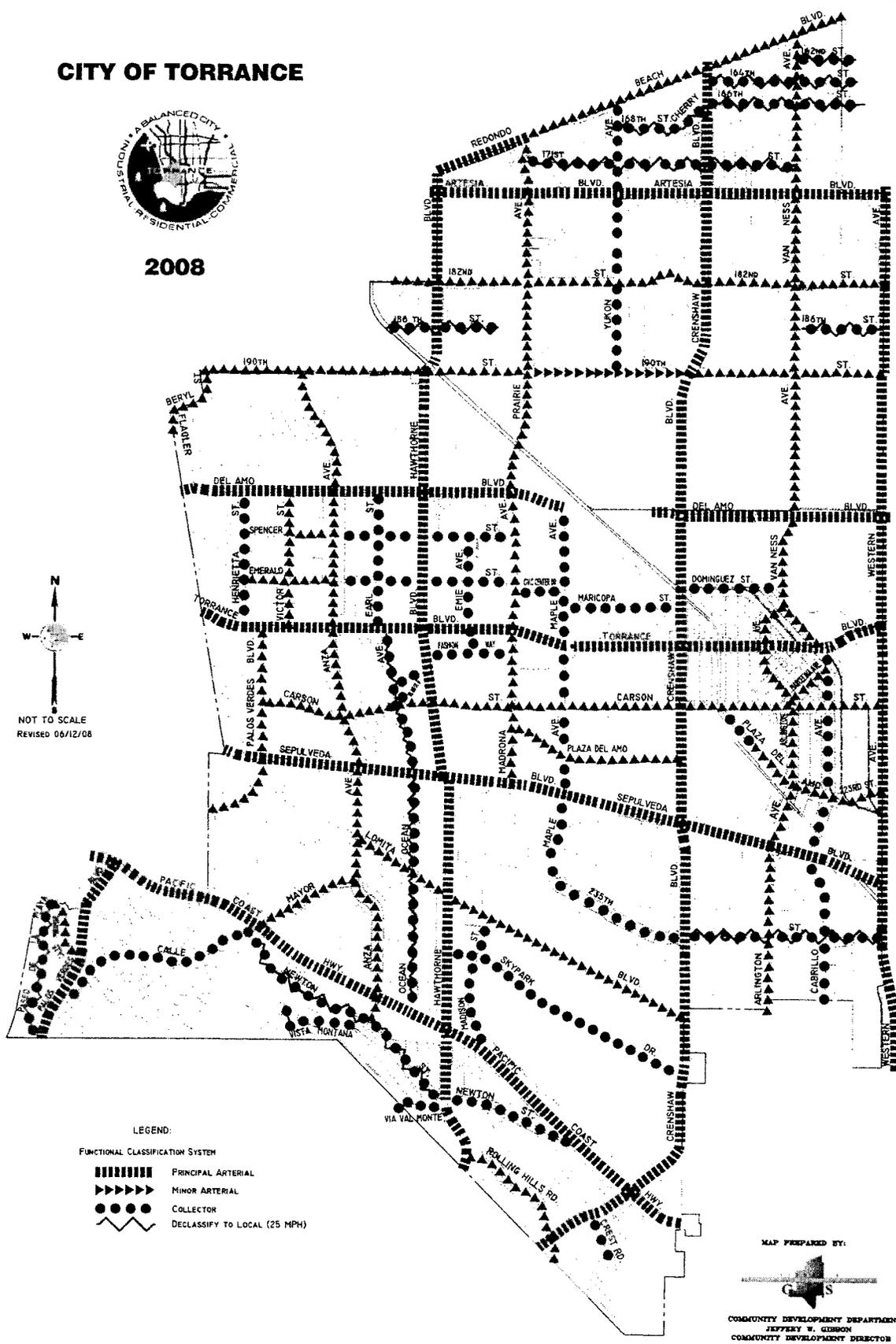
CITY OF TORRANCE



2008



NOT TO SCALE
REVISED 06/12/08



LEGEND:

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

-  PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL
-  MINOR ARTERIAL
-  COLLECTOR
-  DECLASSIFY TO LOCAL (25 MPH)

MAP PREPARED BY:



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
JEFFERY W. GIBSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Suree, Peerapol

From: Neil Hashiba [neil_hashiba@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 12:52 PM
To: Suree, Peerapol
Cc: Paul G Perez; Guillermo Gutierrez; Jonathan Palacio
Subject: DRAFT Torrance Functional Classification

Peerapol

TSI has reviewed your comments below and agree with your comments. Please submit your request with the agreed upon changes for Functional Classifications changes to MTA and SCAG. After their review and comment they will submit your request to us for review and further processing.

Neil S. Hashiba, Sr. Transportation Planner Caltrans, Office of Advance Planning 100 S. Main St. MS16 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 (213) 897-4369

"Suree, Peerapol"
 <PSuree@TORRNET.COM>

05/01/2008 09:16
 AM

Neil Hashiba
 <neil_hashiba@dot.ca.gov>

To

cc

"Semaan, Ted"
 <TSEMAAN@TORRNET.COM>, "Sedadi,
 Sepideh" <SSedadi@Torrnet.com>
 Subject
 FW: DRAFT Torrance Functional
 Classification

Mr. Hashiba,

I am wondering if you have received my previous email. Again, we would like to meet with you to clarify the listed questions/comments.

Please let me know your availability at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,
 Peerapol Suree

-----Original Message-----

From: Suree, Peerapol
 Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 10:26 AM
 To: 'Neil Hashiba'
 Cc: Semaan, Ted; Sedadi, Sepideh
 Subject: RE: DRAFT Torrance Functional Classification

Mr. Hashiba,

Thank you for your response and welcome back.

You have made seven comments on our pre-application to declassify certain street segments in Torrance. We concur with most of your comments except for the following ones. Here they are:

Item 1,2&3 on our pre-application: We concur with your comment to extend to the city limits. You also suggest that we coordinate with City of Gardena. We will be in contact with Gardena but their decision whether or not to declassify their segments (appx. 1/4 miles to Western Ave) should not have any barring on our proposal.

Item 13 (Paseo De Las Tortugas): I believe this just a misunderstanding. This street is high up in the hill with only one lane per direction and consisted of only residential properties. Per our knowledge, it should not have the "high traffic volumes" as commented.

Item 14 (235th street): Although this segment has high volumes, it is consisted solely of residential properties and the city has no plan to increase its capacity nor change the existing land use zoning.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions and please let us know your availability to discuss the above-referenced issues.

Thanks again,
Peerapol

Suree, Peerapol

From: Patashnick, Alan [PatashnickA@metro.net]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2008 3:10 PM
To: neil_hashiba@dot.ca.gov
Cc: Suree, Peerapol; Semaan, Ted
Subject: City of Torrance Declassification of Street Segments

Mr. Hashiba,

I have been informed by the City of Torrance that it is proposing to declassify 12 street segments from collector streets to local streets. City staff has provided me with a list of the proposed street segments for declassification as well as a map depicting said segments. I also understand that Caltrans was provided the same list and conducted a courtesy review for the City who has incorporated the agreed upon changes.

Metro has completed the review of the documentation consisting of a list and map of the 12 street segments subject to declassification that was submitted by the City of Torrance. Metro concurs with the entire list of proposed street segment declassifications and believes that all of the proposed changes fall within the established guidelines utilized by the City of Torrance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at either patashnickalan@metro.net or 213-922-3080. Thank you.

Regards,

Alan E. Patashnick
Director, South Bay Area Team
Metro