

Honorable Chairman and Members
of the Redevelopment Agency
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Agency:

SUBJECT: Community Development - Authorize the Executive Director to submit the Downtown Torrance Pedestrian Improvement Project Application to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority 2009 Call for Projects

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Deputy Executive Director that the Redevelopment Agency authorize the Executive Director to submit on behalf of the Community Development Department the grant application for the Downtown Torrance Pedestrian Improvement Project to the 2009 Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) Call for Projects.

FUNDING:

No funding is requested at this time.

BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) issues a semi-annual Call-for-Projects for public agencies that provide transportation facilities or services within Los Angeles County. Metro allocates state and federal funds for eligible projects within various modal categories, including bikeway, pedestrian, and traffic demand management. Municipalities applying for grant funds must match at least 20% of the total projected cost.

Redevelopment Staff is applying for funds within the Pedestrian Mode for improvements in the Downtown Redevelopment Project Area. Eligible pedestrian improvement projects are ones that promote walking as a form of utilitarian travel, enhance pedestrian safety, and provide an integral link within the overall transportation system. A vibrant and attractive pedestrian environment can also reduce car trips, and help stimulate the economy.

Downtown Torrance is an ideal candidate for the 2009 MTA Call for Projects pedestrian mode funds. The Redevelopment Agency is seeking funds to make the following pedestrian improvements within the area bound by Cravens Avenue, Carson Street, Cabrillo Avenue, and Torrance Boulevard:

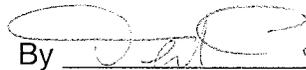
- Install pedestrian-scale signage to function as a directory for downtown attractions, and help market the area to patrons and visitors

- Enhance crossings at all intersections within the project area to feature pavers and/or stamped concrete for a more defined pedestrian experience
- Add lane-chokers to reduce crossing distance for pedestrians and help slow traffic
- Provide an improved pedestrian connection between surrounding bus routes
- Install new bike racks near all transit stops and along Torrance Boulevard, Cabrillo Avenue, El Prado Avenue, and Carson Street in downtown area
- Improvements specific to Cravens Avenue
 - Widen and improve sidewalks to reflect a common pedestrian theme similar to other downtown streets
 - Plant new trees and increase landscaping for added shade and a more inviting walking experience
 - Reconfigure landscaping to be adjacent to the curb in order to support outdoor seating for restaurants

Redevelopment Agency staff recommends approval of the draft 2009 Metro Call for Projects application for pedestrian improvements in Downtown Torrance. As this is a competitive application, City funding commitments will not be determined until after Metro grants are awarded. At that time, Redevelopment Agency staff will appear before the City Council for 20% match of funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery W. Gibson
Deputy Executive Director

By 

Ted Semaan
Planning Manager
Redevelopment & General Plan

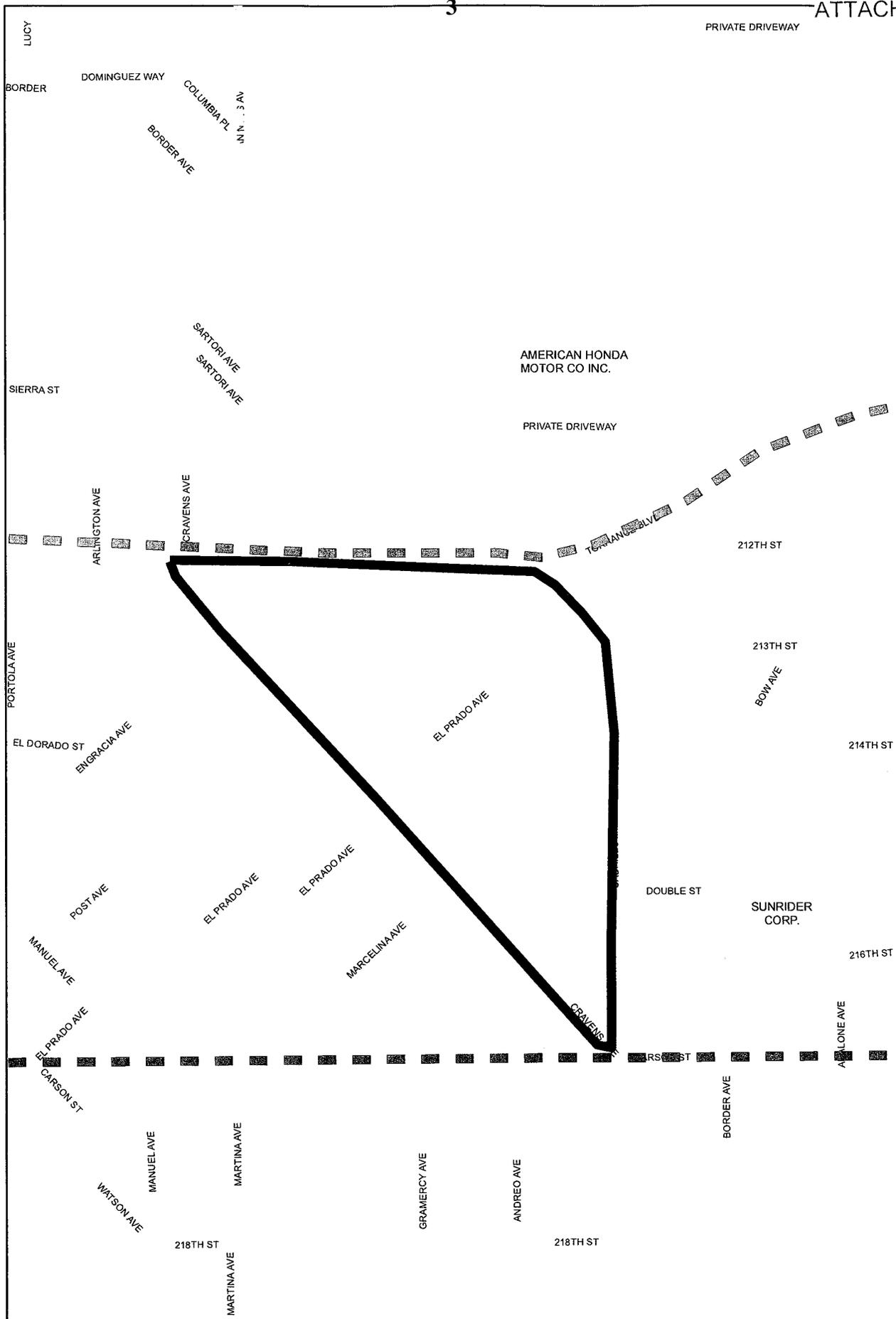
CONCUR:


Jeffery W. Gibson
Deputy Executive Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
Executive Director

Attachment:

- A. Map of project area



T:\Map\PDF\2009\series\5 5x11P Torrance Downtown BW.pdf

Lines and photos are approximate, not to be used for establishing absolute or relative positions



Torrance Downtown Area

0 150 300 Feet

LEGEND	
	Area of interest
	Line 1
	Line 3
	Line 5

