

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

Members of the Agency:

SUBJECT: Authorize the Executive Director to submit Phase II of the Downtown Torrance Pedestrian Improvement Project application to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority 2011 Call for Projects

Expenditure: None at this time

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 Phase II of the Downtown Torrance Pedestrian Improvement Project to the 2011 Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) Call for Projects.

FUNDING:

No funding is required 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 2011 MTA Call for Projects pedestrian mode funds. The Redevelopment Agency was awarded funds in the 2009 Call for Projects under the same modal category for general pedestrian improvements within the Downtown commercial core, bound by Torrance Boulevard, Cravens Avenue, and Cabrillo Avenue. In this round of applications, the Agency is seeking additional funds to continue Phase I of the project, and also make the following focused improvements along Cabrillo Avenue, between Torrance Boulevard and Carson Street:

- Install pedestrian-scale gateway signage to help facilitate a Downtown identity and improve the overall look of the commercial core
- Provide an improved pedestrian connection between the three surrounding Torrance Transit lines servicing the area
- Install street furniture (benches, bike racks, improved bus shelters, etc) to enhance the pedestrian atmosphere and provide more visual interest
- Remove and reconstruct public right-of-way on Cabrillo Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Carson Street in order to:
 - Improve the pedestrian link between Cabrillo Avenue and the Downtown Commercial Core
 - Install additional lane chokers to reduce crossing distance and help slow vehicular speed
 - Widen sidewalks to be more consistent in width and appearance to the recently improved sidewalks in the Downtown area
 - Install new street trees along improved sidewalks to provide shade and a more cohesive identity with the landscaping seen throughout Downtown
 - Install angled parking on both sides of Cabrillo Avenue and remove parking from the median to provide a safer and more appealing pedestrian atmosphere consistent with the rest of Downtown

Redevelopment Agency staff recommends approval of the draft 2011 Metro Call for Projects application for pedestrian improvements in Downtown Torrance. Staff estimates the total cost for the above mentioned project improvements to be approximately \$3 million. As this is a competitive application, City funding commitments will not be determined until after Metro grants are awarded. At that time, redevelopment staff will return to the Agency for approval of the 20% match of funds.

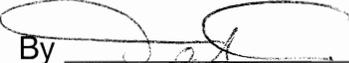
Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery W. Gibson
Deputy Executive Director

CONCUR:



Jeffery W. Gibson
Deputy Executive Director

By 

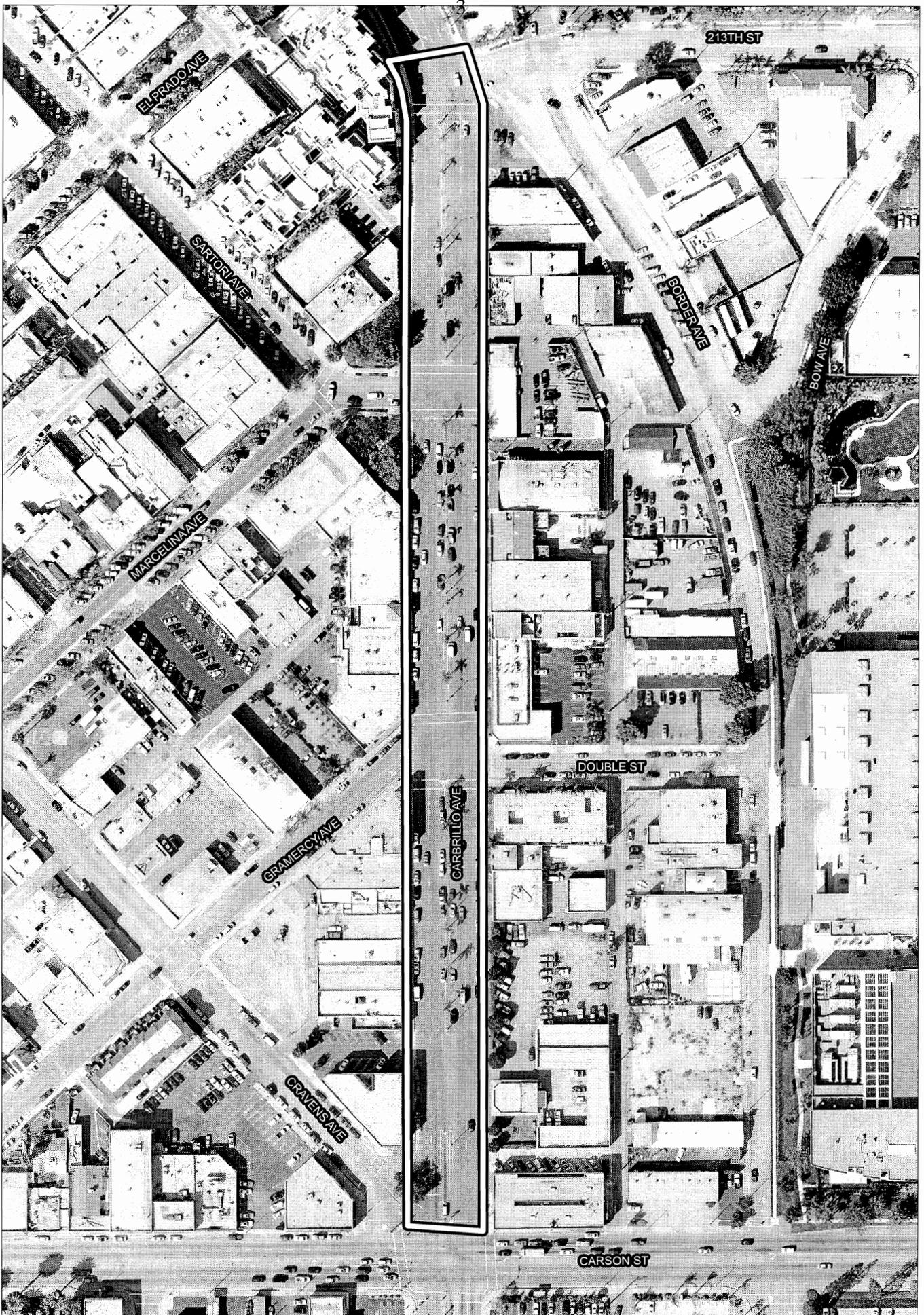
Ted Semaan
Planning Manager
Redevelopment & General Plan Division



LeRoy J. Jackson
Executive Director

Attachment:

- A. Map of project area



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

Cabrillo Avenue: Downtown Torrance Pedestrian Improvement Project, Phase II

