

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing HistoricPreservationCommission@TorranceCA.Gov and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email include the item number and/or title of the item with your comments. All comments emailed by 2:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will be included as a "Supplemental" and uploaded to <https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-clerk/commissions-and-advisory-boards/historic-preservation-commission/agendas-minutes/-folder-5167>. Comments received after 2:00 p.m. will be uploaded the following day to the previously noted web address.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

The Historic Preservation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.. All meetings are open to the public. Speakers are asked to complete a "Speaker Information" card (available at the meeting) and deposit it in the box at the podium. No new items will be discussed after 11:00 p.m. If there are items remaining, they will be heard at the next regular meeting.

Actions of the Community Development Director or Planning Commission may be appealed by the applicant, City Council, City Manager, or other interested parties by filing a written notice of appeal along with the required appeal fee with the City Clerk within 15 days of the action.

Staff reports are attached to the agenda and available for review online. Questions or concerns may be directed to Commission Liaison, Planning Manager Gregg Lodan, at 310.618.5990. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City of Torrance Home page www.TorranceCA.gov.

**TORRANCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA
WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM CITY HALL
3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TORRANCE CA 90503
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
6:30 PM**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission Members: G. Higginbotham, M. Higginbotham, Kartsonis, O'Donnell, Trivelli, and Chairman Weideman

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 (Limited to a 15 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items not on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment, but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 1 minute per speaker. Your phone call to the Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the meeting. By staying on the line and making public comments during the meeting, you are agreeing to have your phone call recorded.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Councilmember from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. Approval of Minutes: February 16, 2023

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Presentation by Transit Department on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority C-Line Extension

7B. Discussion on the Historic Preservation Month Proclamation

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Historic Preservation Commission Meeting to Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Historic Preservation Commission convened in a regular session at 6:33 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2023, in the West Annex Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners G. Higginbotham, M. Higginbotham, Kartsonis, O'Donnell, Trivelli, and Chair Weideman.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Development Manager Gregg Lodan, Senior Planning Associate Carolyn Chun, Community Development Assistant Riley Symons, and Community Development Director Ramirez.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner M. Higginbotham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Community Development Manager Lodan reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's Website on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND / OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 19, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner G. Higginbotham moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner O'Donnell seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF LANDMARK PLAQUE DESIGN & NAMING GUIDELINES

Community Development Manager Lodan presented the Continuing Discussion Regarding the Landmark Plaque Design and requested feedback.

The Commission provided feedback.

Commissioner G. Higginbotham stated that what staff presented included the important Torrance elements discussed and met what the Commission had requested previously.

Commissioner M. Higginbotham presented the Commission and staff with a rough mock-up of the plaque design through her laptop.

Commissioner O'Donnell stated that she liked the 12" x 15" plaque size, as it would be noticeable. Commissioner G. Higginbotham concurred.

Staff presented different sizes of the plaque to the Commission for reference. The Commission provided feedback.

Chair Weideman inquired if the (3) sizes presented could be offered as options. Community Development Director Ramirez replied that the application could have a box inquiring if applicants were interested in a plaque, list the (3) sizes available, and could have a mock-up option for approval once the application came before the Commission for evaluation.

7B. DISCUSSION REGARDING JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Community Development Manager Lodan presented the discussion regarding the joint meeting with City Council and requested the Commission's feedback.

The Commission provided feedback.

MOTION: Commissioner O'Donnell moved to have a joint meeting with the City Council. Commissioner M. Higginbotham seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Trivelli gave a summary of the 3-hour webinar she attended and stated that she downloaded all documents shared, which can be provided to the Commission if needed / requested.

Commissioner O'Donnell announced that City Council passed an Ordinance prohibiting gun shops in the Torrance Downtown area. Community Development Manager Lodan stated that the Ordinance is still in the drafting stages and will be presented to the Planning Commission late May, early April, and before City Council, April 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:35 p.m., Commissioner O'Donnell moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room. Commissioner Kartsonis seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

##

Agenda Item No. 7A

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Kim Turner, Transit Director
SUBJECT: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority C-Line Extension

RECOMMENDATION

The Transit Director recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission receive and file the report from staff regarding the C-Line Extension to Torrance.

BACKGROUND

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) is currently studying the extension of its passenger light rail system to Torrance. The C-Line, formerly known as the Green Line, will extend from its existing terminus in Redondo Beach following two potential alignments. These two alignments include following existing LA Metro railroad right-of-way (ROW) or following alongside I-405, then utilizing the median of Hawthorne Blvd. before returning to ROW at 190th St. There will be two new stations established – one in Redondo Beach near the South Bay Galleria and another in Torrance adjacent to the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center.

There are three potential options being studied by LA Metro. The first, named the Proposed Project: Metro ROW Elevated/Street-Level, follows existing LA Metro owned railroad right-of-way. The second, named the Trench Option, follows along the same alignment, but adds a below-grade trench between Inglewood Ave and 182nd St. The last option, named the Hawthorne Blvd. Option, leaves LA Metro owned right-of-way to travel along I-405, then travels south through the median of Hawthorne Blvd. from 162nd St. to 190th St. At south of 190th St., all options travel along LA Metro owned right-of-way.

The following is a chronology of previous events related to the issue:

June 29, 2018 Release of Supplemental Alternatives Analysis

On June 29, 2018 LA Metro released the Supplemental Alternatives Analysis to establish the need for a passenger light rail extension, determine the project area, outline the goals for the project, and augment earlier alternatives analyses that had been completed prior to the passing of Measure M.

August 16, 2022 LA Metro Community Meeting

On August 16, 2022, LA Metro staff hosted a community meeting at the Toyota Meeting Hall in Torrance to provide members of the public information about the C-Line Extension project. Residents of Torrance and the surrounding communities were given the opportunity to speak directly with LA Metro staff to ask any questions or raise any concerns or hopes regarding the project.

September 28, 2022 Transportation Committee Meeting

On September 28, 2022, the City Council Transportation Committee met to hear updates from staff regarding the service changes relating to the opening of the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center, service duplication with Long Beach Transit and the current resolution process, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) C-Line Extension to Torrance.

Metro staff provided background and a potential timeline for the C-Line Extension project. City staff reaffirmed the city's position that the C-Line Extension project should utilize Metro's existing Right of Way. The Committee also affirmed their support for The Right of Way Alignment and request that Metro's Board of Supervisors consider an alternative that would place the passenger light rail underground.

October 25, 2022 City Council Meeting

On October 25, 2022, City Council voted to accept and file the report of the Transportation Committee, and voted unanimously to submit a letter to LA Metro's Board of Directors that established the council's official position of preference for the Proposed Project: Metro ROW Elevated/Street-Level.

January 26, 2023 LA Metro Release of Draft Environment Impact Report

On January 26, 2023, LA Metro released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) related to the C-Line Extension project. This DEIR has informed all staff analysis of impacts on the City of Torrance and its residents.

February 21, 2023 LA Metro Public Hearing

On February 21, 2023, LA Metro held a public hearing in Torrance at the Toyota Meeting Hall. This hearing gave residents of Torrance and the surrounding communities the opportunity to learn more about the project options, and allowed community members to speak directly to LA Metro staff about their concerns or hopes for the project.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of tonight's presentation is to provide an analysis of impacts to the City of Torrance based on LA Metro's released DEIR on the C-Line Extension project.

The extension of LA Metro's passenger light rail system will provide a number of benefits to the City of Torrance and the South Bay Region as a whole. The project provides an alternate mode of transportation to those who would otherwise be traveling on I-405 and displaces an estimated 17,083,851 on-road vehicle miles travelled annually. This reduction in vehicle miles travelled reduces greenhouse gas emissions in the region by approximately 2,369.4 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent annually.

The project also serves as a driver of economic growth, serving an estimated 65,000 jobs in the project area by 2042. Connections to a number of high value destinations are also provided, such as a seat-ride to LAX, SoFi Stadium via the Inglewood Transit Connector, the South Bay Galleria, Del Amo Fashion Center, and Old Torrance. The majority of ridership will travel in and out of

The extension also improves equity by serving 18% of the low-income communities and 47% of the minority communities in the project area, will also providing connections with local transit agencies and the rest of the South Bay.

City Council has unanimously voted to support the Proposed Project: Metro ROW Elevated/Street-Level. This option is the most cost-effective, costing an estimated \$1.96 billion, with an estimated completion of Fall 2033. This option does not encroach on I-405, and avoids traffic and parking impacts on Hawthorne Blvd. and other arterial roads. This option also avoids costly impacts to businesses and residents along Hawthorne Blvd.

The Trench option has an estimated completion of Spring 2036 with an estimated cost of \$2.84 billion. Major construction work would be required and would result in considerable air quality impacts.

The Hawthorne Blvd. Option will have the greatest negative impacts on the city of Torrance and its residents. The estimated cost is the highest at \$2.96 billion, with an estimated completion of Fall 2035. This option fails to fully utilize existing investment in transit infrastructure by creating a walk between the newly established Redondo Beach Transit Center and proposed South Bay Galleria Station. This option also requires the modification of a number of intersections and roads within the city of Torrance during the construction phase and throughout operation:

- Frontage roads along Hawthorne Blvd. between 175th St. and 179th St. would need to be narrowed, resulting in the loss of 12 overnight parking spots.
- Left turns lanes on Hawthorne Blvd. from 164th St. through 182nd. St. would require modification
- At Hawthorne Blvd. and 177th St., the number of left turn lanes would be reduced from two to one.
- Hawthorne Blvd. and 179th St. would be signalized and the left turn pocket would be expanded.
- The median would be closed at Hawthorne Blvd. and 180th St. to prevent left turns in the northbound direction.

Throughout construction, the communities surrounding Hawthorne Blvd. would be subject to significant and unavoidable levels of both noise and vibration. The Hawthorne Blvd. option would also require a considerable amount of property acquisition from LA Metro, both on Hawthorne Blvd. itself as well as at the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th St. where the passenger light rail would return to existing right-of-way.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Turner
Transit Director



By
David Mach
Senior Business Manager

Attachment 1: Presentation for C-Line Extension to Torrance



L.A. Metro C-Line Extension: Regional Benefits

PRESENTED BY TORRANCE TRANSIT

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE WITHOUT PERMISSION



Project Background

- L.A. Metro is bringing passenger light rail to the South Bay via an extension of the existing C-Line (formerly referred to as the “Green Line”)
- Studying two potential alignments (with 3 possible options) – existing railroad Right-Of-Way owned by L.A. Metro or utilization of Hawthorne Blvd.
- **Torrance City Council has voted unanimously to support Proposed Project: Right-of-Way with Elevated/At-Grade Option**



Why does the region need the C-Line passenger light rail extension?

- Provides an alternate mode of transportation for those traveling along the I-405 corridor
 - Time spent commuting expected to increase by approximately **30%** by 2045
- Reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by making transit a more viable transportation choice
- Avoids and minimizes environmental impacts on environmental resources to the maximum extent feasible
- Provides more equitable access to regional destinations by improving connections to the L.A. Metro regional rail system

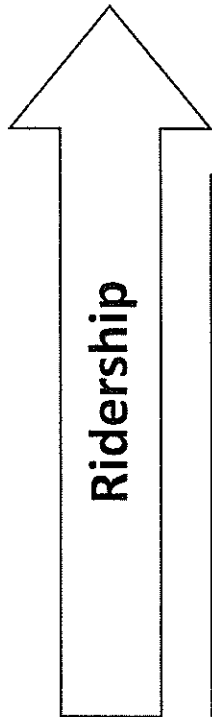


Who would utilize this project?

- **Those traveling on I-405**
- Travelers using major arterials within the South Bay Region (Hawthorne Blvd., Crenshaw Blvd., etc.)
- South Bay region-wide commuters (traveling to Downtown L.A., Orange County, or beyond)
- **LAX Passengers – expected to increase to 151 million annually by 2045**



Source: KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES



Ridership

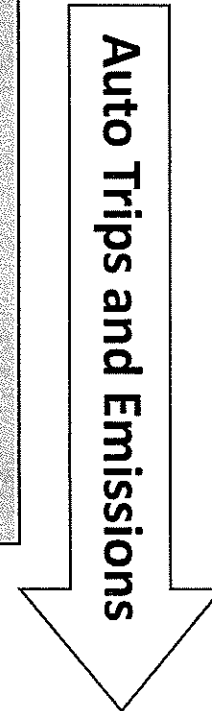
Estimated to serve **65,000** jobs in the project area by 2042

Majority of ridership traveling to and from Torrance

Los Angeles drivers spent an average of **95** hours in traffic, costing **\$1,601** per driver annually

Displaces an estimated **17,083,851** on-road vehicle miles traveled annually

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately **2,369.4** metric tons of CO₂ equivalent annually



Auto Trips and Emissions



Regional Benefits

- **Improves equity** by serving **18%** of low-income communities and **47%** of minority/non-white communities in the project area
- Provides connections with local transit agencies and surrounding South Bay and Gateway Cities:
 - L.A. Metro Bus and Rail
 - Torrance Transit
 - Beach Cities Transit
 - Los Angeles Department of Transportation Commuter Express
 - Gardena Transit
 - Long Beach Transit
 - Norwalk Transit
 - Lawndale Beat



Regional Benefits

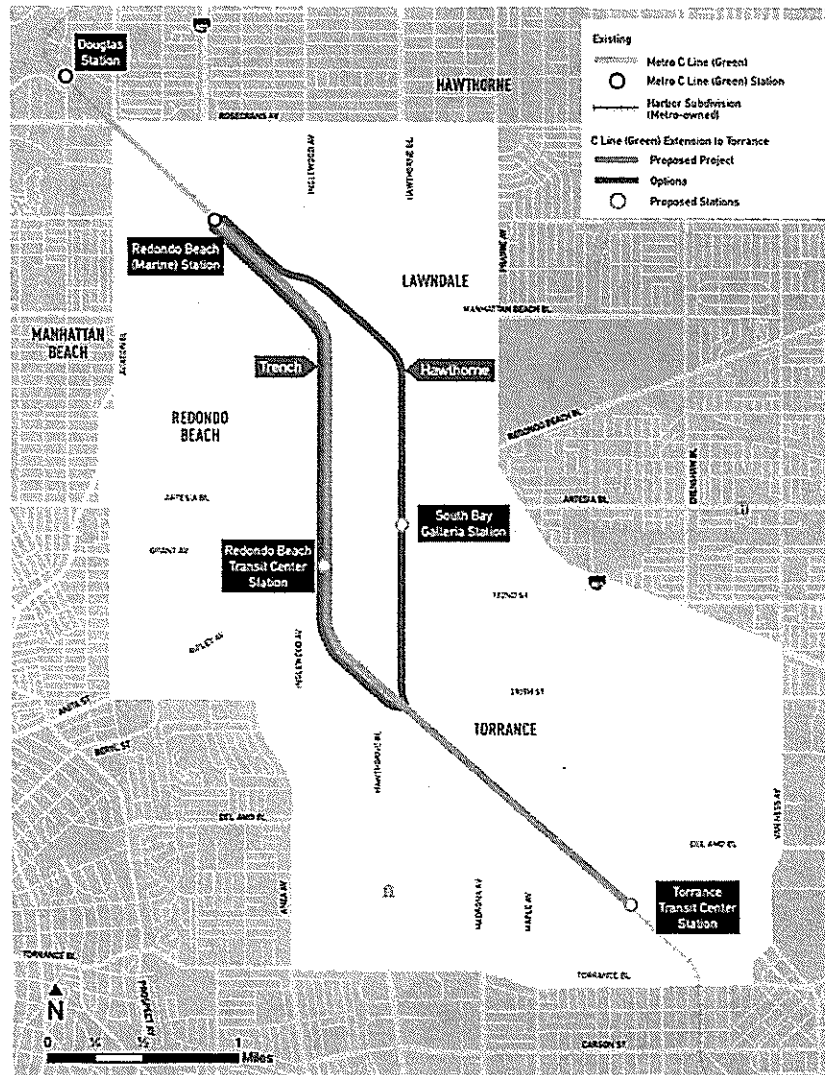
- Connections to a number of high value destinations:
 - **One seat ride to LAX**
 - SoFi Stadium via Inglewood Transit Connector
 - South Bay Galleria
 - Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center
 - Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center
 - Del Amo Fashion Center
 - Old Torrance
- Projected to generate between **10,300 – 16,200** new daily transit trips
- Estimated travel time savings of up to **23.1** minutes per rider

Regional Benefits from the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center



- At the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center, the C-Line will connect with Torrance Transit's:
 - Line 1
 - Rapid 3
 - Line 4X
 - Line 5
 - Line 6
 - Line 10
 - Future planned Red Car Urban Trolley
- Torrance Transit Center Station would provide the majority of estimated ridership gains

Project Options

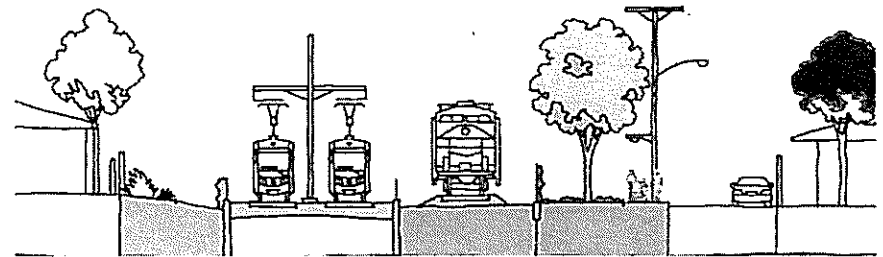


Source: L.A. Metro

Project Options – Proposed Project (Elevated/At-Grade)



- Utilizes existing L.A. Metro Right-of-Way with combination of elevated and at-grade segments
- **Most cost effective (Estimated \$1.96 billion)**
- Estimated completion Fall 2033
- Does not encroach on I-405
- Avoids traffic and parking impacts on Hawthorne Blvd and other arterial roads
- **Avoids impacts to businesses and residents near Hawthorne Blvd**

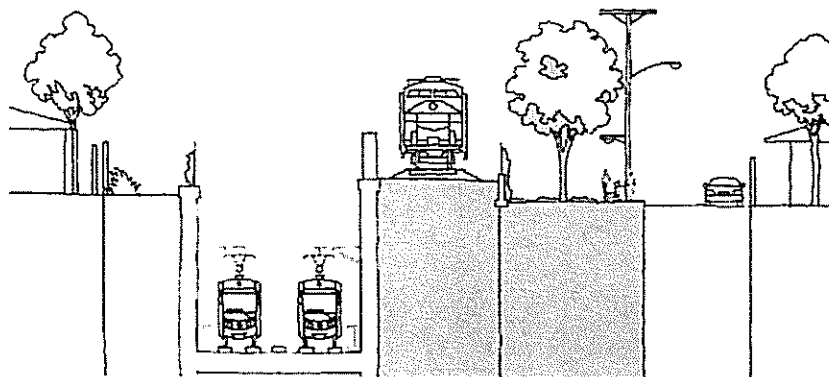


Source: L.A. Metro

Supported by Torrance City Council



Project Options – Right-of-Way/Trench



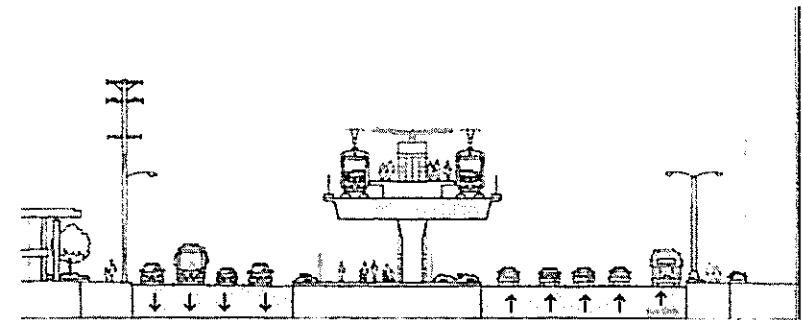
Source: L.A. Metro

- Follows existing Right-of-Way and includes a combination of trench and at-grade segments
- Estimated completion early 2036
- Estimated cost of \$2.84 billion
- Major construction work required
- Major air quality impact due to construction



Project Options – Elevated Hawthorne Blvd.

- Elevated rail structure along the center median of Hawthorne Blvd.
- Most expensive (costs \$2.96 billion)
- Estimated completion of Fall 2035
- Significantly impact to residents and local businesses along Hawthorne Blvd.
- Adds longer walk for connections to new Redondo Beach Transit Center. Does not utilize existing transit investments
- Significant noise and vibration during construction
- Requires modification of travel lanes
- More property acquisitions



Source: L.A. Metro

Traffic Impacts of Hawthorne Blvd. Construction



- Narrow frontage roads between 175th St. and 179th St., resulting in the loss of 12 overnight-only parking spaces
- Required modification of left-turn lanes on Hawthorne Blvd. from 164th St. through 182nd St.
- Reduction of left turn lanes at Hawthorne Blvd. and 177th St. from two to one
- Signalize Hawthorne Blvd. and 179th St. and would expand northbound left turn pocket
- Closure of the median at Hawthorne Blvd. and 180th St. to prevent left turns
- Traffic projected to worsen significantly at Hawthorne Blvd. and 179th St. and Hawthorne Blvd. and 182nd St.

Traffic Impacts of Hawthorne Blvd. Alignment - Operation



	Citywide Level of Service (AM/PM)	Projected Level of Service (AM/PM)
Hawthorne Blvd. and Artesia Blvd.	C, D	D, F
Amie Ave. and Artesia Blvd.	C, D	F, F
Prairie Blvd. and Artesia Blvd	D, D	E, F
Hawthorne Blvd. and 179 th St.	E (PM Only)	D (PM Only)
Hawthorne Blvd. and 180 th St.	E, F	E, F
Hawthorne Blvd. and 182nd St.	C, D	D, F
Hawthorne Blvd. and 186th St.	B (PM Only)	D (PM Only)
Crenshaw Blvd. and Del Amo Blvd.	D, D	E, D
Crenshaw Blvd. and Torrance Blvd.	D, D	D, D



Getting Involved

- Support for the C-Line Extension to Torrance and the Proposed Project R.O.W. Alignment can be provided to Metro via:
 - Email – greenlineextension@metro.net
 - Phone – 323-330-4015
 - Mail: Georgia Sheridan, Senior Director, Mobility Corridors
One Gateway Plaza, MS 99-22-2 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 - General questions can be directed to Georgia Sheridan, Project Manager
 - Phone – 213-922-4004
- Comments regarding City of Torrance's position can be provided to David Mach:
 - Email – Dmach@TorranceCA.gov
 - Phone – 310-781-6294

Agenda Item No. 7B

To: Members of the Historic Preservation Commission
From: Community Development Department
Date: March 16, 2023
Subject: Discussion on the Historic Preservation Month Proclamation

During the Month of May, the City Council adopts a Proclamation on Historic Preservation Month. The last proclamation was adopted in 2019, due to the pandemic, so this is the first proclamation that the Historic Preservation Commission will review and move forward to the City Council on May 9, 2023. The draft Historic Preservation Month Proclamation is attached for your consideration. The Historic Society has accepted the proclamation in the past, but since we have a Historic Preservation Commission, we would like to determine who the Commission would like to appoint to accept the Proclamation at the City Council Meeting.

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that the Historic Preservation Commission provide input on the draft Historic Preservation Proclamation and determine who will accept the Proclamation.

Prepared by,



Carolyn Chun

Senior Planning Associate

Respectfully submitted,



Gregg Lodan, AICP
Planning Manager

Attachment:

A. Draft Historic Preservation Proclamation

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, May is declared National Preservation Month by the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, through the Preservation Plan and Historic Preservation Ordinance, the City endeavors to protect neighborhood character, preserve irreplaceable cultural resources, and create a distinct sense of place; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community identity while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize our past and celebrate Torrance's rich heritage that shaped and influenced our community and environment; and

WHEREAS, the Torrance Historical Society's mission is to promote interest and education in the history of Torrance and the San Pedro Rancho; to promote historical research in Torrance, to collect, preserve, and make available of Torrance historical records and related documents through the operation of a museum and archives; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission was established to foster public understanding of and involvement in the unique historical, architectural and cultural heritage of the City and to encourage the protection, enhancement, appreciation and use of historic structures deserving of recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission approved the first Historic Preservation Landmark on October 20, 2022, and continues to foster interest in and provide education about the designation of Historic Resources in the City of Torrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE K CHEN, as Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby proclaim the Month of May 2023 as

National Preservation Month

Signed this 9th day of May 2023.

Mayor George K Chen

ATTEST:

Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk