

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE OPPOSING THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS) AT THE INTERSECTION OF 235TH STREET AND WESTERN AVENUE

WHEREAS, in October 2000, the City of Torrance received correspondence from the City of Los Angeles indicating that a traffic signal was not under consideration at the intersection of 235th Street and Western Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in November 2001, based on a September 2001 request from Ms. Dona Denesia, a resident of the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans conducted a traffic signal warrant analysis of a traffic signal, concluding that a traffic signal was not warranted at Western Avenue and 235th Street; and

WHEREAS, in March 2003, a letter from Assembly Member, Jenny Oropeza to Caltrans, provided traffic collision data for the calendar year 2002. Ms. Oropeza's letter also requested that Caltrans reconsider the installation of the traffic signal; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans apparently failed to evaluate the traffic collision data for the years preceding 2002; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 4, 2003, Mr. Douglas Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director, indicated in a letter to Assembly Member, Jenny Oropeza, that Caltrans re-evaluated and concluded that they would support and expedite the installation of a signal in coordination with the City of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 11, 2003, Caltrans issued a Categorical Exemption/Programmatic Categorical Exclusion for the installation of a traffic signal at the above-referenced intersection; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 28, 2003, Caltrans Traffic Investigation staff met with the City of Torrance staff requesting the execution of a cooperative agreement to finance the installation of the traffic signal. City of Torrance staff expressed strong opposition to the traffic signal installation and asked Caltrans, as the lead agency, to coordinate a meeting between Caltrans and the cities of Los Angeles and Torrance to consider alternative means of addressing their concerns; and

WHEREAS, on or about September 12, 2003, the Mayor of the City of Torrance sent a letter Mr. Douglas Failing, Caltrans District 7 Director, reiterating the City of Torrance's continued strong opposition to the installation of a traffic signal at 235th Street and Western Avenue; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 13, 2003, the City of Los Angeles replied to an inquiry from the City of Torrance and informed the City of Torrance that the City of Los Angeles has stopped the design work for the traffic signal at 235th Street and Western Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in February 2004, Caltrans contacted the City of Torrance requesting utility information regarding the design of the traffic signal at 235th Street and Western Avenue. City of Torrance once again expressed its strong opposition to the installation of a traffic signal at 235th Street and Western Avenue.

WHEREAS, in April 2004, City of Torrance staff met with representatives from Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles, wherein the City requested consideration of alternative measures to the traffic signal installation in order to address the City of Los Angeles' safety concerns. During the meeting the City of Los Angeles indicated that it was not aware that there were alternate measures to a traffic signal; and

WHEREAS, in September 2004, City of Torrance staff met with the representatives from Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles expressing the City's opposition to traffic signal installation and requested the consideration of a raised median island to be installed on 235th Street at Western Avenue if the signal installation was eminent. Caltrans agreed, at the request of Torrance staff, to conduct a neighborhood meeting for Torrance residents; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2004, Caltrans conducted a neighborhood meeting. The majority of residents at the meeting expressed their opposition to the signal installation. The majority of the residents also concurred with the City's proposal for a raised median as shown in Alternative #1. The proposed raised median would restrict ingress and egress by only allowing right turns on and off 235th Street at Western; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2005, the City of Torrance staff conducted a neighborhood meeting, wherein the majority of the residents in attendance expressed their opposition to the signal installation and preference to construct a raised median as shown in Alternative #1.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, RESOLVES AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The City of Torrance expresses its strong, continuing objection to the proposed installation of a traffic signal by Caltrans at the intersection of 235th Street and Western Avenue.

Section 2. The Circulation Element of the City of Torrance's General Plan depicts 235th Street as a collector street. The City of Torrance firmly believes that the installation of a traffic signal would upgrade 235th Street to a minor arterial street in conflict with the City's General Plan.

Section 3. The City of Torrance requests the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) by Caltrans for the proposed traffic signal at the intersection at 235th Street and Western Avenue.

Section 4. Until such time as Caltrans prepares an Environmental Impact Report on the installation of the traffic signal at 235th Street and Western Avenue, the City of Torrance will not issue any discretionary Public Works permits for traffic signal equipment, including but not limited to light standards or loop detectors, that would encroach into the City of Torrance right-of-way.

Section 5. The City of Torrance staff will continue to work with Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles to derive an acceptable solution to enhance traffic safety at the intersection of 235th Street and Western Avenue while providing the fewest impacts along 235th and other adjacent streets.

Section 6. In the event Caltrans proceeds with the traffic signalization project absent an Environmental Impact Report or does not coordinate said installation with the City of Torrance, the City Council directs staff to bring back for Council consideration any necessary requests for authorization to construct a raised median to restrict access on 235th Street.

Section 7. In the event Caltrans proceeds with the traffic signalization project absent an Environmental Impact Report or does not coordinate said installation with the City of Torrance, the City Council directs staff to bring back for Council consideration any necessary requests for authorization to construct raised medians along 234th and 236th Streets, similar to the proposed median at 235th Street, at Western Avenue.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of January of 2005.

Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
John L. Fellows III, City Attorney

By _____
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney