




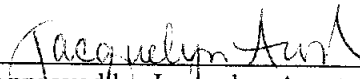
City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

March 18, 2014
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO INSTALL STOP SIGNS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH APPROACHES OF JAMISON AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH TORRANCE BOULEVARD


Submitted by Gilbert Marquez, P.E.
Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer


Approved by Jacquelyn Acosta
Acting City Manager

I. SUMMARY

A request was received from an employee of the City of Carson's Public Works Department to install stop signs on Jamison Avenue at its intersection with Torrance Boulevard (Exhibit No. 1). This four-approach intersection currently has no stop signs (Exhibit No. 2). The primary reason for the stop sign request is to improve safety for motorists. After analyzing the intersection and observing the traffic patterns and visibility at this location, staff recommends that stop signs be installed on the north and south approaches of Jamison Avenue at its intersection with Torrance Boulevard.

On February 10, 2014, the Public Works Commission voted to approve the request for stop signs at this intersection (Exhibit No. 3). Resolution No. 14-025 authorizes staff to install the stop signs as recommended by staff and the Public Works Commission if the City Council concurs (Exhibit No. 4).

II. RECOMMENDATION

WAIVE further reading and ADOPT Resolution No. 14-025, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH APPROACHES OF JAMISON AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH TORRANCE BOULEVARD."

III. ALTERNATIVES

1. DENY the request to install stop signs on Jamison Avenue at its intersection with Torrance Boulevard.
2. TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

The intersection of Jamison Avenue and Torrance Boulevard is a four-legged intersection that is not currently equipped with traffic control (stop signs or yield signs). Torrance Boulevard is a two lane east-west residential street that

terminates one short block east of Jamison Avenue. Jamison Avenue is a two lane north-south residential street that runs from Dominguez Street to Genevieve Street.

As the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Jamison Avenue does not have a stop sign on any of the four approaches to the intersection, the right-of-way rules that are stated in Section 21800 of the California Vehicle Code are applicable to motorists passing through the intersection. Subsection (b)(1) of this Vehicle Code section states, "When two vehicles enter an intersection from different highways at the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on his or her immediate right."

While the right-of-way rule from the Vehicle Code is generally acceptable at the intersection of two local residential streets, there are constraints at the Torrance Boulevard / Jamison Avenue intersection that result in visibility restrictions. A fence is located along the property line on the southwest corner of the intersection, a block wall is located along the property line on the northeast corner of the intersection, and trees are located on the northwest corner of the intersection. These physical features create visibility constraints that result in potential safety conflicts. The situation could be alleviated by installing stop signs and thereby requiring motorists to stop on Jamison Avenue before proceeding into the intersection.

The guidelines in the "California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD, January 13, 2012 edition) state that stop signs should be used if engineering judgment indicates that one or more conditions exist. Among the conditions that are listed in the manual that would be appropriate for a stop sign installation at this location are:

- A. A restricted view exists that requires road users to stop in order to adequately observe conflicting traffic on the through street or highway,
- B. The ability to see conflicting traffic on an approach is not sufficient to allow a road user to stop or yield in compliance with the normal right-of-way rule.

Observations at the intersection of Torrance Boulevard and Jamison Avenue indicate that both of these scenarios are applicable. The fence, wall, and trees result in restricted views that require motorists to stop in order to adequately observe conflicting traffic and the visibility is insufficient for application of the normal right-of-way rule.

As the right-of-way rule from the Vehicle Code does not provide reasonable compliance with the law and as the visibility constraints at this location create potential safety risks for motorists and pedestrians, it is recommended that stop signs be installed on northbound and southbound Jamison Avenue at its

intersection with Torrance Boulevard. Included in the installation are stop bars (limit lines) and STOP legends that would be painted on the pavement.

The MUTCD also has guidelines for the installation of multiway stop signs (three-way or four-way stop signs), including such criteria as traffic volumes, pedestrian volumes, and accident statistics. The conditions at the Jamison Avenue / Torrance Boulevard intersection do not warrant the installation of a four-way stop.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of installing the proposed stop signs and associated pavement markings is \$800.00. Funds are available in the adopted FY 2013/14 Public Works Sign Maintenance budget in account no. 01-80-840-083-8028.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Location Map. (pg. 4)
2. Aerial photo of existing conditions. (pg. 5)
3. Minutes, February 10, 2014, Item No. 7(a). (pg. 6)
4. Resolution No. 14-025. (pg. 7)

Prepared by: Richard Garland, Traffic Engineer

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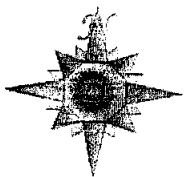
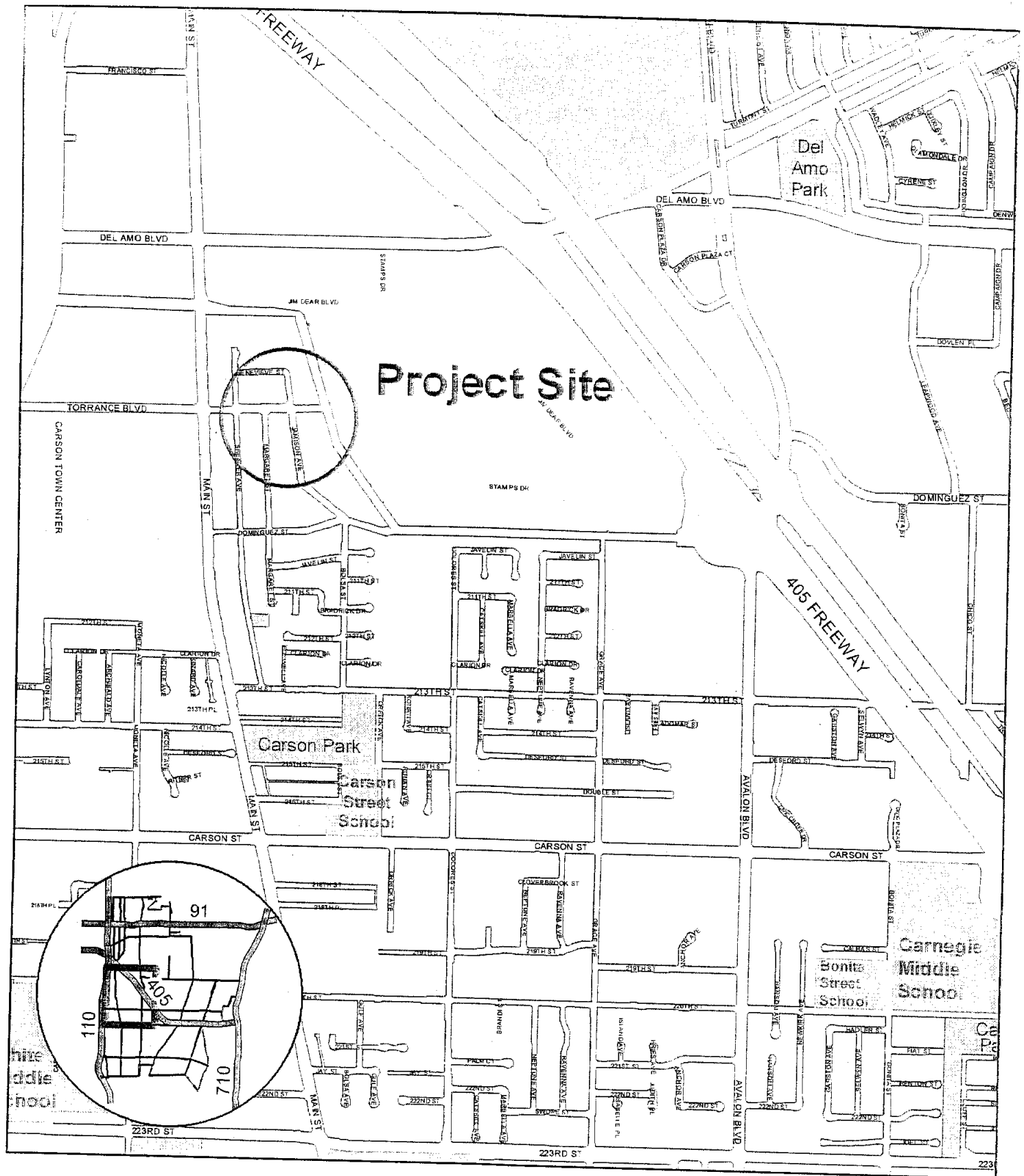
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Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

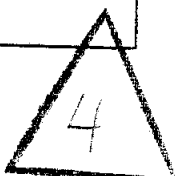
Action taken by City Council

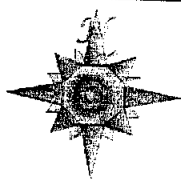
Date _____	Action _____



Location Map Jamison Avenue at Torrance Boulevard

EXHIBIT NO. 1





Aerial Photo of Existing Conditions
Jamison Avenue at Torrance Boulevard

EXHIBIT NO. 2

NEW BUSINESS:

7(a): STOP SIGN INSTALLATION – JAMISON AVENUE AT TORRANCE BOULEVARD

Staff Recommendation:

RECOMMEND that the City Council authorize the installation of stop signs on the north and south approaches of Jamison Avenue at its intersection with Torrance Boulevard.

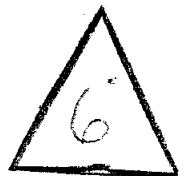
ACTION: On a motion by Commissioner Gama, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Fa'avae, the request to install stop signs on the north and south approaches of Jamison Avenue at its intersection with Torrance Boulevard was approved and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Calhoun, Fa'avae, Ferrer, Gama, Guine, Johnson, Thompson, and Valdez

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None



RESOLUTION NO. 14-025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH APPROACHES OF JAMISON AVENUE AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH TORRANCE BOULEVARD

WHEREAS, the Public Works Commission and Public Works Department staff recommend that the City Council authorize the installation of stop signs on the north and south Jamison Avenue approaches to the Torrance Boulevard intersection.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it determined by the City Council of the City of Carson, California, that:

Section 1. The City Council authorizes the installation of stop signs on northbound and southbound Jamison Avenue at its intersection with Torrance Boulevard.

Section 2. The Public Works Department is directed to erect stop signs at this intersection and install the associated pavement markings.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this ____ day of ____, 2014.

Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia L. Gause, CMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

