

PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing PWTraffic@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.

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]

Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison, Steve Finton, at (310) 781-6900 prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

**TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION AGENDA
DECEMBER 5, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. AT WEST ANNEX COMMISSION ROOM
CITY HALL, 3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90503**

TRAFFIC COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission members Farao, Gibson, Obejas, Suruki, Thomas, Sharma, Thoma

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF 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, December 1, 2022.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items not on the agenda under the subject matter of the Traffic Commission. 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 minutes per speaker.

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 Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 7, 2022

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (DISCUSSION ITEMS)

7A. Consideration to Operate Traffic Signals in Flashing RED Mode During Nighttime Hours

8. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment of Traffic Commission Meeting to Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2022, in the West Annex Commission Room.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Farao, Gibson, Obejas, Thomas, Sharma, and Chair Suruki.

Absent: Commissioner Thoma.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director Steve Finton, Public Works Associate Engineer Angel Lotus, Public Works Engineering Manager Brenda Moun and Public Works Director Craig Bilezerian.

MOTION: The Commission moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Thoma; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Thoma absent).

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Staff reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's Website.

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

Supplemental Items were posted on the Website.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 1, 2022, AUGUST 16, 2022, AND SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

MOTION: The Commission moved to approve the August 1, 2022, August 16, 2022, and September 6, 2022 minutes as presented; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Thoma absent).

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. PROPOSED BICYCLE PATH / LANES ON FLAGLER LANE BETWEEN BERYL STREET AND DIAMOND STREET

The proposed bicycle path and lanes on Flagler Lane between Beryl Street and Diamond Street were discussed.

8. **COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Members of the Commission spoke.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: The Commission moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. A roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Thoma absent).

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Subject to Approval

Agenda Item No. 7a

TO: Traffic Commission

FROM: Craig Bilezerian, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Consideration to Operate Traffic Signals in Flashing RED Mode During Nighttime Hours

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Works Director recommends that the Traffic Commission receive and file a report from staff and take public input regarding the consideration to operate certain traffic signals in Flashing RED Mode during nighttime hours.

BACKGROUND

During Oral Communications #2 of the City Council Meeting on November 15, 2022, Councilmember Mattucci made the following request:

"In an effort to enhance traffic calming and to reduce vehicle wait times at night when traffic volumes are typically very low, I'd like to request that Public Works staff investigate and determine eligibility of some City-operated traffic signals in the City to operate temporarily in flashing red mode at night in conformance with State and Federal guidelines.

Subsequently, staff should discuss this matter at one or more Traffic Commission meetings and ultimately report back to the City Council with findings and recommendations. It is understood that this request excludes traffic signals on Hawthorne Boulevard north of PCH, on PCH, on Redondo Beach Boulevard, and on Western Avenue as those signals are operated either by the State of California or another agency."

The Mayor and City Council concurred with this request. Tonight's meeting will address staff's investigation and recommendation regarding operation of certain traffic signals in Flashing RED Mode during nighttime hours.

ANALYSIS

The City maintains 124 signalized intersections throughout the city (See Attachment A). The majority of these traffic signals are equipped with three-section RED, YELLOW and GREEN lighted signal indications to control motor vehicle traffic in each direction. The signal indications are installed on signal poles and overhead mast arms at intersection corners. Signal timing is programmed into traffic signal controllers at each intersection and connected to signal indications via underground conduits and wiring. Each signalized intersection has equipment to detect vehicles and pedestrians requesting service.

Typically, traffic signals are programmed to stay GREEN on the main street until a vehicle or pedestrian call is detected on the side street. At night, traffic signals remain GREEN on main streets for extended periods due to the lack of side street traffic. Vehicles driving at night on main streets, during periods of light traffic, may experience many consecutive GREEN lights, which may encourage a driver to drive above the posted speed limit.

The Mayor and City Council are requesting that staff and the Traffic Commission consider having certain traffic signals operate in Flashing RED Mode during late night and early morning hours to calm traffic and reduce delays to side street traffic. Currently, no traffic signal in Torrance is programmed to operate in this manner.

Traffic control devices in Torrance must comply with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD). Section 4D.28 of the CAMUTCD indicates that *"traffic control signals may operate in flashing red mode on a scheduled basis during one or more periods of the day based on engineering study or engineering judgment"*. The California Vehicle Code requires that drivers stop before entering the intersection (in Flashing RED Mode) and proceed according to rules established for a 4-way STOP controlled intersection.

The implementation of Flashing RED Mode at certain City-operated traffic signals would mitigate vehicle speeds and enhance traffic flow at signalized intersections by minimizing driver wait times. Not all signalized intersections are suitable to operate in Flashing RED Mode based on characteristics such as the type of street, traffic volumes carried or intersection configuration. Staff recommends utilizing the following criteria to select intersections to operate in Flashing RED Mode:

1. Intersections on lower-volume arterials and collector streets will be considered.
2. Intersections with permissive left-turn movements will be eligible. (i.e. no LEFT ARROW)
3. Intersections with protected left-turn movements or split-phasing may be eligible if left-turn vehicle paths in opposing directions do not conflict.
4. Most intersections with dual left-turn lanes will **NOT** be eligible. Locations on lower volume streets may be considered.
5. Intersections adjacent to hospitals and railroad tracks will **NOT** be eligible.

Traffic signal controllers can be programmed to automatically commence and terminate Flashing RED Mode operation and would not require additional costs. However, additional staff time/cost would be required to initially program the change of operation into the signal controller. Additionally, Engineering and Traffic & Lighting staff would need to create new operational procedures and perform outreach such that other City departments are aware of the intended flashing RED operation during nighttime hours, and not consider it to be a defective operation.

In considering this request, staff reached out to several adjacent public agencies and identified only the City of Pasadena as using Flashing RED Mode at night. Pasadena limits Flashing RED Mode operation to 10 intersections and only between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Staff recommends implementing Flashing RED Mode on a trial basis at two adjacent intersections between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Staff would then monitor the intersections to evaluate effectiveness and driver behavior. At this time, staff recommends that the Traffic Commission take public input and provide comments regarding this matter and receive and file this report and presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAIG BILEZERIAN
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

By 

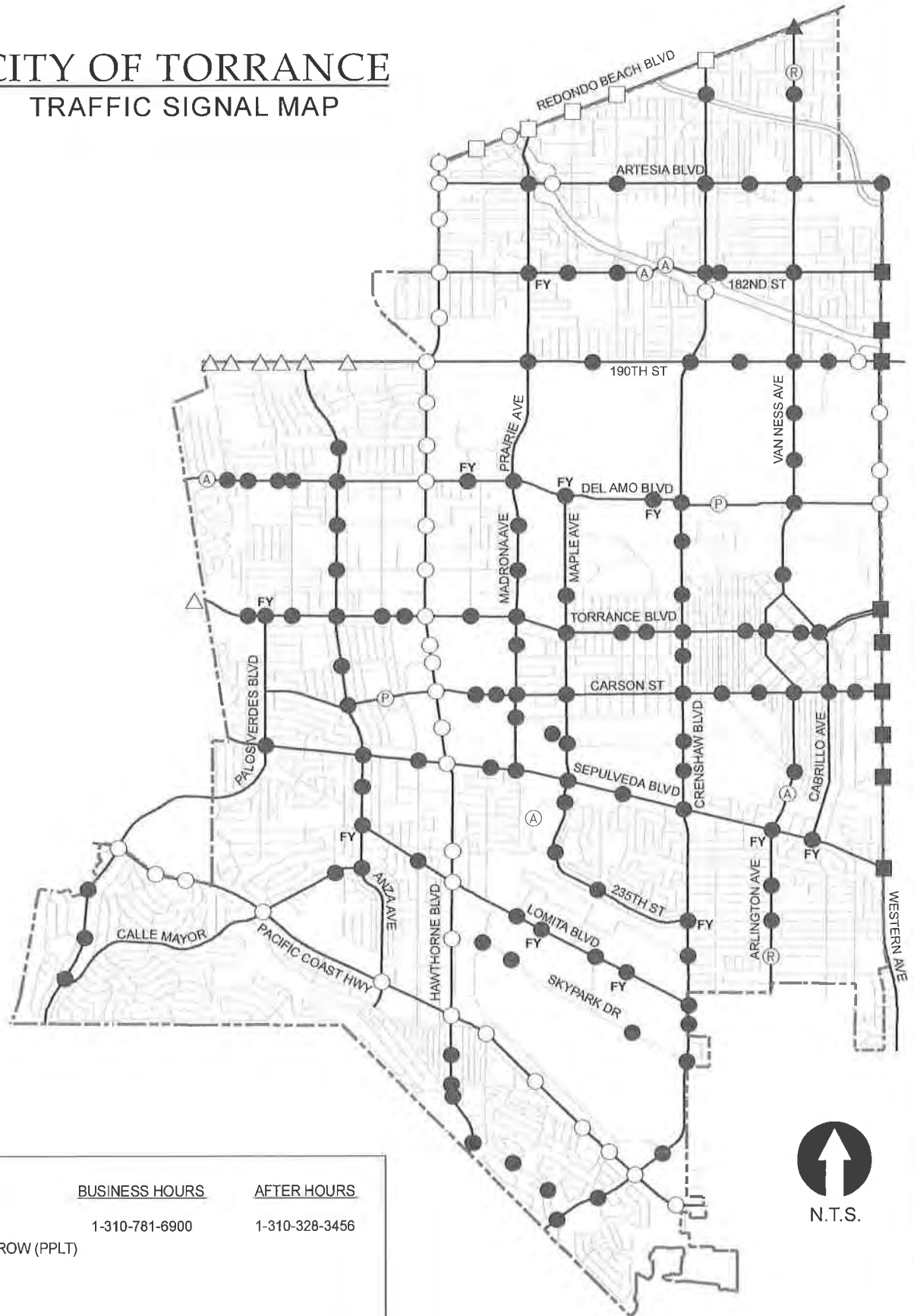
Steve Finton
Deputy Public Works Director/ City Engineer

Attachment A: Traffic Signal Map



CITY OF TORRANCE

TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAP



LEGEND:

- CITY OF TORRANCE
- FY FLASHING YELLOW ARROW (PPLT)
- Ⓐ AMBER FLASHER
- Ⓡ RED FLASHER
- Ⓟ PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL

BUSINESS HOURS

- 1-310-781-6900
- 1-213-620-3991
- 1-800-675-4357
- 1-818-752-5112
- 1-310-318-0686
- 1-310-217-9568

AFTER HOURS

- 1-310-328-3456
- 1-323-259-2353
- 1-800-675-4357
- 1-818-752-5112
- 1-310-318-0686
- 1-310-217-9670

- CALTRANS
- LOS ANGELES COUNTY
- CITY OF LOS ANGELES
- △ CITY OF REDONDO BEACH
- ▲ CITY OF GARDENA