



Date: January 14, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: City Council State Legislative Advocacy Committee
City Council Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee

By: Carlos Huizar, Management Associate | CHuizar@TorranceCA.gov

Subject: City Council State and Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee – Review and Provide Direction on the 2025 Legislative Platform and Priority Projects, Accept and File Meeting Minutes, and Approve 2025 Delegation Trips. Expenditure: Approximately \$20,000 (General Fund)

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the State and Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee that City Council:

1. Review and provide direction on the 2025 Legislative Platform and Priority Projects; and
2. Accept and file the December 2, 2024 State Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting minutes; and
3. Accept and file the December 3, 2024 Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting minutes; and
4. Approve the 2025 Delegation Trips to Washington D.C. and Sacramento, California.

FUNDING

Funding is available in the FY24-25 City Manager Operating Budget.

DISCUSSION

In an effort to support the City's commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents while addressing regional challenges, the City of Torrance develops an annual Legislative Platform. This document establishes the City's policy priorities and advocacy strategies, enabling staff to proactively engage with legislation and funding opportunities at federal, state, regional, and local levels.

The 2025 Legislative Platform will serve as a flexible, responsive tool to advance the City's strategic objectives, aligning with the adopted Strategic Plan, General Plan, and related policies. The document allows staff to advocate effectively, influence legislative processes, and pursue funding opportunities critical to the City's success.

Below is a summary of goals realized from adopting the Legislative Platform:

- **Streamlining Staff Actions:** Respond swiftly to legislation, policy, or funding opportunities that impact Torrance
- **Championing and Opposing Legislation:** Proactively advocate for Federal, State, and regional legislation, regulations, and funding that align with our Platform's priorities, and oppose any proposals that conflict with the City's strategic objectives.
- **Making timely and impactful policy contributions:** Craft persuasive position letters and resolutions to effectively support, contest, or negotiate on critical legislation, regulations, and funding issues promptly.
- **Meaningfully engaging with key officials:** Establish ongoing, strategic interactions with elected officials, regulatory bodies, and stakeholders to actively advance Torrance's legislative priorities and secure critical funding. This includes actively involving elected officials and stakeholders in City-hosted events to strengthen community connections.
- **Ensuring Transparency:** Commit to transparency by openly sharing the Legislative Platform and updates and by proactively communicating our advocacy efforts and their outcomes to the community.

The Platform was developed to support the successful implementation of the City's adopted Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan serves as the roadmap to advance the City's mission, vision, and values by aligning the City's resources and activities, the City Council's policy direction, and the desires of residents, businesses, and community stakeholders.

For 2025, the Legislative Platform outlines specific priority projects that staff will advocate for at each level of government. The priority projects and initiatives are listed below:

1. **Civic Center** – Work with State legislature to obtain first right of refusal legislation allowing for the acquisition of the State Traffic Court Annex Property
2. **Energy Independence Funding** – Lobby for support on alternative fuel infrastructure grant programs
3. **Vehicle Code Amendment** – Lobby for legislation to allow for digital parking violation enforcement cameras on City vehicles
4. **Digital Infrastructure** – Citizen Broadband Radio System (CBRS) network/Public Safety Camera expansion to include 5 more sites and 100 additional cameras (\$1.6-\$2.0 million)
5. **Replace Mobile Data Computers (MDCs)** in Torrance Police Department (\$700,000)
6. **Community Wellness Projects** – install rubberize playground surfaces and improve ADA accessibility access at 6 of 30 City parks (\$3.0 million)
7. **Columbia Park Artificial Turf Installation**– install artificial turf replacement soccer fields to improve water resiliency (\$2.25 million)

Development of the Platform

Staff reviewed a robust list of existing legislative platforms, including those of neighboring cities, the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County, water boards, and local transportation commissions. The intent was to develop a platform that aligned with local and regional partners, but that also specified the unique needs and priorities of the City of Torrance.

The platform was developed with input and review from City departments including Community Development, Community Services, Finance, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Transit. The collaborative process allowed for the Platform to cover policy priorities in all areas of city services and programs, in alignment with the adopted Strategic Plan. The Platform will attempt to address areas of opportunity and challenges the City currently faces by advocating for legislative and funding solutions at all levels of government.

Implementation of the Platform

Upon adoption of the 2025 Legislative Platform, staff will provide copies of the Platform to the City's panel of on-call consultants providing federal, state, and regional advocacy and grant writing support services. Staff will work with City Council and the on-call advocacy to implement the priorities outlined in this Platform, including but not limited to favorable legislative outcomes and funding requests for parks and open spaces, priority infrastructure projects, economic development, preservation of local control, and public health and safety initiatives.

The Legislative Platform will elevate the presence of the City at all levels of government and allow staff to work towards favorable outcomes when influencing policies, delivering projects and competing for discretionary funding opportunities. The City will work to protect local resources to improve the quality of life for the residents of Torrance, while elevating as a regional leader.

Conclusion

The Committees recommend that the City Council discuss and provide direction on the enclosed 2025 Legislative Platform. A graphical booklet was developed for the platform that will be used as leave behind material for meetings with elected leaders and governmental stakeholders, made available digitally and printed for distribution.

The Committee also recommends that the City Council approve the annual delegation trip to Washington D.C. for February 2025 and Sacramento, California for March 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Legislative Platform (Draft)
2. State Legislative Advocacy Committee – 12/2/24 meeting minutes
3. Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee – 12/3/24 meeting minutes



CITY OF TORRANCE



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2025

About this Legislative Platform

The City of Torrance's Legislative Platform is a vital tool crafted to enhance City Staff's effectiveness in advancing the City Council's strategic vision and leadership. The platform functions as a reference guide for a targeted advocacy strategy, outlining legislative positions and objectives to protect and enhance the interests of Torrance's residents and businesses.

The 2024 Legislative Platform serves as a framework to guide the City of Torrance's regional, state, and federal legislative priorities by:

- **Streamlining Staff Actions:** Respond swiftly to legislation, policy, or funding opportunities that impact Torrance.
- **Legislation Advocacy:** Proactively advocate for federal, state, and regional legislation, regulations, and funding that align with our Platform's priorities, and oppose any proposals that conflict with the City's strategic objectives.
- **Making Timely and Impactful Policy Contributions:** Craft persuasive position letters and resolutions to effectively support, contest, or negotiate on critical legislation, regulations, and funding issues promptly.
- **Meaningfully Engaging with Key Officials:** Establish ongoing, strategic interactions with elected officials, regulatory bodies, and stakeholders to actively advance Torrance's legislative priorities and secure crucial funding. This includes actively involving elected officials and stakeholders in City-hosted events to strengthen community connections.
- **Ensuring Transparency:** Commit to transparency by openly sharing the Legislative Platform and updates and by proactively communicating our advocacy efforts and their outcomes to the community.

Our Mission

The mission of the City of Torrance is to encourage and respond to community participation as we provide for an attractive, clean, safe, secure and enriching environment that assures a high quality of life. We evaluate and act on the needs of the community within a complex, changing environment. We provide quality service with integrity, professionalism and accountability in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

Our Vision

Our vision for Torrance is of a premier City thriving in a global community while building on the past, taking action in the present, and pursuing a dynamic future. Our steadfast commitment is to a future where we realize pride of shared purpose and a sense of community with personal responsibility and respect for all. It will be a place where people enjoy an enriched quality of life, sharing a sense of belonging.



Our Values

- Show compassion and respect for one and all
- Practice honesty and integrity
- Strengthen and maintain public trust
- Adhere to the highest ethical standards
- Be responsive and transparent
- Be responsible and accountable for our actions
- Encourage creativity and innovation
- Recognize the benefits of diversity and inclusion
- Foster community pride and excellence
- Care for, conserve, and protect our environment



Strategic Priorities

1

Appearance, Character and
Quality of the Community

7

Mobility

2

Communication and Civic
Involvement

8

Reliable Revenue Base
and Effective Asset
Management

3

Economic Development

9

Responsible, Accountable
and Cost-Effective
Government

4

Education, Diversity and
Enrichment

10

Safe, Secure and Equitable
Community

5

Housing

11

Stewardship of the
Environment

6

Infrastructure



City of Torrance

City Council



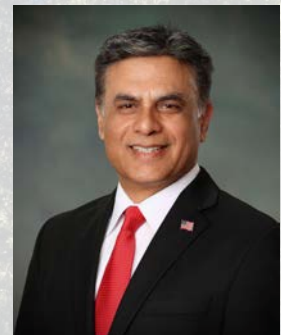
George K. Chen
Mayor



Jon Kaji
Councilmember,
District 1



Bridgett Lewis
Councilmember
District 2



Asam Sheikh
Councilmember,
District 3



Sharon Kalani
Councilmember,
District 4



Aurelio Mattucci
Councilmember,
District 5



Dr. Jeremy Gerson
Councilmember,
District 6



Alex Padilla

U.S. Senator



Adam Schiff

U.S. Senator



Maxine Waters

Congressmember,
CD43



Ted Lieu

Congressmember,
CD33



Ben Allen

State Senator,
SD24



Al Muratsuchi

State Assembly-
member, AD66



Janice Hahn

Los Angeles County
Supervisor, District 4

Elected Representatives

Area and Location

Torrance covers roughly 21 square miles (12,312 acres) and is situated in south western Los Angeles County, bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west. Torrance has 1.5 miles of lifeguard-patrolled beach, bath-house facilities and public parking. It also has 550 miles of sidewalks.

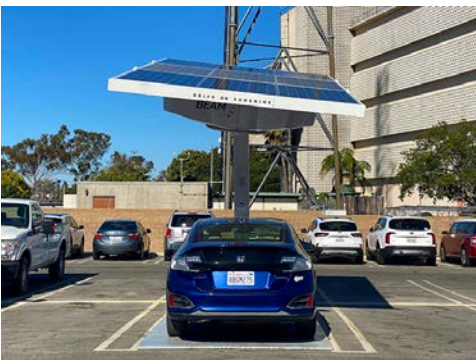


Priority Projects



Torrance Civic Center (Legislation)

The City of Torrance is currently in progress to develop a Civic Center Master Plan that will serve as the guiding document for redevelopment of the campus. The City is interested in acquiring the Traffic Courthouse Annex portion of the State Courthouse property located within the Civic Center Campus. The City would work with the State Legislature to obtain first right of refusal legislation allowing for the acquisition of the State Traffic Court Annex property.



Alternative Energy Independence Funding (Letter of Support)

The Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation is the latest development in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) increasingly stringent emissions standards. As a result of this recent legislation, the City has already begun the process of procuring vehicles in compliance with these regulations, which requires the purchase of additional zero-emission vehicles. Zero-emission vehicles can be satisfied through electric and hydrogen options to comply with these regulations. The City has projects underway with Southern California Edison's (SCE) Charge Ready program to expand electric charging infrastructure at the Civic Center and City Yard. While this program assists the City with SCE funded infrastructure leading up to the charger, it is still incumbent on the City to purchase and install the chargers themselves. This priority effort will seek legislative support to apply for charging infrastructure grant programs.

Vehicle Code Amendment (Legislation)

Metro was successful in lobbying to legislation (AB917), which enables automated license plate reader (ALPR) as evidence for parking violation in their restricted bus only lanes. If the state legislature were to expand the applicability of this to include all municipal vehicles for the purposes of issuing parking violations, this would enable the City to improve compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements under the City's Street Sweeping Program. This priority effort would include the City lobbying for legislation to update the vehicle code allowing for digital parking violation enforcement by way of cameras on City vehicles.

Priority Projects



Digital Infrastructure (Funding)

The recent completion of the Torrance PD Real Time Response Center (RTRC) has demonstrated the effective use of technology in responding to incidents and facilitating investigations. In order to expand additional City camera coverage, the city also needs to expand the necessary connectivity infrastructure. The 5 additional Citizen Broadband Radio System (CBRS) sites on City assets would provide expanded, dedicated network coverage across the city and allow for the additional 100 expanded camera installations to effectively connect and communicate with the RTRC. This priority project seeks \$1.6-\$2.0 million to effectively implement the additional CBRS sites and camera infrastructure feeds to the RTRC.



Replace Mobile Data Computers (Funding)

The Torrance Police Department's MDCs used as part of the daily operations in the City of Torrance have exceeded their useful life. In an effort to ensure the City leverages the latest technology in alignment with 21st century policing the goal is to replace all of this equipment. This priority project seeks \$700,000 to replace all of these devices within the Torrance Police Department.



Community Wellness Projects (Funding)

The City is in the process of implementing a robust multi-year Capital Improvement Plan that prioritizes city facilities and parks. As part of this effort is a goal to improve accessibility to all locations through the removal of sand and/or engineered wood fiber chips and converting these play areas to rubberized surfaces. This priority project seeks \$3.0 million to make these improvements at 6 of the 30 City parks identified as part of this effort.



Columbia Park Artificial Turf Installation (Funding)

Columbia Park, home to AYSO Region 15 youth soccer leagues, is undergoing a transformation due to drought impacts. The park is undergoing a multi-year effort to transform the park, part of which includes a top-tier multi-year sports complex. This priority project will seek funding in the amount of \$2.25 million to supplement the installation of artificial turf soccer fields to improve water resiliency.

Legislative Priorities

1. Appearance, Character, and Quality of the Community

SUPPORT

- **Funding to Enhance Public Spaces -**
Actively pursue funding to upgrade and improve public spaces such as parks, recreational areas, and non-traditional park spaces (such as plazas, paseos, and parklets) to foster community engagement and enhance overall well-being.
- **Innovative Community Planning -**
Advocate for funding for creative community planning and design initiatives to promote sustainable and vibrant environments that reflect the city's evolving needs.
- **Outdoor Recreational Opportunities -**
Lead in expanding and maintaining top-tier outdoor recreational opportunities, recognizing that such initiatives enhance community well-being, foster social connections, and improve public health by providing accessible, high-quality physical activity and leisure spaces.
- **Historic Preservation Grants -** Champion increased grants dedicated to preserving and restoring historic buildings and landmarks to protect our city's historic character and cultural heritage for future generations.
- **Preservation of Open Space and Parks -**
Support funding for acquiring, developing, and rehabilitating parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces, including cooperating with neighboring communities to preserve open space resources important to residents.



- **Grants for Vibrant Community Art Programs -** Support grants that fund public art projects and programming that enrich our cultural landscape and enhance the aesthetic vibrancy of public spaces, contributing to a more engaging community environment. Actively endorse programs that offer increased funding opportunities and incorporate art, culture, and the City's rich historical elements into public spaces.

OPPOSE

- **Mandates on City Planning** - Oppose proposals that inhibit the City's ability to create and implement planning strategies that reflect our specific goals and community needs.
- **Loss of Essential Community Resources** - Oppose efforts to decrease funding or impose stricter eligibility criteria on local governments regarding resources allocated for parks, urban greening, and open spaces. Support the City's dedication to safeguarding and improving these critical assets that enhance residents' well-being and overall quality of life.



2. Communication and Civic Involvement

SUPPORT

- Transparent Public Communication** - Support legislation encouraging transparency in local government communications, ensuring that all city decisions, data, and policies are readily accessible and understandable to every resident.
- Active Community Participation in Government** - Champion measures that institutionalize participatory government practices (e.g., public consultations, community forums, and interactive platforms), fostering civic engagement and community-driven policy development.
- Empowerment of Veterans, Seniors, and Individuals with Disabilities** - Support initiatives that ensure the active inclusion of veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities in civic life by providing targeted resources, accessible services, and opportunities for meaningful participation, thereby enriching community engagement and ensuring that all voices are heard and valued.
- Investment in Youth Civic Leadership Programs** - Support funding to establish and expand youth civic leadership programs that prepare the next generation of leaders with critical knowledge and skills about local government operations and civic responsibilities.
- Programs for Multicultural Community Engagement** - Champion programs designed to enhance engagement with multicultural communities, ensuring that diverse cultural perspectives are integrated into local governance and that all community members have equal opportunities to participate in civic processes.
- Digital Literacy Programs** - Advocate for investments in digital literacy programs to ensure all residents can access and utilize online civic resources effectively, bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusive civic government processes.





OPPOSE

- **Decreased Local Representation in Decision-Making Bodies** - Resist efforts that seek to curtail the involvement of local governments in regional commissions, task forces, or boards overseeing natural resources, air quality, utility, energy, water, and waste disposal. Champion strong local representation to ensure regional and environmental issues are managed effectively.

3. Economic Development

SUPPORT

- Business Attraction and Retention -**
 Advocate for programs that drive growth, create jobs, and support emerging industries through tax credits, workforce development, and infrastructure improvements. Prioritize policies that enhance resilience and position the economy as an ideal environment for investment and business retention.
- Funding for Business Incubators and Accelerators -** Advocate for state and federal funds dedicated to establishing and expanding business incubators and accelerators, which provide essential resources and support for startups and innovative ventures.
- Affordable Workforce Housing -** Advocate for state and federal policies that promote affordable housing development near key employment centers, reducing commute times and supporting a stable, local workforce.
- Comprehensive Financial Recovery Programs -** Support strong financial recovery programs that assist residents, small businesses, and job seekers. Emphasize programs that effectively tackle the various economic hurdles impacting the local population.
- Stimulating the Local Economy -**
 Collaborate with state agencies to provide targeted support for key local industries, such as aerospace, manufacturing, and technology, to ensure continued economic growth and job creation.
- Investment in Green Business Initiatives -**
 Promote federal and state regulations that provide incentives for businesses to support a green economy, adopt sustainable practices, and reduce environmental impact.



OPPOSE

- **Preemption of Local Authority** - Oppose policies that preempt local authority over land use, zoning, and rights-of-way decision-making.
- **External Oversight on Development Regulations** - Oppose land use mandates and controls by state and federal governments. Resist legislation that attempts to transfer zoning, parking, or development regulations away from local decision-making. Support the preservation of local control to guarantee that development is consistent with the City's vision and protects community well-being.
- **Obstacles to Small Businesses Success** - Oppose burdensome regulatory barriers unnecessarily impeding small businesses from entering the market or hindering their competitiveness. Streamlining regulations and reducing bureaucratic obstacles are critical steps to fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial environment, encouraging innovation, and enabling small businesses to thrive, catalyzing economic growth and job creation.



4. Education, Diversity and Enrichment

SUPPORT

- Support for K-12 and Higher Education -**
 Advocate for funding and policies that enhance educational opportunities, including support for local schools, career and technical education programs, and partnerships with higher education institutions.
- Support for Senior Citizen Enrichment and Education -**
 Support legislation that ensures that senior citizens have access to essential community enrichment and educational programs.
- STEAM Education Investment -** Support increased funding for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) education initiatives in Torrance schools to prepare students for future workforce demands, recognizing that creativity and innovation are crucial in scientific and technical fields.
- Expanded Access to Early Childhood Education -** Support initiatives that increase funding and accessibility to high-quality early childhood education programs, ensuring all children in Torrance have a strong foundation for academic success.
- Access to Digital Tools -** Support legislation that ensures students have the essential educational tools and technological resources needed to prepare for higher education or the modern workforce. Endorse measures to expand broadband access in underserved areas to bridge the digital divide and provide equal opportunities for all students.
- Support for Workforce Development -** Support funding and programs for education and workforce development.





OPPOSE

- **Reductions in Education Funding** - Oppose cuts to state and federal education funding that jeopardize the quality of education and support services available to students in Torrance schools.
- **Oppose Cuts to the National School Lunch Program** - Strongly oppose reductions to the National School Lunch Program, which provides free or low-cost lunches to children in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions.
- **Weakening of Workforce Training Programs** - Resist efforts to decrease or abolish critical workforce development programs, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, YouthBuild, and Job Corps. Oppose actions that dismantle programs aimed at developing a highly skilled workforce, which is crucial for sustainable economic growth and maintaining competitiveness.

5. Housing

SUPPORT

- Local Control in Housing Management** - Endorse initiatives to preserve local control, ensuring flexibility to meet the distinct needs of residents. Promote measures that allow the City to design customized approaches to housing that address the specific concerns and goals of the community.
- Innovative Affordable and Mixed-Income Housing** - Advocate for significant funding and legislative incentives to promote the development of affordable and mixed-income housing projects while streamlining the permitting process. These initiatives are crucial for creating diverse housing options that cater to various income levels, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility within the community.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding** - Support sustained and increased funding for the CDBG federal program, which is vital for community development, affordable housing, and essential public services. Ensuring robust support for this program helps meet local needs, supports low- and moderate-income residents, and enhances the overall quality of life in our community.
- Investment in Public Transit-Oriented Development** - Endorse funding for transit-oriented development projects that integrate affordable housing near public transportation hubs. These projects are key to reducing commuting times and environmental impact, while also enhancing access to essential services for residents.
- Comprehensive Homelessness Prevention and Support** - Advocate for increased funding for programs that provide comprehensive support services alongside housing solutions. These initiatives should prioritize mental health support, substance abuse treatment, job training, and healthcare, addressing the root causes of homelessness and helping vulnerable populations achieve stability and self-sufficiency in our community.
- Inclusive and Sustainable Housing Initiatives** - Support policies and funding for affordable housing that caters to seniors and individuals with disabilities, ensuring equitable access to suitable living options. Additionally, advocate for stringent green building standards that promote energy efficiency and environmental stewardship in housing developments.



OPPOSE

- **Erosion of Local Land Use Authority -** Firmly oppose attempts to weaken or override local decision-making over land use decisions. Advocate strongly for maintaining local control over land use to ensure that development aligns with the community's unique character and needs.
- **Tenant Rights Rollbacks -** Oppose legislative efforts to reduce tenant protections which would lead to increased housing instability and unfair practices in the rental market.
- **Unfunded Housing and Zoning Mandates -** Reject mandates without accompanying funding, especially in areas related to housing, zoning, land management, and cost regulation. Promote fair resource allocation to ensure that local projects are supported without placing undue financial strain on the City.



VI. Infrastructure

SUPPORT

- Funding for Transportation and Infrastructure Projects** - Advocate for increased funding and broadened eligibility for essential infrastructure projects, including road maintenance, public transit expansion, traffic congestion relief, and state-of-good-repair projects. Ensure wider access to resources for the City's development and maintenance.
- Sustainability and Renewable Energy Initiatives** - Champion funding for renewable energy projects and sustainable transportation options, including EV infrastructure, bicycle lanes, pedestrian pathways, and green infrastructure. Advocate for initiatives that reduce the city's carbon footprint through electrification and sustainability efforts, leveraging tax credits and financial incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act to maximize investment and accelerate implementation.
- Goods Movement, Port, and Water Infrastructure** - Collaborate with state agencies to improve the efficiency and capacity of goods movement infrastructure, benefiting the Port of Los Angeles and surrounding networks. Advocate for increased funding to modernize and expand Torrance's drinking and wastewater infrastructure, ensuring safe and reliable water access.
- Investing in Infrastructure Resilience and Cybersecurity** - Advocate for robust investments in hazard mitigation and cybersecurity resilience for critical infrastructure. Support FEMA and CISA funding for seismic retrofitting, wildfire hardening, flood mitigation, and enhanced cybersecurity to protect against natural disasters and digital threats.
- Reduced Energy and Utility Rates for Low-Income Residents** - Advocate for programs that provide reduced energy and utility rates for low-income residents through rebates or subsidies. Support increased funding for these initiatives to ensure affordability and improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations.
- Investing in Hazard Mitigation** - Advocate for robust investments in infrastructure resilience, including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation funding, to safeguard against natural disasters, including seismic retrofitting, wildfire hardening, and flood mitigation measures.
- Enhancing Cybersecurity for Infrastructure** - Advocate for robust investments in enhancing the cybersecurity resilience of critical infrastructure to protect against emerging digital threats. Support funding and programming from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and FEMA to strengthen our defenses, implement advanced security measures, and ensure rapid response capabilities.



OPPOSE

- **Reductions in Water Conservation Funding** - Oppose any cuts to funding for water conservation programs, which are essential for sustainable water management in a changing climate.
- **Erosion of Broadband Infrastructure Funding** - Oppose any cuts to funding for broadband infrastructure, which is vital for education, healthcare, and economic development in the digital age.
- **Oppose Cost Pass-Through and Protect Rate Authority** - Strongly oppose measures that allow utilities to shift costs to ratepayers, especially when they impact vulnerable populations, and defend the City's right to set rates independently to ensure equitable pricing and community well-being.

7. Mobility

SUPPORT

- Enhancing Regional Transportation Connectivity** - Collaborate with federal, state, and regional partners to identify commuter rail station options that link the City to the broader regional transportation network. Aim to create a seamless and integrated regional transit system through these efforts, and advocate for additional funding to meet local transportation and transit needs.
- Local Government Flexibility in Transportation Planning and Airport Use** - Support policies allowing local governments flexibility in transportation planning. Support local governments' authority to regulate airport use, including decisions about airport facilities, noise, and access restrictions.
- Funding for Sustainable Transportation Projects** – Dedicate efforts on securing funding for sustainable transportation projects that improve access to public transit, reduce single-driver trips, and lower overall vehicle usage. Champion funding for the development of eco-friendly transportation options, such as electric buses and green infrastructure, to help lower greenhouse gas emissions and to promote environmental stewardship.
- Investment in Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure** - Advocate for comprehensive investment in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to promote safe and sustainable transportation options. This includes developing dedicated bike lanes, bike-sharing programs, secure bike parking, and enhancing pedestrian walkways with better lighting and accessible design.
- Advancing Safe and Integrated Transportation Solutions** - Support policies that enhance safety and mobility, promote reliable transit services, and prioritize transportation system upgrades to roads, bridges, airports, rail transit, paratransit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Encourage multi-modal and active transportation options, and advocate for funding to develop transportation hubs that integrate different transit modes, such as buses, trains, and bike-sharing, for seamless travel experiences.





OPPOSE

- Cuts to Public Transit Funding** - Oppose any reductions in funding for public transit services, which can lead to reduced service frequency, higher fares, and decreased accessibility for residents. Resist policies that undermine or contradict the City's efforts to improve mobility and transportation.
- Transportation Policies Impacting Environmental Quality** - Oppose transportation policies that contribute to or fail to reduce pollution, including air, water, noise, and visual pollution. Advocate for policies that prioritize environmental protection and work to minimize these negative impacts.
- Infringement of Local Authority Over Airport Regulation** - Oppose any policies that undermine local governments' authority to regulate airport use or exclude them from decision-making processes regarding airport operations. Resist efforts to limit the ability of local governments to determine the necessary scope and type of airport facilities, as well as to impose restrictions on airport noise and access within their jurisdictions.

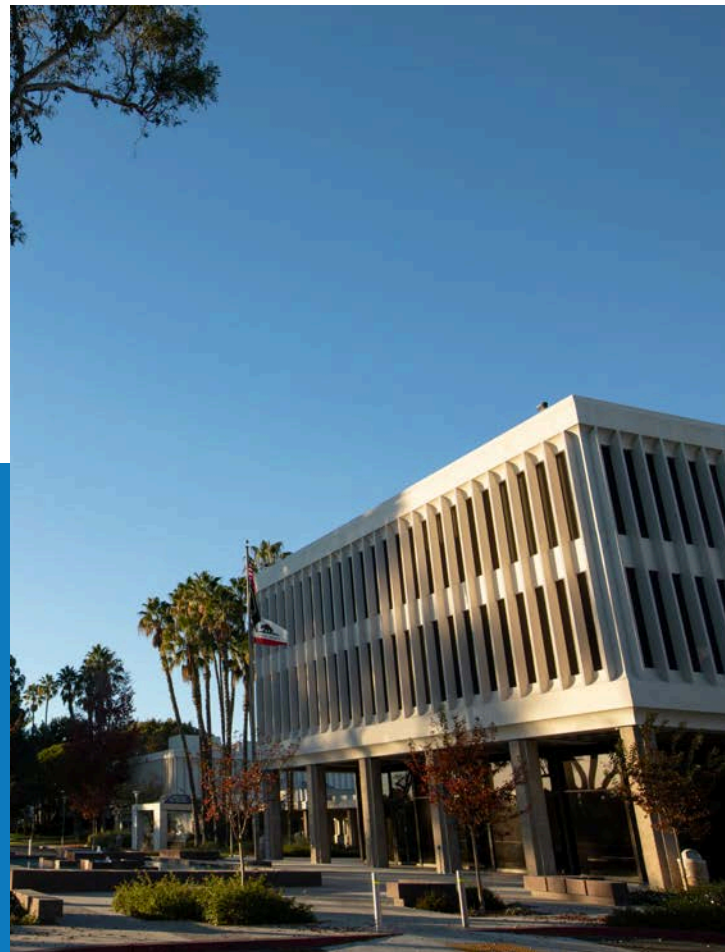
8. Reliable Revenue Base and Effective Asset Management

SUPPORT

- **Efforts to Secure Grants and Directed Funding** - Encourage committed actions to obtain federal, state, and private funding through grants and congressional directed spending to enhance financial resources for municipal initiatives and services. Emphasize safeguarding and expanding financial resources accessible to local governments, such as tax income, block grants, and formula-based distributions, to empower the City in meeting its local needs and objectives.
- **Sustainable Fiscal Policies and Financial Security** - Support state policies that promote fiscal sustainability for local governments, including pension reform, revenue diversification, and equitable distribution of state resources. Advocate for laws that prevent local government revenue from being redirected to state operations, ensuring a stable and sustainable financing structure for municipal services and infrastructure.

OPPOSE

- **State-Imposed Financial Burdens on Local Governments** - Resist any delays in reimbursements for state-mandated programs. Oppose financial policies that weaken local governments' ability to address economic needs and reduce their revenue streams.
- **Restrictions on Business Growth Incentives** - Oppose restrictions on business growth incentives that could deter new businesses from establishing in the city and reduce potential tax revenue.



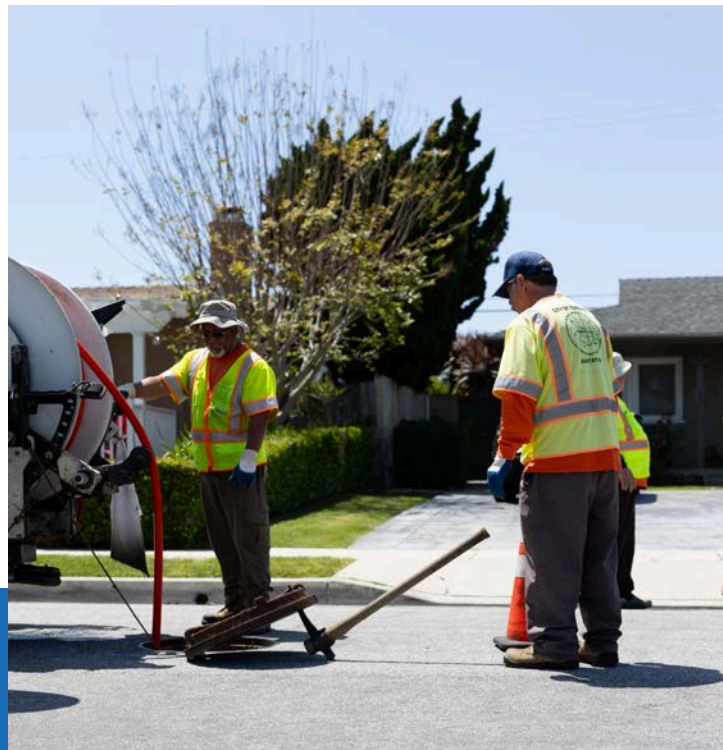
9. Responsive, Accountable, and Cost-Effective Government

SUPPORT

- **Preservation of Local Control** - Advocate for legislation that protects the city's autonomy in governing locally, including land use decisions, budgetary management, and policy development. Emphasize the importance of local governance in creating tailored solutions that address the specific needs and challenges of the community.
- **Promoting Integrity and Accountability in Government** - Support and advocate for strong ethical standards and accountability measures in government. This includes promoting fair elections, transparency, and integrity in the behavior of public leaders to maintain and build public trust.
- **Legislative Measures for Procurement Reform** - Endorse procurement reform legislation to streamline purchasing processes, reduce costs, and ensure fair competition.
- **Open Data Initiatives** - Endorse funding for open government initiatives, including open data programs, transparent decision-making processes, and accessible public records. These efforts should enhance transparency, foster trust, and empower residents to hold the government accountable.

OPPOSE

- **Encroachment on Local Governance Autonomy** - Oppose any legislation or policies that diminish local governance authority or threaten the City's autonomy in decision-making to ensure it can effectively respond to local needs.
- **Unfunded Mandates** - Oppose unfunded mandates from state or federal governments that impose financial burdens on the city without providing corresponding funding.



10. Safe, Secure, and Equitable Community

SUPPORT

- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response** - Advocate for increased state funding for disaster preparedness and response initiatives, including emergency communication systems, fire prevention programs, and community resilience projects. Emphasize the coordination of public safety communications between agencies and all levels of government to ensure effective crisis response and swift recovery.
- Comprehensive Public Safety Programs** - Advocate for increased funding and coordinated strategies to address a wide range of public safety issues, including theft, vandalism, and other criminal activities. This should involve enhancing crime prevention programs, law enforcement training, victim support services, community resilience projects, and measures that protect businesses and reduce crime in commercial areas.
- Counter-Illicit Drug Use Programs** - Advocate for increased funding and comprehensive strategies to combat illicit drug use, including prevention, treatment, and enforcement. This should involve expanding access to addiction treatment, enhancing community education, and improving collaboration between law enforcement and public health agencies to reduce substance abuse effectively.
- 21st Century Policing Initiatives** - Advocate for continued investment in 21st-century policing practices, ensuring our community remains a national leader in modern, community-focused law enforcement that leverages technology to enhance transparency, accountability, and collaboration with residents in the interest of public safety.
- Anti-Discrimination Policies** - Endorse legislation and funding for programs that actively combat discrimination and promote equity and inclusion in all aspects of community life. Prioritize creating an environment where all residents are treated fairly and respectfully.



OPPOSE

- **Limitations on Local Control Over Public Safety Measures** - Oppose any state or federal efforts to impose top-down regulations that limit Torrance's ability to tailor public safety measures to local needs and priorities.
- **Protecting Local Budgets from Unfunded Mandates** - Oppose federal, state, or county mandates related to infractions, violations, or crimes that shift the financial burden or responsibility to the City without providing necessary funding. Oppose policies that protect the City's budget from undue financial responsibility.
- **Reductions in Victim Support Services** - Oppose any cuts to funding for victim support services, including domestic violence shelters and counseling programs.
- **Erosion of Local Control Over Traffic and Roadway Decisions** - Oppose efforts to diminish or bypass local control over roadways and traffic flow. Resist attempts to weaken or circumvent local authority over roadways and traffic management.



11. Stewardship of the Environment

SUPPORT

- **Comprehensive Environmental Standards** - Support policies that improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote clean water and zero-emissions technology, while ensuring strong local input. Advocate for holistic solutions that focus on environmental protection and involve the community in decision-making, including climate resilience projects and renewable energy development.
- **Climate Resilience Planning** - Advocate for substantial investments in climate resilience planning to protect the community from the impacts of sea-level rise, extreme weather, and other climate-related challenges. Support the development of comprehensive climate action plans to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Sustainable Waste Management** - Promote the expansion and enhancement of recycling programs to increase waste diversion and reduce landfill dependency. Encourage the development of a circular economy within the community by improving recycling efforts.
- **Community Engagement in Environmental Stewardship** - Advocate for funding and support for environmental education programs to raise awareness about sustainability and conservation. Promote community-led projects like clean-up events and tree-planting to foster grassroots environmental stewardship.
- **Land Conservation and Sustainable Building Practices** - Endorse funding and policies that protect open spaces and prevent urban sprawl while promoting sustainable building practices. Support initiatives that minimize ecological footprints and encourage environmentally friendly construction with minimal delays.
- **Water Conservation and Quality** – Support state efforts to address water scarcity through conservation measures, infrastructure improvements, and policies that ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply. Advocate for increased funding and regulatory measures to address contaminants like PFAS in drinking water, and support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives that hold producers accountable for their environmental impacts, fostering sustainability and collective responsibility.
- **Support for Green Infrastructure** - Advocate for measures that help local governments transition their fleets to electric or alternative fuels and develop the necessary infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging stations or alternative fuel facilities.





OPPOSE

- **Rollbacks of Environmental Protections** - Oppose rollbacks of environmental protections that weaken regulations on air and water quality, risking harm to public health and ecosystems.
- **Decreasing Assistance for Fuel Emission Reduction Programs** - Oppose legislation decreasing assistance to local government fuel emission reduction programs.
- **Restrictions on Renewable Energy Expansion** - Oppose any measures restricting the expansion of renewable energy projects or related financial incentives.

**CITY OF TORRANCE
EXECUTIVE TEAM**

ARAM CHAPARYAN, City Manager
DANNY SANTANA, Assistant City Manager
PATRICK SULLIVAN, City Attorney
REBECCA POIRIER, City Clerk
TIM GOODRICH, City Treasurer
JAY HART, Chief of Police
DAVID DUMAIS, Fire Chief
ANDREI YERMAKOV, Communication and Information Technology Director
MICHELLE RAMIREZ, Community Development Director
JOHN LA ROCK, Community Services Director
SHEILA POISSON, Finance Director
SHANT MEGERDICHIAN, General Services Director
HEDIEH KHAJAVI, Human Resources Director
CRAIG BILIZERIAN, Public Works Director
KIM TURNER, Transit Director

City of
TORRANCE
California



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The State Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting convened in a regular meeting on December 2, 2024 at 2:02 pm in the LeRoy J. Jackson Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Chen, Committee Member Kaji, Committee Member Mattucci

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Aram Chaparyan, Assistant City Manager Danny Santana,
Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey, and Management Associate Carlos Huizar.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Committee Member Kaji.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chair Chen welcomed those in attendance and requested that committee members introduce themselves to the public.

Staff presenting:

Management Associate Carlos Huizar.

4. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Management Associate Carlos Huizar reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

5A. City Manager – Discuss and Provide Direction on the 2025 Legislative Platform and Priority Projects. Expenditure: None.

Management Associate Carlos Huizar introduced this item to the Committee using slides and provided an overview of the City's 2025 Legislative Platform and priority projects.

- The purpose of the legislative platform is to provide the City with a formal document to outline legislative goals and priorities. Several priority

projects have been identified for which the City would pursue state and/or federal funding.

- In developing this year's legislative platform, staff reviewed case studies of other cities' legislative platforms. This process differed from last year's legislative platform.
- Staff would like to thank department heads, a former Management Aide, and other contributing staff whose efforts enabled the creation of this year's legislative platform.
- The goals of the Legislative Platform align with 11 strategies within the City's Strategic Plan, adopted in 2021.
- The purpose of today's meeting is to review the legislative platform to ensure the City is meeting its goals, and to provide clear direction on how to advocate for legislation and funding opportunities in the upcoming year.
- This year's legislative platform increases the City's ability to address funding opportunities quickly and proactively. It provides a mechanism to advocate for legislation through letters of support or opposition. It also provides additional transparency so that the public is aware of the City's advocacy efforts.
- Should the legislative platform be approved, the City will pursue the priority projects described below.
- Priority Project #1: Civic Center
 - The City is interested in acquiring the state property that currently houses Traffic Court proceedings for the Torrance Courthouse.
 - The City would pursue right of first refusal legislation to allow the City to negotiate with the Judicial Council of California for the property.
- Priority Project #2: Energy Independence Funding
 - The City would continue lobbying for support to apply to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure grant programs.
- Priority Project #3: Vehicle Code Amendment
 - The City would work with state legislators to obtain legislation that would allow the City to utilize digital cameras for parking enforcement on City vehicles.
- Priority Project #4: Digital Infrastructure
 - The City would seek \$1.2 - \$2 million in funding to expand digital infrastructure through additional Citizen Broadband Radio System sites and improve the Real Time Response Center. If approved by Council, the City would seek the full \$2 million.
- Priority Project #5: Replace Mobile Data Computers (MDCs)
 - The City would seek funding to replace MDCs, which have reached the end of their useful lives.
- Priority Project #6: Community Wellness Projects
 - The City would seek \$3 million in funding to install rubberized playground surfaces and improve ADA access at 6 of 30 parks.

- Priority Project #7: Columbia Park Artificial Turf Installation
 - The City would seek continued funding in the amount of \$1.2 million to supplement the ongoing water resilience project to install artificial turf soccer fields.

Chair Chen asked if anyone from the public would like to speak at this time. No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

Chair Chen asked if any of the Committee Members had any questions or comments.

Committee Member Kaji thanked staff for their presentation and work in creating the legislative platform. He noted that the state budget deficit would increase competition over available funds. He requested that staff investigate the state's budget priorities before the City's next advocacy trip to Sacramento in order to make more specific requests that align with those priorities.

Committee Member Mattucci and Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey discussed the durability of the Mobile Data Computers' replacements from Priority Project #6.

Committee Member Mattucci, Deputy City Manager Ian Daily, and Chair Chen discussed the role that limited City funding plays in seeking outside funding.

Chair Chen noted that requesting assistance from legislators who represent Torrance allows those legislators to demonstrate the value they have brought to the community through the funding of local projects.

Committee Member Kaji suggested contacting the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce to see if any members could serve as advocates for the City using their own relationships during advocacy trips to Sacramento and Washington. Chair Chen expressed his support for this idea.

Chair Chen asked if the seven priority projects in the legislative platform are part of the strategic plan. Management Associate Carlos Huizar clarified that the projects are not part of the strategic plan but directly align with the goals of the plan.

Chair Chen and Assistant City Manager Danny Santana discussed the reason why the topic of homelessness is not included in the legislative platform. Assistant City Manager Danny Santana explained that state and federal operational funding to combat homelessness is limited, and that staff had secured operational funding through Measure SST and other sources.

Chair Chen and Assistant City Manager Danny Santana discussed replacing existing language in the Legislative Platform on EV infrastructure with the more inclusive term "alternative fuels."

Chair Chen described feedback he had received from the community as falling into three main categories: homelessness, crime, and park cleanliness and

safety. He requested that the City pursue state and federal funding to address these issues.

Chair Chen suggested connecting the value of new artificial turf with the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles when discussing the Columbia Park Artificial Turf Installation project with legislators.

Chair Chen asked if senior citizen enrichment or education could be included in the legislative platform. Management Associate Carlos Huizar confirmed that this could be added and noted that senior citizens are included in the section about empowering veterans, individuals with disabilities, and seniors in civic life.

Chair Chen, City Manager Aram Chaparyan, and Assistant City Manager Danny Santana discussed the possibility of and challenges surrounding the creation of a large facility to provide mental health and substance abuse services for people experiencing homelessness. Assistant City Manager Danny Santana noted that the City could write a letter of support in advancement of Supervisor Janice Hahn's concepts for such a facility.

Chair Chen and Assistant City Manager Danny Santana discussed upgrading transit infrastructure with a focus on the upcoming 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Chair Chen, City Manager Aram Chaparyan, and Assistant City Manager Danny Santana discussed ideas relating to ensuring a reliable revenue base for the City. City Manager Aram Chaparyan confirmed that these ideas could be incorporated into the City's budget priorities.

MOTION: Committee Member Kaji moved to concur with staff's recommendation and forward the 2025 Legislative Platform and priority projects to the City Council. Committee Member Mattucci seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Chen asked if there were any members of the public that wished to speak under the Public Comment section. No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Management Associate Carlos Huizar stated that staff's recommendation will be forwarded to the full City Council and will incorporate the changes that were discussed in this Committee meeting.

Management Associate Carlos Huizar thanked staff and city departments for their work on the 2025 Legislative Platform, noting that its completion was a collaboration between many departments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:59 pm, Committee Member Kaji moved to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Mattucci seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

December 3, 2024

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting convened in a regular meeting on December 3, 2024 at 12:09 pm in the LeRoy J. Jackson Council Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Chen, Committee Member Kaji

Absent: Committee Member Sheikh

Present: Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey and Management Associate Carlos Huizar.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Committee Member Kaji.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Chair Chen welcomed those in attendance and requested that committee members introduce themselves to the public.

Staff presenting:

Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey.

4. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Wednesday, November 27, 2024.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

5A. City Manager – Discuss and Provide Direction on the 2025 Legislative Platform and Priority Projects. Expenditure: None.

Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey introduced this item to the Committee.

Chair Chen asked if anyone from the public would like to speak at this time. No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

Chair Chen noted that this item is identical to the item presented to the State Legislative Advocacy Committee the day before this meeting. He requested the same changes discussed at the State Legislative Advocacy Committee.

Chair Chen asked if any of the Committee Members had any questions or comments. No Committee Members wished to speak at this time.

MOTION: Committee Member Kaji moved to concur with staff's recommendation and forward the 2025 Legislative Platform and Priority Projects to the City Council. Chair Chen seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 2-0 with Committee Member Sheikh absent.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Chen asked if there were any members of the public that wished to speak under the Public Comment section. No members of the public wished to speak at this time.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Deputy City Manager Ian Dailey informed the Committee that a future council item will be presented to the full City Council for consideration.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:16 pm, Committee Member Kaji moved to adjourn the meeting. Chair Chen seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 2-0 with Committee Member Sheikh absent.