



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Andy Sywak, Economic Vitality Manager

City of Manhattan Beach

(310) 802-5062

asywak@citymb.info

www.citymb.info

Increased Mobility Options in Manhattan Beach with Free Electric Vehicle Pilot Program

Manhattan Beach, CA (January 30, 2017) – The City of Manhattan Beach welcomes the electric vehicle shuttle service, the Downtowner, to its streets in a public-private partnership to increase mobility and alleviate parking congestion within the City. Beginning February 1, 2017, anyone can download the mobile app and utilize this free service to get around a roughly three mile area of Manhattan Beach extending north to El Segundo and south to Hermosa Beach and as far east as Pacific Avenue. This restricted service area was chosen to decrease the wait time for Downtowner vehicles and will be reassessed soon after the launch based on community demand. Shuttles will be available from 11 AM to 11 PM daily and will be parked at the City’s Metlox Garage.

This new mode of transportation represents the City’s dedication to increasing mobility options for short trips around Downtown and North Manhattan Beach, where it can be extremely difficult to park. The Downtowner currently offers its advertisement-based services in Tampa and Del Ray, FL; Aspen, CO; and Newport Beach, CA. Here in Manhattan Beach, those who need a ride will be able to use a mobile app to call any of the Downtowner’s six electric shuttles, similar to services like Uber or Lyft, with the option of tipping the driver afterwards. The six-seater shuttles will operate within a specific service area (right) as a six-month pilot program with the potential for a city-wide expansion.



City Council gave support to this pilot program at their June 21, 2016 meeting and directed staff to evaluate proposals and select a vendor. After careful consideration, the Downtowner was chosen.



“This is a program that needs to go city-wide as soon as possible,” says Mayor D’Errico, “Free, environmentally-friendly electric vehicles are an excellent resource for all our residents to get around our city. Plus, the benefits are numerous: reducing the number of cars on our roads, helping to relieve parking congestion on our neighborhood streets, reducing our carbon footprint and increasing mobility.” Community members are invited to attend a ribbon cutting on Thursday, February 2 from 4 – 5 PM

in the parking lot in front of City Hall to see this new initiative in action.

Those interested in downloading the app can find links on the Downtowner website, www.ridedowntowner.com, and are available at the respective App stores for both Apple and Android users.

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