FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Manhattan Beach City Council Takes Stance on Recent Roadway Changes in Playa del Rey

Manhattan Beach, CA (June 21, 2017) – The Manhattan Beach City Council held a Closed Session on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, to discuss recent roadway reconfigurations by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) on Vista Del Mar and in Playa del Rey. The reconfigurations involve four arterial roads leading to and from Manhattan Beach that were reduced from two lanes of travel in each direction to one. One of the roadways, Vista Del Mar, was allegedly reconfigured as an “emergency” measure following a traffic fatality two years ago, while the others – Culver Blvd., Jefferson Blvd. and Pershing Dr. – were reconfigured as “pilot” projects to improve pedestrian safety and add bicycle lanes.

Nearby cities, including Manhattan Beach, received no advance notice of the reconfiguration that are now impacting thousands in the region. There are few north-south alternatives for South Bay drivers, and those that do exist, including the 405 Freeway and Pacific Coast Highway/Lincoln Blvd./Sepulveda Blvd./CA Route 1, are already overburdened.

The City of Manhattan Beach recognizes the roadways are located within the City of Los Angeles and even one pedestrian fatality is too many. In an effort to address concerns for pedestrians and regional traffic impacts, Manhattan Beach, along with other South Bay cities, sought to comment on the re-configurations and suggest alternatives. However, it has become apparent the true objective of the reconfiguration is to divert traffic entirely from Playa del Rey.

By a unanimous vote, the Manhattan Beach City Council took the following action at its Closed Session on June 20, 2017:

1. Created a subcommittee of two Councilmembers to participate in regional efforts to obtain a solution.
2. Directed the City Manager to prepare a letter opposing the roadway reconfigurations and seeking environmental review that includes public participation and outreach.
3. Directed the City Manager to continue City staff’s efforts to disseminate information, contact affected businesses, interact with residents, the business community, staff members from other cities, and work with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments in seeking a regional solution or alternative.
4. Directed City Staff to provide support to legal efforts challenging LADOT’s actions.
5. Directed the City Attorney to explore legal action against LADOT, including exploration of the most effective way to join the efforts of residents opposing the project.

For regular updates on this issue, the community should visit the City website at www.citymb.info or sign up for the City’s e-notifications.

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