June 30, 2017

The Honorable Mike Bonin
Councilmember 11th District
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, #475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ms. Seleta Reynolds
General Manager
Department of Transportation
City of Los Angeles
100 S. Main Street, 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Opposition to Vista Del Mar and Playa Del Rey Roadway Reconfigurations

Dear Councilmember Bonin and Ms. Reynolds:

The City of Manhattan Beach writes to express its strong opposition to roadway reconfigurations recently implemented as an "emergency" measure on Vista Del Mar and through the "Safe Streets for Playa Del Rey" initiative on Jefferson Boulevard, Culver Boulevard, and Pershing Drive. These actions by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) reduced the number of lanes on these arterial roads from two to one in each direction, greatly reducing capacity and significantly increasing traffic congestion and delays. We respectfully request the City of Manhattan Beach and other impacted regional agencies be included in further discussions to develop alternatives.

Residents and businesses throughout the region rely upon a network of roadways to commute to work, receive medical care, visit family and friends, and patronize commercial centers in West Los Angeles and beyond. It is estimated that one-third of Manhattan Beach residents work in the City of Los Angeles. There are limited north-south routes and those that do exist are underserved by public transportation options.
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While the four reconfigured roadways are within the City of Los Angeles, they serve a critical role as arterials in the regional transportation network. The City of Manhattan Beach is very concerned about the lack of advance notice and environmental review, inadequate consideration of alternatives, and limited public outreach to adjoining communities in undertaking the roadway reconfigurations. The goals have been described as calming traffic, reducing traffic-related fatalities, and responding to a litigation settlement. But less extreme measures could have been implemented to achieve those same objectives with fewer local and regional impacts.

Through inclusive public outreach and deliberation, we are hopeful alternative solutions can be identified to meet our shared goal of safer streets while restoring vehicle capacity. To this end, we appreciate the willingness of LADOT officials including Ms. Reynolds to meet with South Bay officials last week and the upcoming opportunities for the public to provide feedback about the roadway reconfigurations, including an as-yet to be scheduled Town Hall forum.

The City of Manhattan Beach and other impacted regional agencies welcome an opportunity to provide formal comments and alternatives. We seek to be a partner with LADOT in exploring alternative, safer roadway reconfigurations for our inter-connected region. Together, we believe we can develop a comprehensive solution that protects the safety and neighborhood integrity of Playa Del Rey while recognizing the role of roadways in the region.

Sincerely,

David Lesser
Mayor