



City of Manhattan Beach

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July 11, 2017

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Ms. Emiko Atherton
National Complete Streets Coalition
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Safe Streets Academy Application

Dear Ms. Atherton:

On behalf of the City of Manhattan Beach, I write in support of the Beach Cities Health District's application for the Safe Streets Academy presented by the National Complete Streets Coalition and Smart Growth America, contingent upon authorization of our full City Council.

Due to the short turn-around time for the Safe Streets Academy application and the Manhattan Beach City Council meeting calendar, this letter of support is scheduled to be considered on the agenda for formal review and approval at the City Council's July 18, 2017 meeting.

Since 2010, the City has worked in collaboration with the Beach Cities Health District to implement the Blue Zones Project. This community well-being initiative incorporates environmental and policy changes in the cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. A primary area of focus is influencing the built environment through policies and projects.

Early successes of the Blue Zones Project include the adoption of Complete / Living Streets principles, the Beach Cities Livability Plan, and a seven-city South Bay Bicycle Master Plan. The City of Manhattan Beach will also be incorporating Living Streets principles into its Mobility Plan, which is scheduled to come before the City Council in the coming months. The City understands and values the importance of safe streets in our community. It has identified twenty-two intersections to implement pedestrian improvements, including marked crosswalks, signage, bulb-outs and pedestrian countdown signal heads.

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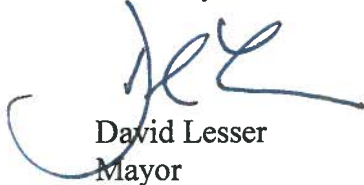
The City is excited about the opportunity to continue this work in conjunction with the Safe Streets Academy. This technical assistance will provide City staff with invaluable training on engineering safety countermeasures, planning active transportation, creative place-making, and community engagement strategies. This opportunity comes at an important time. The City has transitioned from policy adoption to implementation of projects that improve the safety and flow of traffic in our densely populated community. These projects provide tools and skills to begin shifting residents' understanding of Complete/Living Streets elements.

Partnering with Beach Cities Health District will allow the City to continue its built environment work through the Blue Zones Project. It will also enable the City to work with other Beach Cities on regional ideas and solutions to traffic safety. The City currently has a tri-cities grant from the Southern California Association of Governments to explore the feasibility of a bike lane on Aviation Boulevard, a major commuter corridor that cuts through the three Beach Cities of Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beach. The Safe Streets Academy will facilitate the City working with its city partners to the south and focus on regional interventions to increase the safety of its streets.

If selected to participate in the Safe Streets Academy through this competitive process, the City of Manhattan Beach would look forward to implementing local initiatives that result from the generous technical assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Lesser
Mayor