



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 21, 2014
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation
Subject: Request by Councilmembers Brien and Krasne for a Discussion Regarding Tour Bus Activity.

Attachments: 1. Tour Bus Staging Zone Map

INTRODUCTION

Staff provided an information item on the December 5 Study Session in response to Councilmember Krasne's request for information regarding the City's ability to limit tour bus travel on narrow streets. The report also included plans to address a request by Louis Vuitton to remove or relocate the tour bus loading zone on Dayton Way adjacent to its store at the corner of Dayton Way and Rodeo Drive through the Traffic & Parking Commission. At the December 5, 2013 meeting, Councilmember Brien also requested City Council discussion of tour bus activity in the City.

DISCUSSION

Tour buses are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The City currently regulates tour bus activity by enforcing the 3-ton vehicle weight limit on certain City streets (BHMC 7-2-201), the limit on tour bus loading and staging (BHMC 7-2-208 *et seq.*), and certain California Vehicle Code restrictions.

At the request of Councilmembers Brien and Krasne, staff consulted with the City Attorney's Office on the City's ability to limit or prohibit tour bus activity on certain streets (e.g., Rodeo Drive) because of lane configuration and constraints. The City Attorney's Office advised that the City's ability to prohibit tour bus activity depends on whether a tour bus operates as a "Passenger Stage Corporation" or a "Charter-Party Carrier" under California Public Utilities Commission permit as described below.

- Charter-Party Carriers: Includes round-trip sightseeing service and transportation under contract to a business. To staff's knowledge, most tour companies operate as Charter-Party Carriers. The City Attorney's Office has advised that the City's existing prohibition against the operation of heavy vehicles (BHMC 7-2-

201) applies to tour buses operating as charter-party carriers. However, BHMC 7-2-203 (*Streets Designated for Heavy Vehicle Usage*) currently lists a number of streets designated for use by vehicles exceeding three tons. That list currently includes "Rodeo Drive from Wilshire Boulevard to Santa Monica Boulevard (north)." If the City Council determines that heavy vehicles should not be allowed on certain streets, including Rodeo Drive, the City Council may review and amend BHMC 7-2-203. Per BHMC 7-2-202(B) (*Emergency or Necessary Use of Restricted Streets*), activities associated with "pick-up and delivery of goods, wares, or merchandise from or to any premises located on any prohibited street" would continue to allow delivery activity to retail and commercial businesses.

- Passenger Stage Corporations: Includes tour buses that operate as fixed-route bus services. To staff's knowledge, Starline Tours "Hop-on, Hop-off" double decker bus tours provides the most extensive service of tour buses that operate as a Passenger Stage Corporation. According to the City Attorney's Office, the City's ability to regulate a Passenger Stage Corporation depends on the specific authorization granted to the Passenger Stage Corporation by the CPUC and would require further review of the permits issued for the individual Passenger Stage Corporation.

In 2013, the City of Los Angeles met with local jurisdictions (including Beverly Hills) and CPUC representatives to discuss tour bus staging, noise and traffic gridlock. To date, the City of Los Angeles has been unsuccessful in implementing any policy changes to regulate tour bus activity in residential neighborhoods.

As outlined in the December 21, 2014 staff report, the Traffic & Parking Commission is scheduled to address Louis Vuitton's request to remove or relocate the loading zone adjacent to its store on Dayton Way in March 2014 with the goal of providing a recommendation to the City Council to implement a plan prior to the peak Summer tourist season. This effort would include outreach to the Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, Beverly Hills Conference and Visitor's Bureau Board of Directors and business and residential communities.

Meanwhile, the City's Police Department continues its increased weekend enforcement of tour bus violations including weight, noise, impeding traffic and other applicable citations. In December 2013, 13 citations and two warnings were issued to commercial vehicles for Heavy Vehicle Restrictions (BHMC 7-2-201) and Tour Bus Loading Zone (BHMC 7-2-207-208) violations.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction regarding next steps regarding Tour Bus Activity in the City.


Approved By
Susan Healy Keene, AICP

ATTACHMENT 1

Tour Bus Staging Zone Map



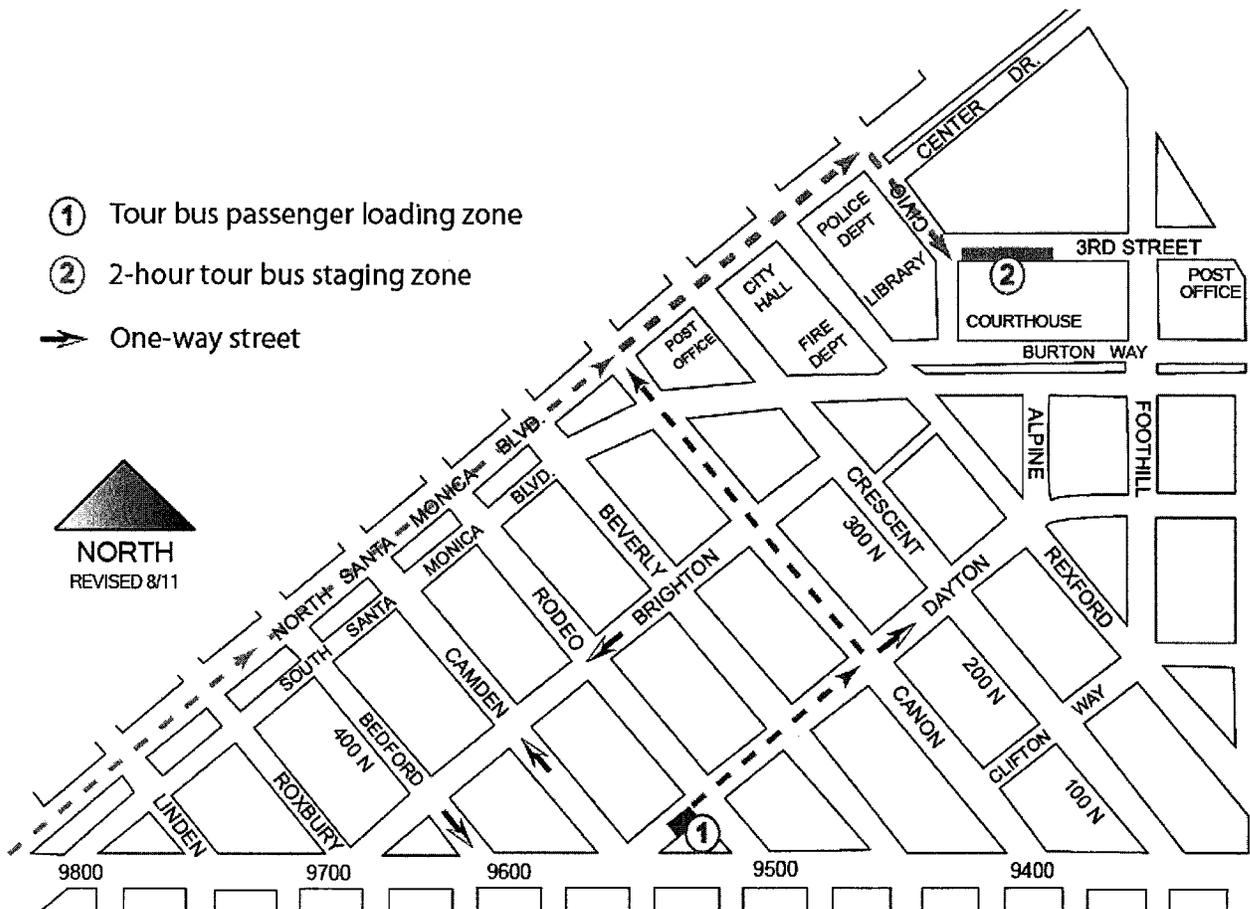
City of Beverly Hills Tour Bus Loading Zones

Passenger Loading Zone

1. South side of Dayton Way between Rodeo Drive and the alley west of Rodeo Drive next to Louis Vuitton (9am to 10pm daily).

Two-Hour Bus Staging Zone (9am to 10 pm Daily)

2. South side of West 3rd Street between Civic Center Drive and Foothill Road, behind the Beverly Hills Courthouse (space for four large bus coaches).



For additional information, call the Department of Transportation at (310) 285-2500