



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** February 17, 2015

**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council

**From:** Aaron Kunz, AICP, Deputy Director of Transportation  
Martha Eros, Transportation Planner

**Subject:** Recommendations of the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee to Manage  
Tour Bus Activity in the Business Triangle

**Attachments:**

1. Beverly Hills Tour Bus Staging Loading Zone Notice – January 2015
2. Map of Streets Designated for Heavy Haul Vehicles
3. Proposed Modifications to Streets Designated for Heavy Haul Vehicles

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### INTRODUCTION

This report transmits recommendations by the City Council Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee (Councilmembers Brien and Krasne) to manage tour bus activity in the Business Triangle to address traffic congestion. The recommendations include modifying the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to:

1. Add the heavy vehicle weight limit on streets within the Business Triangle
2. Remove the heavy vehicle weight limit on North Crescent Drive between Wilshire Boulevard and South Santa Monica Boulevard to facilitate tour bus circulation to the City's tour bus staging and loading zones and provide for potential tour bus loading zones on Crescent Drive.

Staff seeks City Council direction regarding initiating the process for the City Council to consider implementing the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations with noticing to affected residents and businesses. A public process could be conducted by the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee or Traffic & Parking Commission prior to consideration by the full

City Council. The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee has emphasized that implementation of their recommendations should be done on a trial basis.

## **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.

In February 2014, at the request of Councilmembers Brien and Krasne, the City Council reviewed the City's ability to limit tour bus travel on certain streets within the Business Triangle (e.g. Rodeo Drive) to address traffic congestion. The concerns included tour buses impacting traffic by occupying both travel lanes, slowing and stopping vehicles mid-block and impeding left turn movements. The City Council also reviewed 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 prior to completion of the store's renovations that included a full length glass façade and new entrance on Dayton Way.

In July 2014, Mayor Bosse appointed Councilmembers Brien and Krasne to serve on a Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee to meet with stakeholders and develop recommendations to manage tour bus activity and address tour bus loading and staging. The City Council Ad-Hoc Committee met five times between August 2014 and February 2015 to develop recommendations and meet with stakeholders, including the Traffic & Parking Commission Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee and representatives from the Beverly Hills Conference & Visitor's Bureau and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

A summary of the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations is outlined below.

### ***Establish Vehicle Weight Limit in the Business Triangle***

The City Attorney's Office advised that the City Council could adopt an ordinance to amend the municipal code to remove streets that allow vehicles that exceed the three-ton (6,000 lb.) weight limit as a mechanism to manage tour bus activity. Commercial vehicle weight limit signs would need to be posted at street entrances. Vehicles making deliveries of goods or people on streets with vehicles exceeding 6,000 pounds are exempt from the weight limit. For example, a vehicle transporting hotel guests to a specific destination would be exempt from the weight restriction.

The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that the City Council consider amending the municipal code to establish vehicle weight limits within the Business Triangle between Santa Monica Boulevard, Wilshire Boulevard, and Canon Drive (between Santa Monica and Wilshire Boulevards). To facilitate tour bus circulation from the newly created tour bus loading zone on North Santa Monica Boulevard to Third Street/Civic Center, staff recommends not removing the vehicle weight limit on South Santa Monica Boulevard east of Beverly Drive. If the City Council wishes to move forward with a process to modify the municipal code, the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommends evaluating increasing the vehicle weight limit up to 7,500 pounds in the Business Triangle only.

### ***Remove vehicle weight limit on Crescent Drive between Wilshire and South Santa Monica Boulevards***

Crescent Drive between Wilshire and South Santa Monica Boulevards has both commercial and residential properties and a 6,000-pound weight limit. While it has similar street widths to Canon and Beverly Drive, Crescent Drive carries less traffic and has fewer outdoor dining establishments. It is also has a number of residential properties, including the Menorah Housing Foundation.

The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommends that the City Council consider amending the municipal code to remove the vehicle weight limit on Crescent Drive between Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevards to provide direct access travel routes from Wilshire Boulevard to the North Santa Monica Boulevard bus cut-out, to the Third Street staging zone (via North Santa Monica Boulevard), and to potential loading zones on the 100 block of North Crescent Drive and/or adjacent to City Hall as described below. If the City Council concurs with proceeding with this recommendation, public notices would be provided to affected parties, including approximately 450 multiple family residences.

### ***Tour Bus Loading Zones***

Historically, the City has had short-term tour bus loading zones in the Business Triangle for "active loading and unloading only." After dropping off passengers at these loading zones, tour busses were directed to stage on Crescent Drive and the parking lot of the former Crescent post office. With construction of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, alternate sites in the Business Triangle were proposed and (unsuccessfully) tested. In 2012, the tour bus staging zone on Third Street between Foothill Road and Civic Center Drive (behind the Edison lot) was established, and Starline's Hop-on, Hop-off service began to use the Third Street/Civic Center location for all passenger loading and staging activity. Since 2012, Dayton Way has been the only remaining tour bus loading zone in the Business Triangle.

As outlined in the December 2, 2014 City Council Study Session report, the Dayton Way tour bus loading zone was removed effective January 26, 2015. Tour bus activity was redirected to the Third Street/Civic Center location. With concurrence of the Ad-Hoc Committee, staff also implemented a tour bus loading zone on North Santa Monica Boulevard at the bus cut-out between Crescent and Canon Drives at the former Metro Bus cut-out.

Staff is currently working on logistics associated with the Wallis Annenberg Performing Arts Center motor court for private luxury coaches. Additionally, staff has evaluated the following locations and access routes for alternate active passenger loading zones:

1. West side of North Crescent Drive between North and South Santa Monica Boulevard, adjacent to the Wallis Annenberg Center. This location requires infrastructure modifications to address passenger loading activity, including sidewalk/landing pad installations, possible removal of vegetation, and traffic management with the loss of one southbound travel lane during designated time periods. Due to the lane width, only shuttles and vans can be accommodated at this location without impeding traffic flow. *The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommends this location for weekends only.*

2. East side of North Crescent Drive between North and South Santa Monica Boulevard, adjacent to City Hall. There are four metered parking spaces that can accommodate two motor coaches. *The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommends this location for weekends only.*
3. East side of the 100 block of North Crescent Drive immediately north of Wilshire Boulevard. By removing four parking meters (two one-hour and two 20-minute), this space could accommodate two shuttles vans. Due to the street width and proximity to driveways, large motor coaches could not be accommodated at this location. Establishment of this loading zone would require removal of the vehicle weight limit on Crescent Drive. If the City Council concurs that this is a viable location, staff recommends review by the Traffic & Parking Commission with noticing to affected businesses and residents (pending City Council modification of the municipal code to remove the vehicle weight limit).

***Other Tour Bus Related Issues***

The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee supports improving the Third Street/Civic Center location to improve aesthetics, way finding and amenities for tourists. Staff is proceeding with developing a conceptual design for this area this fiscal year and has included a funding request for improvements as part of the FY 2015-16 Capital Improvement Program. The Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee also requested that staff return with the feasibility of the Beverly Hills Trolley providing circulation between the Third Street/Civic Center location and points of interest in the Business Triangle.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff seeks direction regarding the Tour Bus Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations.

  
Approved By  
Susan Healy Keene, AICP

# **ATTACHMENT 1**



## **PUBLIC NOTICE TOUR BUS LOADING ZONE RELOCATION**

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Attention Tour Bus Operators:

Effective Monday, **January 26, 2015**, the Tour Bus Loading Zone located on the 9500 block of Dayton Way will be removed and relocated to Civic Center Drive and North Santa Monica Boulevard. Access routes are outline on the attached map.

The City of Beverly Hills has established the following active tour bus loading zones from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily\*, effective Monday, January 26, 2015:

- (1) East side of **Civic Center Drive** between Burton Way and Third Street next to the Beverly Hills Courthouse
- (2) North side of **North Santa Monica Boulevard** between North Canon and Crescent Drives in the bus cut-out

**“TOW AWAY, ACTIVE TOUR BUS LOADING, 8AM-10PM DAILY,  
NO STAGING, ENGINE OFF”**

Tour vehicles may stage on the south side of **Third Street** between Civic Center Drive and Foothill Road following passenger unloading. The designated access route to Third Street is via southbound Beverly Drive to South Santa Monica Boulevard only. Tour vehicles may not use Park Way or other residential streets north of Santa Monica Boulevard due to the 6,000-pound vehicle weight restriction.

Additional tour bus loading zone locations will be forwarded for City Council consideration at the February 17, 2015 study session. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Transportation Planning at [transportation@beverlyhills.org](mailto:transportation@beverlyhills.org) or (310) 285-1128.

\* Sunday tour bus activity is located on the 400 block of North Rexford Drive during Farmer's Market.



# **ATTACHMENT 2**



## BHMC 7-2-203: STREETS DESIGNATED FOR HEAVY HAUL VEHICLES



# **ATTACHMENT 3**



## PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO STREETS DESIGNATED FOR HEAVY HAUL VEHICLES

