



The Traffic & Parking Commission Tour Bus Ad Hoc Committee will conduct a Special Meeting, at the following time and place, and will address the agenda listed below:

**CITY HALL
455 North Rexford Drive
Municipal Gallery
Thursday, July 15, 2010
3:30 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

1) Introductions (Aaron Kunz)

a. Traffic & Parking Commission Subcommittee

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss: 1) Tour bus loading and staging locations, 2) Amplified Noise, and increased number of buses in residential area.

Round-table introductions and concerns:

- Stephanie Nakasone (CVB) – There are 5 million visitors a year to the City of Beverly Hills
- Traffic & Parking Commissioner Joyce Braun: – Balance between business and residents
- Traffic & Parking Commissioner, Brian Rosenstein: proliferation of tour vans, traffic conditions and amplified sound from open-top tour vans
- Traffic & Parking Commissioner Julie Steinberg: safety issues, particularly noticeable on North side of City
- Shawn McCormick, City of Beverly Hills Parking Services Manager, level of enforcement
- Kami Farhadi (Starline Tours)
- Philip Ferentinos (Starline Tours)
- Sarah Gao (JBS Tours) need to understand regulations
- Richard Gitterman (Tour de Jour)
- Shisuke Takahashi (HIS Tours) – understanding parking citations
- Fumio Itagawa (Elephant Tours) – questioning parking citations
- Naomi Isogawa (Elephant Tours) – want to bring more Japanese tourists to the city of Beverly Hills
- Helene Boston (Resident, North side) – Number of tour buses impacting residents quality of life
- Janet Sherwood (LA City Tours) – what can we do as a company to make the situation better?
- Dennis Miranda (Coach America) – like to suggest a few options
- Vahid Sapil (Starline, President) – we are 100% soundproof tour buses
- Valerie Garcia (ITS Transportation) *arrived to meeting after introductions*
- Allison Regan (ITS Transportation) *arrived to meeting after introductions*

2) City Tour Bus Policy

a. Staging Locations

Deputy Director of Transportation Aaron Kunz referred to the tour bus map. In the City's business district, the City has two tour bus loading zones for active loading and unloading only. The two locations are on Dayton Way, adjacent to Luis Vuitton and on the 400 block of N. Camden Drive, just north of Brighton Way. For longer-term staging the City has a zone on Third Street, east of City Hall.

Aaron Kunz discussed that tour bus loading zones in the in the City's Business District have been removed with the construction of the William Morris District. Also, the location on the 300 block of N. Camden Drive, adjacent to El Torito, was removed due to complaints from neighboring businesses. The longer-term tour bus staging zone at the former Crescent post office was eliminated due to the construction of the Annenberg Center and replaced with the zone on Third Street.

Mr. Kunz noted that complaints have been received regarding the tour bus loading zone on the 400 block of North Camden Drive due to trash, loitering and noise. He asked the tour bus operators to do their part in informing passengers to dispose trash properly and carry trash bags in their vehicles. The Traffic & Parking Commission will consider establishing a zone on Canon Drive between North Santa Monica Boulevard and Park Way at the former Metro bus stop on August 5.

Shawn McCormick stated that signs are clearly posted; no staging and bus operators can see them. If customers aren't there ready or waiting, the buses must leave. Shawn stated that leaving engines running is not allowed and every zone is an engine-off area. The fine is \$265 and there is enforcement.

Commissioner Rosenstein stated that as a subcommittee, numerous options for tour bus loading zones were evaluated and the zone on the 300 block of Camden Drive is just a temporary zone. There were eight location options identified and the TPC will discuss the issue in August 5, 2010.

Shawn McCormick mentioned that limousines cannot use the tour bus zone. There is no difference in the size of the vehicle, if it complies with the Municipal code, then it's considered a tour bus; TCP permit for bus it is ok; TCP permit for limo is not ok.

Richard Gitterman requested the City's definition of a tour bus or what is the Municipal code.

Aaron Kunz stated that staff will email those attending the Municipal code for tour bus.

Vahid Sapil asked that one more temporary zone be added until City Council makes their decision.

Aaron Kunz explained that staff has exhausted all options and there are no other alternatives.

Philip Ferentinos asked when the new stop Canon Drive will be operational.

Aaron Kunz stated under the best scenario, City Council will review on August 31, with implementation in mid-September.

Commissioner Rosenstein clarified that the committee has reviewed eight locations, but only two or three were acceptable options.

Richard Gitterman stated that summer season is busiest time for tour companies and recommended for future that more locations be reviewed and added before next summer.

Aaron Kunz stated that on SMB and Parkway, there is an old Metro bus stop. There is a stop on each sign of road, restrooms facilities, benches, trash cans, the Beverly Hills sign (for photographs) and a cut-out for the buses. Aaron explained that all involved need to participate in the process. There is no perfect place for tour bus zones.

Commissioner Rosenstein stated at Canon and SMB, it is walking distance to Rodeo, restrooms, water fountains, and the CVB is moving in a couple years to that location; only concern is that it is relatively close to residential area.

Commissioner Braun stated that it is understood that we don't want customers uncomfortable. On Camden now, there is no place to sit. The new location will make it more convenient. The problem will be with those operators who are not here at today's meeting.

Aaron Kunz stated that staff will look into what the city can do with regulating the "fly-by-night" and non-reputable tour companies (PUC issue).

b. Residential Tour Bus Guidelines

Aaron Kunz stated that weight limits and amplified noise is enforceable in residential area

Commissioner Rosenstein discussed how a resident went to the TPC and stated that 50 times a day an open-top van would be on his street because he lived next to a celebrity. Commissioner Rosenstein added that the Police are putting together a task force because of this, it's beyond noise now.

Helene Boston explained that every 6-10 minutes, there are buses on her street, so much traffic and noise all day. Helene stated that there should be a schedule of the buses, like the transit buses. The number of tour buses back to back is the issue, and it is not that the residents do not want them there, just regulate and limit.

Commissioner Steinberg prefers that buses pull over all the way, not just stop in the middle of the street.

Aaron Kunz emphasized that residents are frustrated with the impact but understand the importance of the buses.

Commissioner Rosenstein stated that the TPC hears more from residents, not businesses.

Philip Ferentinos requests a notice of enforcement be sent to operators once implemented.

Aaron Kunz clarified that buses are not allowed to stop or pull over in residential areas.

Commissioner Rosenstein inquired with staff if checking valid PUCs is a CHP issue or can the City check for valid PUCs.

Aaron Kunz stated that staff will check with PD.

Commissioner Rosenstein suggested the tour bus operators send a list of non-reputable companies to Aaron. Philip Ferentinos and Janet Sherwood will compile a list (although it may change weekly).

Dennis Miranda suggested that the City send all info regarding the new tour bus zones to CBA (California Bus Association) to notify all operators.

Commissioner Rosenstein agreed with the suggestion.

3) Adjournment

5:00 p.m.



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