



Live Well. Health Matters.

August 10, 2020

Mayor Campbell and members of the Hermosa Beach City Council
1315 Valley Blvd.
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Re: 6C—CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONCEPTS FOR TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON HERMOSA AVENUE TO FACILITATE FOOT TRAFFIC AND OUTDOOR DINING AND RETAIL OPTIONS WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Dear Mayor Campbell and members of the City Council:

The City Council has demonstrated great leadership in these difficult times and this project is an expansion on actions already taken to support businesses while enhancing safety and livability. We applaud the city's efforts to reconfigure Hermosa Avenue to support more outdoor dining and create opportunities for people to walk and bike safely while adhering to physical distancing requirements during COVID-19.

Beach Cities Health District has worked closely with the city of Hermosa Beach to enhance living streets concepts through our Blue Zones Project. We appreciate the collaboration with our city partners to elevate livability, health and wellbeing through projects and policies that promote active transportation, healthy and vibrant communities and enhanced social connections. The enhancements you are proposing on Hermosa Avenue achieve three important things: 1) promote economic recovery by supporting businesses that have been struggling with the closure of indoor operations due to COVID-19; 2) activate outdoor spaces to mitigate transmission risks and support physical distancing; and 3) enhance health through active transportation and improved traffic safety.

Of the three options presented, we support Option 1, for the following reasons:

- Expands space for outdoor dining - the sidewalk café/outdoor dining is the most powerful tool to enhance people's desire to walk and spend time and money
- Adds a dedicated bike lane – which promotes more bikers and less drivers, increases storefront sales and affords greater safety for pedestrians and bikers
- Adds reverse angle parking – for speeds of about 25mph, on-street parking is the protective method of choice when paired with sidewalk dining. And diagonal parking slows drivers down, offers full line of site for cars exiting parking spaces and minimizes “getting doored” when cyclists are riding next to cars parallel-parked in on-street parking.

As we plan for life in our cities after the pandemic, we have an extraordinary opportunity to focus on some long-term goals of creating more livable, equitable and resilient neighborhoods and communities. We applaud the Council on aggressively exploring and acting on these types of living streets solutions and would join you in any long-term projects or planning you wish to do to sustain these efforts including promotion of walkable density to promote healthier, more economically competitive, and more resilient communities, emerging mobility paradigms and the adoption of Hermosa Beach's Living Streets Design Manual, which aligns with the principles and leadership the City has committed to during COVID-19 response and recovery.

Sincerely,

Tom Bakaly
Chief Executive Officer
Beach Cities Health District