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## **City Council Gives Final Approvals for S.M. Blvd Reconstruction**

*Construction to Start January 2017 to Avoid Holiday Traffic*

Beverly Hills, CA – The Beverly Hills City Council gave the green light to construction plans for the North Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction project that is scheduled to break ground in January 2017. At the Oct. 18 City Council meeting, councilmembers unanimously approved the project, which includes rebuilding the roadway between Doheny Drive and Wilshire Boulevard, replacing century-old drainage\* and installing fiber optic cable and new street lighting.

### **Construction Phasing**

The approx. 18-month project will be built in two segments (east and west) with four phases for each segment. The schedule is designed to minimize disruption to residents and businesses, particularly during the holiday season, and balance the need to keep traffic flowing with the desire to complete the project as quickly as possible.

Construction on the western segment from Wilshire Boulevard to Alpine Drive will start in January 2017 and end before the holiday shopping season. The eastern segment from Alpine Drive to Doheny Drive will be built starting in late 2017 and last approximately nine months.

### **Lane Closures**

Throughout most of the project, four lanes of traffic will be open while work takes place in the curb lane and sidewalk areas. However, for about one-third of the project duration, while the roadway is removed and replaced, either two or three lanes will be open. During the phase when only two lanes are available, eastbound traffic will be detoured onto S. Santa Monica and Wilshire boulevards and the two lanes will be available for westbound traffic.

## **Parking Replacement**

In order to facilitate traffic access into the business triangle and avoid directing traffic onto residential streets, the street parking along South Santa Monica Boulevard between Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard will be temporarily removed and additional parking spaces provided in the Santa Monica Five parking structures. South Santa Monica Boulevard will be reconfigured to provide a five lane cross-section (two lanes in each direction and a median left turn lane).

## **Traffic Mitigation**

An extensive and flexible “toolbox” of traffic mitigation measures will be utilized throughout the construction period to prevent cut-through traffic and reroute pass-through vehicles north and south of the area.

## **Construction Hours**

Basic construction hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the hours may vary depending on the type of activity in progress. The City Council is looking for feedback on whether extended construction hours, which would shorten the duration of the project, are desirable. *To let the City council know your preference, please go to [www.beverlyhills.org/smbldv](http://www.beverlyhills.org/smbldv) and fill out the feedback form.*

## **Community Outreach**

An extensive outreach program is underway to educate the community on the benefits of the project and how to prepare for and negotiate streets during construction. Watch for mailers, social media messages, signage and notification of upcoming meetings. The website [www.beverlyhills.org/smbldv](http://www.beverlyhills.org/smbldv) will be updated continually and residents and businesses can sign up to receive emailed notifications through Ask Bev, [www.beverlyhills.org/AskBev](http://www.beverlyhills.org/AskBev), or stay in touch via [www.Facebook.com/CityofBeverlyhills](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBeverlyhills) and [www.Twitter.com/CityofBevHills](https://www.twitter.com/CityofBevHills). In addition, the City can be reached via email [smbldv@beverlyhills.org](mailto:smbldv@beverlyhills.org), the project helpline (424) 339-9033 or the Public Works Customer Service line (310) 285-2467.

## **Current Activity**

Please note that in preparation for construction, a City contractor is currently performing exploratory work to verify and locate existing utilities under the roadway. For the next few weeks, one traffic lane will be closed at a time to allow for this activity.

*\*The new drainage system includes “bioswales,” which are landscaped elements that capture storm water runoff and remove pollutants and silt before the water is released into the watershed. This feature helps meet county requirements for reducing storm runoff and pollutants that flow into the Santa Monica Bay.*

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