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U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Beverly Hills' Resolution on A.V.s *Calls for Legislative Changes to Encourage R&D of Driverless Cars*

Beverly Hills, CA – The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by Beverly Hills Mayor John Mirisch to encourage the use of Autonomous Vehicles (AV) for public transportation. The resolution, passed Monday at the USCM 84th annual meeting in Indianapolis, also called for legislative changes at the national, state and local levels to support research and development of driverless cars.

“I was delighted that the other mayors overwhelmingly support the concept of autonomous vehicles as public transportation,” Mayor Mirisch said. “AVs could be a game changer for cities. They will provide solutions to perennial urban issues such as traffic congestion, parking and air pollution.”

The City of Beverly Hills is proposing a Municipal Autonomous Shuttle System (MASS), to address "first and last mile" issues for those who wish to use regional public transportation and to provide citywide on-demand, point-to-point transportation. As part of the program Beverly Hills is planning an AV conference in Beverly Hills early next year.

Below is the text of the resolution:

WHEREAS, autonomous vehicles (AVs) represent a transformative technology that stands to reshape how people interact and use private and public transportation on our nation's streets and highways; and

WHEREAS, deployment of autonomous vehicles as public transportation will take

private cars off our nation's surface streets, reduce demand for parking in urban environments, increase safety and mobility for everyone, including the disabled and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Autonomous Shuttle Systems (MASS), such as is currently being envisioned and implemented by the City of Beverly Hills, will address "first and last mile" issues by providing people with citywide on-demand, point-to-point transportation allowing residents and visitors to get from one part of town to another with pickup and drop-off locations determined by the rider; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), fleets of shared, self-driving vehicles could remove up to 90 percent of vehicles on city streets and 80 percent of off-street parking, freeing up valuable landscape for more productive use, thereby enhancing the quality of life in areas served by AV technology; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local transportation policies should support public-private partnerships with the autonomous vehicle industry, in particular as it relates to public transportation systems, by establishing innovative, forward-looking programs, as well as prioritizing grants and regulatory regimes that are in tune with the fast-paced evolution of autonomous vehicles technologies,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state and local policymakers to integrate municipal autonomous shuttles into their long-range plans for public transportation systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt streamlined policies that encourage the safe and reliable development, testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles, both private and public, on our nation's roads and highways.

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