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For Immediate Release
January 6, 2017
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Beverly Hills Applies to Be Test Site for Autonomous Vehicles

Beverly Hills, CA – Beverly Hills has applied to the U.S. Department of Transportation to become a test site for autonomous vehicles (AV). In its application, the City of Beverly Hills laid out a case based on readiness, support from the City Council, the City's unique and varied driving environment and commitment to safety.

"Beverly Hills should be a policy leader in this emerging technology," said Mayor John Mirisch. "As an employment center and tourist destination, Beverly Hills has more than its share of regional traffic; and many traffic, safety and parking problems can be solved with AVs, especially when used as a form of public transportation. Perhaps most importantly, autonomous vehicles have the potential to democratize public transportation by creating an efficient, first-choice system of mobility that Southern Californians use because they want to, not because they have to."

If selected, the City would need to get a permit from the California Department of Motor Vehicles, which has not yet approved the use of AV's on public streets. Then Beverly Hills would need to set up a testing area and work with companies developing AV technology to bring in the "smartest" and safest vehicles.

The City of Beverly Hills is proposing a Municipal Autonomous Shuttle System (MASS), to address "first and last mile" challenges and encourage the use of regional public transportation, as well as to provide on-demand, point-to-point mobility citywide. The City is also installing fiber optic cable, which will greatly enable AV communications as well as bring high-speed access to every business and resident in the City.

Here are some milestones in the City's AV program:

- The City Council has voted unanimously to support the City's autonomous vehicle initiative

- The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by Mayor Mirisch to encourage the use of AVs for public transportation
- Beverly Hills was named one of the top ten cities in the world for autonomous vehicles by 2025AD.com, the leading website for automated driving.
- City is in conversations with vehicle manufacturers, transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, the California DMV and AV technology manufacturers.
- City is developing relationships with MIT, Carnegie Mellon University and is an affiliate with the Center for Automotive Research at Stanford.
- An autonomous vehicle summit is tentatively scheduled to take place in Beverly Hills in 2017.

More information can be found on the City's website can be found at <http://www.beverlyhills.org/living/autonomousvehicles/>

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