



Pacific Beach Planning Group

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February 1, 2017

To: SANDAG (Mugs Stoll, Ray Traynor, Greg Gastelum, and Leslie Blanda)
MTS (Laurie Zapf, Paul Jablonski, Denis Desmond, and Mark Thomsen)
US Department of Transportation (Anthony Foxx and Elaine Chao)
City of San Diego (Michael Prinz, Jeff Murphy, Tom Tomlinson, Tait Galloway, Brian Schoenfisch, Samir Hajjiri)

From: Pacific Beach Planning Group
Pacific Beach Town Council
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Pacific Beach EcoDistrict Partners (Pacific Beach) would like to congratulate SANDAG for winning a U.S. DOT designation as one of 10 automated vehicle proving grounds in the United States. Pacific Beach embraces automated vehicles in its short and long range planning efforts and requests that SANDAG use our community as a primary testing site for automated shuttles and vehicles in the San Diego region. Pacific Beach offers many advantages for an automated vehicle pilot program including:

1. The MTS Trolley stop at Balboa Avenue and the I-5 will be completed around 2020. Its current design does not have an adequate number of parking spaces necessary to promote ridership and the Pacific Beach neighborhood needs better options for passengers to get to the station. Self-driving transit options in our community will contribute to the success of new Mid-Coast trolley line.
2. The implementation of an automated, electric vehicle shuttle in Pacific Beach will help the City of San Diego meet its Climate Action Plan goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will help spur transit oriented development.
3. Grid pattern streets and a geographically contained area between I-5 & the Pacific Ocean and between Mission Bay & Mount Soledad.
4. Willing population of tech-oriented residents eager for better transit options and driverless vehicles. Many young professionals and university students live in Pacific Beach who are excited and ready to accept this new technology. Many elderly and disabled Pacific Beach residents would benefit from this added mode of transportation. All other age groups would also benefit and utilize this service.
5. Lack of high-frequency and convenient public transportation options. This is especially true if you are not traveling to or from Grand Avenue/Garnet Avenue, Mission Boulevard or Ingraham St.
6. An abundance of car-sharing activity using services like Uber, Lyft, and previously car2go already in the neighborhood. The same population who use these services will eagerly embrace automated vehicle options when they become available.
7. Parking imbalances in certain areas at certain times. Automated shuttles and/or vehicles combined with public transportation and car-sharing options would incentivize residents to drive less or even consider not owning a car.



8. Great location to show-off the technology to tourists and San Diegans from other communities when they come to visit Pacific Beach.
9. The opportunity to test the vehicles on slow neighborhood streets (mostly 25MPH) with the added complexities of pedestrians, skateboarders, and bicyclists.
10. Pacific Beach is designated as an EcoDistrict. Self-driving electric vehicles and shuttles support the EcoDistrict performance areas of Access and Mobility, Health and Well-Being, Appropriate Development, and the use of renewable Energy.

Pacific Beach has openly discussed the many merits of self-driving vehicles for the past 3 years creating buy-in within the group and the community members. Please consider the factors mentioned above when determining which neighborhoods would be best suited for any future projects which make use of SANDAG's designation as an automated vehicle proving ground.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Curry".

Brian J. Curry, Chair
PB Planning Group

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Daunoras".

Greg Daunoras, President
PB Town Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Mazzella".

Dan Mazzella, President
Discover PB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Winter".

Matthew Winter, President
beautifulPB