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November 18, 2019

Mr. David Ryu, Councilmember, Fourth District, LA City Council

Via email: [david.ryu@lacity.org](mailto:david.ryu@lacity.org)

Mr. Tim Fremaux, Senior Transportation Engineer, LADOT

Via email: [tim.fremaux@lacity.org](mailto:tim.fremaux@lacity.org)

**Subject: AM Peak Hour Left Turn Restriction - Valley Vista & Saugus**

Dear Councilmember Ryu and Mr. Fremaux:

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council has determined that in order to address local concerns pertaining to excess-volume traffic during the peak morning hours, regulatory signage restricting a left turn between 7-10 AM, Monday-Friday, should be installed at the intersection of Valley Vista and Saugus, restricting westbound Valley Vista traffic from turning left (southbound) onto Saugus during these hours.

The following motion was presented to the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) at its regular meeting on Monday, October 14, 2019:

**Motion: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) recommends that Council District 4 directs the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to install a No Left Turn sign, 7-10am, Monday-Friday, on Valley Vista, westbound, at its intersection with Saugus, and recommends the standardization of morning peak hour restrictions along the Valley Vista corridor, to a consistent end time of 10am and authorizes issuing letters supporting this position to the CD4 office, LADOT, and to various other elected officials and agencies as appropriate.**

The motion carried unanimously.

The rationale for this decision includes

- a) public safety concerns and hazards posed by excessive traffic on substandard hillside roads,
- b) the Los Angeles Fire Department's designation of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone for the hillside community south of Valley Vista,
- c) substantial public comment in support of the motion,
- d) congestion at the Valley Vista/Saugus intersection caused by excessive input sources to Saugus southbound,
- e) a review of the surrounding road network between I-405 and Coldwater Canyon determining that Saugus has been the only local road with access to Mulholland without any morning mitigation (restriction signage),
- f) a conflict between CalTrans CRS functional classification vs LA City street classification that exacerbates the excessive traffic problem through electronic navigation (GPS) apps, and
- g) a goal of discouraging such electronic/app-based routing for long-haul commuters through this intersection while allowing South Valley and adjacent-origin or destination traffic access to the local road network by taking advantage of a route "pruning" approach used by navigation apps for long-haul but not shorter routes.

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A more comprehensive discussion and presentation of the electronic approach related to this signage, including videos of the Valley Vista/Saugus intersection and related morning congestion, may be found on the SONC website, at this link: <https://www.shermanoaksnc.org/docs/34483371-6662.pdf>.

Your timely support and implementation of the actions required to provide Sherman Oaks with the aforementioned morning traffic mitigation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hartsough".

Jeffrey Hartsough  
President  
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

Cc: Via email:  
Nikki Ezhari, CD4  
Milene Minassians, CD4  
Steve Rostam, LADOT  
Avo Babian, SONC Traffic & Transportation  
Bob Reith, SONC Traffic & Transportation  
Gil Imber, SONC Traffic and Transportation