

STAFF REPORT

TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Purpose;

The City of Longview 2016 work plan for the Police Department states in part the Police Chief will provide a report to council regarding the City truck route ordinance and enforcement capability.

Background;

The City of Longview and the Longview Police department have received numerous complaints from a citizen regarding semi-trucks driving on Nichols Blvd specifically in the 1500 block and west of that location.

Discussion;

Chapter 11.68 of the Longview Municipal Code regulates truck routes and load restrictions on city streets.

11.68.010 states: By reason of the construction of certain streets and their weight-bearing capacity, it has been determined that gross weight exceeding 14,000 pounds will cause serious damage to such streets. All vehicles exceeding 14,000 pounds, originating outside the boundary of the city and terminating outside the boundary of the city shall use the streets designated in LMC 11.68.020 as forming a part of the city's truck route.

The truck routes designated in the city are Ocean Beach Highway from west city limits to Washington Way, 38th Ave from Ocean Beach to Industrial Way, Industrial Way from 38th Ave to 3rd Ave, 3rd Ave from Industrial Way to north city limits, West Side Highway from north city limits to south city limits.

This ordinance also states; all truck exceeding 14,000 pounds gross weight originating within or without the city limits and terminating within the city limits, traveling to or from a recognized truck service center, or making local deliveries **shall use the most direct route possible** to utilize the designated truck routes. The following streets, designated as "truck access routes" **may** be specifically used in gaining access to truck routes.

Truck access routes are Baltimore Street from 14th Ave to California Way, 11 Ave from California Way to Hemlock Street, California Way from 14th Ave to Industrial Way, Oregon Way from Industrial Way to Alabama Street, Alabama Street from Oregon Way to its easterly terminus.

11.68.040 prohibits trucks on certain streets. Those streets are Oregon Way from Alabama Street to Tennant Way, 14th Ave from Hemlock to Maple Street, Commerce Ave from Hemlock Street to Maple Street, 12th Ave from Hemlock Street to Maple Street.

Provided, however, that trucks exceeding 14,000 pounds gross weight may be operated upon the above described streets upon written approval of the director of public works given for good cause shown.

From an enforcement stand point this ordinance is very cumbersome. As indicated in part of this ordinance trucks exceeding 14,000 pounds that are making a delivery or going to a service center **shall use the most direct route possible** to utilize the designated truck route. GPS units vary in what is considered the most direct route to include using Nichols Blvd. This ordinance also states truck access routes “**may**” be used not shall be used also creating confusion for the truck drivers and enforcement officers. The police department finds it difficult to enforce vague ordinances with a variety of legal ways to not comply with the ordinance.

Recommendation;

1. The police department does not have the authority to designate truck routes or prohibit trucks from being on certain streets that is the responsibility of the director of public works. The police department would recommend adding to ordinance 11.68.040 to restrict all vehicles over 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating on Nichols Blvd from Ocean Beach Hwy to 15th Ave/Oregon Way.
2. Direct the city attorney to re-write the truck route ordinance so it is enforceable.
3. Leave the ordinance as is because the city is only receiving complaints from one person.

Respectfully,

Chief Jim Duscha