



Chandler • Arizona
Where Values Make The Difference

54

MAY 10 2007

MEMORANDUM

Public Works Department – Memo No. TE07-237

DATE: MAY 10, 2007

TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL

THRU: W. MARK PENTZ, CITY MANAGER
PAT MCDERMOTT, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
DANIEL W. COOK, ACTING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
MIKE NORMAND, ACTING ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
TRANSPORTATION & OPERATIONS

FROM: MIKE MAH, CITY TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER

SUBJECT: Four options for commercial vehicle weight restrictions along the section of Germann Road, up to, but not including the intersections of Hamilton Street and McQueen Road.

RECOMMENDATION: Council consider one of four options for commercial vehicle weight restrictions, along the section of Germann Road, up to, but not including the intersections of Hamilton Street and McQueen Road.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: At the April 26, 2007 City Council meeting, staff was directed to study and make recommendations regarding possible vehicular weight restrictions on Germann Road between McQueen Road and the Hamilton Street alignment.

Based upon our review of the situation on Germann Road, staff has determined that reducing the volume of heavy trucks in front of Tumbleweed Park and the future Park-and-Ride lot along Germann Road can be beneficial, and may be accomplished by restricting the movement of tractor-trailer units, and other heavy vehicles along this section of roadway.

To minimize the negative impacts of this weight restriction on businesses located on Germann Road between Hamilton Street and McQueen Road, it is recommended that a weight restriction be set sufficiently high to permit typical service trucks, farm vehicles, and lighter trucks to continue to drive Germann Road without the need to obtain a permit for each individual delivery. The use of a permit system is very onerous on citizens and truck drivers due to the need to plan ahead and having to await approval before using that section of Germann Road. It is also onerous on City office staff and police officers in having to issue and enforce such permits and may require additional full-time staffing. In all cases involving truck restrictions that do not

grant exemptions for local deliveries, permitting would be necessary for special one-time trips, construction of new buildings, or deliveries of materials to those properties within the restricted area.

Described below are a number of options for truck route restrictions on Germann Road, should City Council choose to go this route, roughly sorted from most stringent to most relaxed.

Option 1: “No Commercial Vehicles Over 26,000 lbs G.V.W. – Except Vehicles Contracted to the City, Buses, and Service Vehicles Incidental to Abutting Businesses”

Permitted Vehicles

Buses, City vehicles, and City contracted garbage pick-up services.

Prohibited Vehicles:

All dump trucks, tractor-trailers, private garbage trucks, large construction vehicles such as cranes, lumber or steel delivery, etc.

Pro’s

- Allows buses, vehicles conducting City business, and service delivery vehicles for private businesses.

Con’s

- Businesses would require special arrangements for pick-up of all non-City garbage using vehicles weighing less than 26,000 lbs.
- Requires approval by the City for special uses such as building construction.
- May be subject to litigation due to the impact on business operations.

Option 2: “No Commercial Vehicles Over 40,000 lbs G.V.W. – Except Vehicles Contracted to the City, Buses, and Service Vehicles Incidental to Abutting Businesses”

Permitted Vehicles

Buses, City vehicles, City contracted garbage pick-up services, service and delivery vehicles, some farm vehicles, light trucks, some dump trucks, and most large Class A motorhomes.

Prohibited Vehicles:

Private garbage trucks, some dump trucks, tractor-trailers, large construction vehicles such as cranes, steel delivery, etc.

Pro’s

- Allows buses, vehicles conducting City business, service delivery vehicles, and motorhomes.

Con's

- Requires approval by the City for special uses such as building construction.

Option 3: “No Commercial Vehicles Over 50,000 lbs G.V.W. – Except Vehicles Contracted to the City, Buses, and Service Vehicles Incidental to Abutting Businesses”

Permitted Vehicles

Buses, City vehicles, City contracted garbage pick-up services, service and delivery vehicles, some farm vehicles, some dump trucks, and most large Class A motorhomes, and smaller garbage trucks.

Prohibited Vehicles:

Large dump trucks, tractor-trailers, large construction vehicles such as cranes, steel delivery, and larger garbage trucks.

Pro's

- Allows buses, vehicles conducting City business, service delivery vehicles, motorhomes, and smaller garbage trucks.

Con's

- Requires approval by the City for special uses such as building construction.

Option 4: No Change

It has been determined that Option 2 – a 40,000-pound restriction, on commercial vehicles only, would achieve the objective of eliminating tractor-trailer units, and other heavy vehicles along Germann Road between Hamilton Street and McQueen Road, while at the same time, allow such vehicles as rental moving vans, delivery vans, and large motorhomes to continue to use Germann Road without any further action on their part. By setting a relatively high weight limit, it will reduce the amount of manpower required to conduct vehicle inspections (see Police Enforcement section below).

Truck restriction signs could be placed at the beginning and end limits of the weight restrictions, as well as up to one mile in advance so that drivers are able to detour at the nearest upstream arterial road prior to reaching the restricted section of Germann Road. These restrictions should apply to the section of Germann Road up to but not including the intersections of Hamilton Street and McQueen Road. This will ensure that truck movements at these two intersections are not unduly restricted. The wording of the signs will read “No Commercial Vehicles Over 40,000 lbs G.V.W. – except vehicles contracted to the City, buses, and service vehicles incidental to abutting businesses.”

These signs may be installed under the direction of the City Transportation Engineer, as authorized by City Code, and does not necessarily require a motion by City Council.

Police Enforcement

The Chandler Police Traffic Unit has a limited capacity to conduct commercial vehicle inspections and enforcement. The department received a grant for a commercial vehicle enforcement vehicle in 2006, which included a set of portable scales. Prior to this, commercial vehicle enforcement only occurred when DPS was able to assist the Traffic Unit with the proper equipment. Currently there are three traffic officers qualified to conduct commercial vehicle inspections that includes weighing the vehicle with portable scales. These officers focus primarily on construction vehicles as they pose the greatest risk to drivers due to their weight and type of loads. The unit is able to conduct approximately 4 commercial vehicle inspections a day. This limited number of inspections is due to the required logbook inspection, full brake inspection, additional 100+ potential equipment violations and accompanying documentation. Utilization of this resource at a specific location for weight enforcement would reduce its contribution to the traffic unit's comprehensive accident reduction plan

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Approximately 10 traffic signs at a total cost of \$1,000 are needed to put this weight restriction into effect. This cost can be absorbed within the Traffic Engineering Signing Budget.

PROPOSED MOTION: That Council direct the City Transportation Engineer to implement Option 2, a 40,000 lb commercial vehicle weight restriction along the section of Germann Road, up to, but not including the intersections of Hamilton Street and McQueen Road.

#54

May 10, 2007

The memo to this item will be available on Monday, May 7, 2007.