



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer /*kok*
Chris Larson, P.E., Engineering Division Manager, Public Works Department
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor Revisions – August 19, 2014
DATE: July 31, 2014

SUMMARY:

The Public Works Department is requesting City Council amend Title 11 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, Chapter 11.55 - Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor, by designating additional public streets in the Heavy Haul Corridor. The amended Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor will improve Port operations and efficiency.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability.
- Plan for and improve public infrastructure that meets the transportation needs of all Tacoma residents and visitors.

The Heavy Haul Corridor assists with the competitiveness of the Port and provides a funding source for improving transportation infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:

Public Works partnered with the Port of Tacoma, Port transload/warehouse companies, and the Washington State Department of Transportation to improve ocean-going container trucking operations. In July 2004, City Council passed Ordinance No. 27252 relating to special permits for the movement of vehicles in excess of the legal weight limits and amending Title 11 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) by adding Chapter 11.55 entitled “Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor.” This chapter allows trucks hauling sealed ocean-going containers traveling on designated routes in the Port of Tacoma to increase the maximum gross loads. The City Council determined that in limited circumstances the movement of over-legal-weight vehicles would serve important public interests by facilitating the transportation of goods and materials in commerce.

Chapter 46.44 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the City to issue a special permit allowing the applicant to operate a vehicle upon public roads of the City with a load exceeding the maximum weight set forth in state law. An annual special permit is offered by the City to the operator of a transload/warehouse company for each vehicle transporting sealed ocean-going containers on designated routes. The annual fee for each vehicle permit is \$3,000. The fees are used to repair, maintain and reconstruct industrial corridor roadways.

Public Works presented the proposed amendment to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee on June 25, 2014. The Committee approved a motion to forward the amendment to the full City Council for consideration.



ISSUE:

The Port industry requested additional streets be added to the existing list of Heavy Haul Industrial Corridors. This request is a result of recent changes in shipping terminal entry procedures and the construction of new terminals and warehouse facilities.

To relieve truck traffic on Port of Tacoma Road, the Port of Tacoma in conjunction with terminal operators has implemented new procedures for truck queuing at the terminal entry gates. In order to comply with the new procedures, commercial vehicle traffic has been routed onto streets not currently designated as Heavy Haul Industrial Corridors.

ALTERNATIVES:

The existing Chapter 11.55, Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor, may continue to function with the current list of designated streets. However, this is not a preferable option for the efficient movement of freight within the Port.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends amendment of Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 11.55 by adding the following streets to the Heavy Haul Industrial Corridor, as defined in Section 11.55.020 (C):

- Alexander Avenue from the north end to the south end of public right-of-way
- Lincoln Avenue from East Alexander Avenue to Taylor Way
- Thorne Road from Lincoln Avenue to East 11th Street
- Maxwell Way from Port of Tacoma Road to Thorne Road
- Milwaukee Way from East 11th Street to East Eells Street

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.