

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012, 4:00 P.M.
City Council Chamber, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ma'Ayn Johnson, Vice Chair
 Loren Doll
 John Kunselman
 John Carroll
 Rick Alvarez
 Rob Hallstrom

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Duncan, Chair

STAFF PRESENT Dave Langstaff, Traffic Engineering Analyst
 Lt. Scott Rudisil, Police Department
 Don Hoppe, Director of Engineering
 Becky Stevens, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Johnson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one from the public present who wished to speak on any matter not appearing on the agenda.

CONSENT

MOTION by Commissioner Carroll, seconded by Commissioner Kunselman, and carried unanimously by voting members present, that the Minutes of the March 5, 2011 meeting be APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

ITEM NO. 1
DISCUSSION OF TRUCK ROUTES AND TERMINALS

Traffic Engineering Analyst Langstaff gave a brief history of truck routes and terminals, which was introduced in 2010 at the request of the Police Department. The intent of the ordinance was three-fold: (1) to provide interstate and local commerce with expedient and efficient routing through the City; (2) allow for enforcement of a common vehicle weight restriction of 10,000 lbs. between Fullerton and the cities of Brea, Anaheim, Placentia, Buena Park and La Habra; and (3) reduce exposure to property damage caused by heavy commercial trucking, damage to traffic signal equipment, landscaping, roadway surfaces and overhead infrastructure and channel crossings.

Although the City has recognized the benefit of this ordinance, there have been complaints during the first year which warrant a review of the ordinance, per City Council direction. He stated that the City's intent to regulate heavy trucking has been successful and staff does not feel that any changes to the ordinance are necessary.

Staff reviewed the following:

- Adjacent land use
- Lane width
- Road conditions
- Turn limitations
- Traffic volumes
- Continuity of routes between cities

It is staff's opinion that there are presently four options regarding this matter:

- Retain ordinance as written
- Rescind the ordinance in its entirety
- Modifying the truck route map
- Modifying ordinance

Public hearing opened.

Rudy Salazar, 1911 W. Chapman Avenue, runs a trucking business out of his home. The weight of his truck is close to 15,000 lbs. Presently, the ordinance states that any vehicle over 10,000 lbs. is in the same classification as a semi-truck. He has to circle around the City to get to his residence, gas stations or restaurants. He appreciated the efforts of the Police Department to reduce the number of citations written, but felt it still makes it more difficult for truckers to operate their own business. He would like to see the routes removed completely, or have the map modified to open up more streets, or modify the weight restrictions. It is also more hazardous for pedestrians crossing major streets used as a truck route. The streets he would like reevaluated are Harbor, Chapman, Orangethorpe, and Commonwealth Avenue.

Commissioner Carroll noted that Brea's map shows its route ending at Bastanchury Road, and does not allow for continuity between these two cities.

Commissioner Alvarez wanted confirmation that trucks can actually move anywhere in the City if you take the most reasonable route and Lt. Rudisil confirmed that the ordinance does state "reasonable delivery route." He also referenced a memo from Acting Chief Hughes, which directed officers unfamiliar with the truck route ordinance to refrain from citing truck drivers. The numbers of citations has been significantly reduced (from 700+ in 2010 to 40). They are constantly reassessing their enforcement efforts and not citing lower weight trucks to make it convenient for people to do business in the City of Fullerton.

Commissioner Kunselman questioned what options a driver has coming from Brea to Fullerton City limits at Brea/Bastanchury. Analyst Langstaff stated that staff will revisit this area, due to the fact that each City has its own truck routes and weight restrictions.

Vice-Chairman Johnson asked if any other complaints had been received regarding this issue and Analyst Langstaff he had received only one. She asked if any workshops were held with commercial drivers before instigating the truck routes, and Analyst Langstaff answered negatively. Before the truck routes, the City was using "haul routes limited to Orangethorpe, State College, Bastanchury and the westerly portion of Malvern. Most trucks hauling heavy were restricted to those routes at that time.

Commissioner Kunselman asked for background on the change from 15,000 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. restriction. Lt. Rudisil noted that most surrounding agencies are at 6,000 lbs. Police feels truck routes are important and a necessary tool.

Commissioner Doll noted the streets showing wear and the safety issue for pedestrians.

Commissioner Carroll clarified that truck routes so that vehicles moving through the city are kept on a limited amount of streets. Anyone doing business in Fullerton are they allowed to travel on any street as long as they have business there? Staff, yes. What about if they want to go to lunch? Truck route drivers should have a pre-route prepared. Lt. Rudisil said most truck drivers are aware of truck routes and plan their trips accordingly.

Mr. Salazar also mentioned that the truck route signs are not placed the same way of other cities.

Commissioner Alvarez asked if Mr. Salazar could get a copy of the memo from the chief, and Lt. Rudisil said the memo was not public record, but Mr. Salazar could call Lt. Rudisil if he ever got a citation and he would take care of it.

Commissioner Doll reiterated that Mr. Salazar could use Euclid Street to go to his home, and Lt. Rudisil answered affirmatively. Mr. Salazar suggested posting weight limit signs on all City streets, which would help alleviate the problem.

Commissioner Alvarez moved to accept staff recommendations, Item No. 4. amending Ordinance No. 3145 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kunselman and carried unanimously by voting members present.

Vice-Chairman Johnson also wanted staff to look at the dangerous pedestrian intersections on the truck routes. Commissioner Hallstrom also wanted staff to look at continuity between cities and Analyst Langstaff indicated staff would do so and bring back finds to the Commission.

Commissioner Carroll suggested that staff contact the City of Brea to remove the Brea Blvd. route from the map so it doesn't look like trucks can go through.

Staff can also discuss reviewing the list of streets which Mr. Salazar feel should be modified. Then staff will bring back that list.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

There were no Council items on which to report.

STAFF/COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Kunselman noted that the truck route signs indicating where you can turn left or right, are extremely close to the intersection. Analyst Langstaff explained that in Fullerton the signs are 250/300 feet back from the intersection.

Commissioner Doll had heard the City was considering closing Nutwood Avenue. Engineering Director Hoppe reported that “College Town” is in the planning stages, with staff from Fullerton, CSUF and Hope University. The concept idea is to close Nutwood from the entrance to the parking on the east side of the campus to Titan. There would also be a piece across from Hope University which would be shut down and Commonwealth would become a cul-de-sac. Staff has looked at traffic impacts for this project, as well as OCTA and is now at CalTrans. The project is in the planning stages at this point.

Commissioner Hallstrom reported that he was turning in his resignation due to the increased workload at his job. He thanks his fellow commissioners and staff for the experience of being on the Transportation and Circulation Commission.

Carroll attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Puente Street Bridge and urged Commissioners to go out and look at it.

Vice-Chair Johnson attended the Traffic Commissioner workshop and said it was very worthwhile.

Becky Stevens
Administrative Assistant