
MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith

Date: 6/13/2011

Subject: **Discussion of Designated Truck Routes**

DESCRIPTION

Discussion of Designated Truck Routes

BACKGROUND

Upon incorporation, the City enacted a truck route ordinance based on the language in DeKalb County's ordinance and accepted the County's existing list of truck routes. Section 30-72 of the City's ordinance requires the truck route list to be renewed biannually by the governing authority.

DISCUSSION

The following roads are currently designated as truck routes within the City:

1. Chamblee Dunwoody Road from I-285 to the Sandy Springs city limit.
2. Mount Vernon Road from the western border with Sandy Springs to the northern border with Sandy Springs.
3. Winter's Chapel Road from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard (S.R. 141) to the Gwinnett County line.

Trucks are only allowed on other roads in the City if they are making deliveries or pickups. In such cases the ordinance requires delivery trucks to use the most direct route between one of the designated routes and the delivery location.

Due to their weight, trucks cause a disproportionate amount of pavement stress. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the City to limit truck access to those areas where it is commercially necessary. In reviewing the location of commercial areas, highway access and the truck route designations of bordering jurisdictions, staff proposes the following changes to the City's list of truck routes:

1. Move the northern limit of the Chamblee Dunwoody Road truck route from the Sandy Springs city limit south to the intersection with Roberts Drive. The land use north of this intersection is residential and the current route does not connect to a designated route in Sandy Springs.

2. Move the northern limit of the Winter's Chapel Road truck route from the Gwinnett County line south to the Peeler Road intersection. The land use north of this intersection is residential and Winter's Chapel is not designated as a truck route in Gwinnett.
3. Add Perimeter Center West as a truck route from the Sandy Springs border to Ashford Dunwoody Road. This connects to the Abernathy/Perimeter Center West truck route in Sandy Springs.
4. Add Ashford Dunwoody Road as a truck route from I-285 to Mount Vernon Road.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends adoption of the proposed changes to the truck routes within the City. In reviewing the truck route ordinance staff also suggests that the Council consider modifying the language of the ordinance to remove the requirement for biannual renewal by Council of the truck route list. This requirement seems more congruous with the needs of a large, developing County with changing land uses than a City with very little undeveloped area. Staff does not anticipate the need for frequent changes to the truck route list.