

South Carolina Department of Transportation  
Traffic Engineering Guidelines

**NUMBER:** TG-37

**SUBJECT:** Requests for Truck Routes and Truck Prohibitions

**BACKGROUND:** The Department frequently receives requests from local governments to restrict trucks on particular routes or to designate a truck route in a particular area. While there is guidance on Truck Prohibition signing available in the Supplement to the MUTCD, no official guidance has been in place regarding how to handle requests for truck routes and truck prohibitions. This guideline outlines the process for handling such requests.

Sections 56-5-4210 and 56-5-4220 of the South Carolina Code of Laws are related to this issue. Section 56-5-4210 gives the Department power to restrict certain vehicles on a designated roadway while Section 56-5-4220 gives further authority to local governments to restrict designated vehicle types on designated roads upon approval by the Department of Transportation.

This guideline is not related to requests for access to the South Carolina Truck Network which is covered under Section 56-5-4075 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and Chapter 63 Subarticle Seven of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Requests regarding access to the South Carolina Truck Network should be directed to the Director of Traffic Engineering.

**GUIDELINES:** The process for requesting and implementing truck routes and truck prohibitions is as follows:

1. A local government would request the section of roadway where they want to restrict through truck traffic (local truck traffic and deliveries must still be allowed) and must also recommend truck routing to bypass the restriction.
2. These requests will be handled at the District level with Headquarters Traffic Engineering providing assistance upon request from the District. District staff should review the requested truck routing to determine the feasibility of the truck restriction on the roadway segment and the alternate truck route. The review should consist of a determination if suitable alternate routes exist where trucks can make all the necessary turning maneuvers, not experience any known truck-related issues on the route, and the routing cannot be overly burdensome on the trucking industry (i.e.: the truck route to bypass a 0.5 mile restriction is 5 miles). In addition, the routing should not be adjacent to a school where it would interfere with

school traffic or utilize a solely residential roadway. The South Carolina Truck Network should be included in the review as well to verify that there are no conflicts with the requested prohibition or alternate route. Truck prohibitions will not be allowed on any route on the South Carolina Truck Network.

3. If no suitable alternate routing exists, the truck restriction should not be approved. However, the study should identify possible solutions, if available, to provide the necessary routing. It will be the responsibility of the requesting local governmental entity to identify funding for any necessary improvements.
4. If the review reveals that routing is feasible, SCDOT will request that the local government pass an ordinance for the restriction of the through truck traffic on the specified segment of roadway. This gives a legal description to the restriction and provides concurrence from the local government that will be responsible for enforcement of the restriction. This ordinance should also include or reference a description of the type of trucks prohibited which is typically a vehicle with greater than 6 wheels. This description permits small delivery trucks such as UPS/FedEx to operate without restriction and would not create issues with residents that drive dual-wheel pickup trucks.
5. Once SCDOT is notified that the ordinance has been passed, the District can decide if SCDOT will install the truck route and truck prohibition signing or if the requesting local government will install the signing under encroachment permit, in accordance with the MUTCD (latest edition) and the SCDOT Supplement to the MUTCD.
6. In some cases, a municipality may seek to provide an alternate or recommended route for trucks without passing specific ordinances or restrictions. In such a case, the truck route could be allowed but would not be enforceable by law. However, the general review process for the proposed alternate route would be the same as for truck routes where prohibitions or restrictions are enacted.

Approved:

  
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Director of Traffic Engineering

September 5, 2019  
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Date