Traffic Management/Access Control

Strategy: Designated Truck Route

Applies to trucks travelling on highways/major roadways, and local streets

Description

Designated truck routes require drivers to use certain roads, except for when they are accessing a facility to load or unload. Routes are identified with signage. When developing truck routes, planners must be aware of the regional transportation network and work collaboratively across municipal boundaries to ensure regulations are consistent and that there are no height or weight restrictions that would limit truck movements.

Goal

Designate truck routes that consider roadway geometries, height and weight restrictions, and traffic flows. Reduce noise in residential areas by moving trucks to designated routes.

Usually Combined With

- Truck Wayfinding
- Oversize and Overweight Vehicle Permitting

Implementer

- Government agencies

Supporting Stakeholders

- Businesses
- Property owners and developers
- Transportation operators

Action Items

- Collect data to identify truck routes, including truck volume on roads, location of industrial corridors, intermodal connectors, vertical clearance restrictions, weight-restricted bridges, lane widths of proposed routes, and look at adjacent land uses, which may be impacted by truck traffic.
- Create a clear reference map and ensure there is adequate signage to identify routes.
- Develop a plan to enforce the routes.

Challenges

- Designating truck routes may limit a driver’s ability to avoid congestion, which increases the truck’s vehicle miles travelled and decreases efficiency.
- Significant cooperation and consistency among jurisdictions is required to properly educate drivers and enforce truck routes.
**Examples**

**Truck Route Networks**

New York City Department of Transportation  

The city has nearly 1,000 miles of truck routes. Local truck routes were developed for trucks with origins or destinations within a borough and drivers can only use non-designated routes at the beginning or end of a trip. The city’s also has through truck routes for drivers with origins or destinations outside of the boroughs. NYCDOT publishes a map of truck routes in all five boroughs. Police or other authorized persons enforce these routes by checking driver documentation showing the trip’s origin and destination.

City of Oakland, California  
[bit.ly/OaklandTruckRoute](bit.ly/OaklandTruckRoute)

This port city has three classifications: through truck routes, local truck route and truck prohibited streets. West Oakland, the City of Oakland and the Port of Oakland work together to address truck routing issues, including utilization rates, signage and enforcement.

**Commercial Vehicle Height Monitoring System Cameras**

Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
[bit.ly/BaltimoreHeightMonitoring](bit.ly/BaltimoreHeightMonitoring)

The city installed cameras to detect commercials vehicles travelling on roads with bans on truck usage. Photos and video are used to identify the vehicle and enforce the restrictions. Drivers caught travelling on restricted roads are issued a warning the first time, after that they are issued a $250 fine, which increases to $500 for subsequent offenses. As of July 2017, Baltimore had six cameras monitoring commercial vehicles.