



## **City of Hattiesburg**

### **Proposed Truck Route Ordinance Amendments FAQ**

#### **What should residents or businesses know?**

The proposed changes do not ban commercial deliveries or necessary service calls. They are intended to keep large truck traffic on approved routes whenever possible, limit unnecessary truck traffic through neighborhoods and give the City clearer rules for enforcement.

#### **Why is the City updating its truck route ordinance?**

The City is proposing updates to clarify where large commercial trucks can travel, reduce unnecessary truck traffic through neighborhoods and residential streets, and make the ordinance easier to enforce. The ordinance is intended to keep heavy truck traffic on streets that are better suited for it while still allowing necessary deliveries, service calls and permitted trips.

#### **What vehicles would this ordinance apply to?**

The ordinance would generally apply to large commercial trucks with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, or GVWR, of 26,001 pounds or more. This includes certain large single vehicles and combination vehicles, such as a truck and trailer, when their combined rating meets or exceeds 26,001 pounds.

#### **Does this apply to regular pickup trucks or personal vehicles?**

No. Personal vehicles and pickup trucks with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds would not be considered commercial trucks under this ordinance.

#### **What vehicles are not covered or are exempt?**

The ordinance includes exemptions for several types of vehicles, including:

- Emergency vehicles, including Hattiesburg Fire Department apparatuses.
- Motor homes and recreational vehicles.
- Farm tractors and equipment used for agricultural activity.
- Utility vehicles performing utility installation, maintenance, repair or emergency restoration work.
- Road construction and maintenance equipment actively being used on projects within the city.
- City-owned vehicles performing City work.

- Vehicles operating under a written City contract, if they follow an approved contractor route authorization.

### **Can trucks still make deliveries to homes or businesses?**

Yes. Commercial trucks may still travel off a designated truck route when making a specific delivery, pickup or service call. The truck must use the most direct route from the nearest truck route to the destination, then return to a designated truck route as soon as the delivery, pickup or service call is complete.

### **Would drivers need proof of a delivery or service call?**

Yes. Drivers using the local delivery exception would need documentation showing the specific delivery or service destination. This could include a delivery manifest, work ticket, purchase order or similar document. The documentation would need to be provided to law enforcement if requested.

### **Can trucks use residential streets as shortcuts?**

No. The ordinance would not allow commercial trucks to use prohibited streets as shortcuts or through-routes. The delivery and service-call exception is only for reaching a specific destination.

### **Are there special rules for the largest trucks?**

Yes. Under the proposed changes, trucks with a GVWR of 33,001 pounds or more would have additional restrictions on residential streets. Those trucks generally would not be allowed to use prohibited residential streets unless they have a City-issued special permit or an approved contractor route authorization.

### **What if a truck is stored at a business located on a prohibited route?**

A commercial truck may still leave or return to its normal storage location if that location is at a commercial or industrial site within the city. The truck must use the most direct route between that location and the nearest designated truck route.

### **What roads are proposed as designated truck routes?**

The proposed designated truck routes are grouped below for easier reference:

- **Major highways and interstates:**
  - U.S. Highway 49, within the full extent of the city limits.
  - Interstate 59, within the full extent of the city limits.
  - U.S. Highway 98, also known as Hardy Street, from the western city limits to U.S. Highway 49.
  - U.S. Highway 11, including portions known as Veterans Memorial Drive and Broadway Drive, from the southern city limits to the U.S. Highway 49 interchange.

- Old Highway 42, also known as James Boykin Memorial Drive, from U.S. Highway 49 to the city limits.
- **Industrial and commercial connector routes:**
  - James Street, from U.S. Highway 98 to Edwards Street.
  - Edwards Street, from U.S. Highway 49 to its full extent within the city limits.
  - JM Tatum Industrial Drive, from James Street to U.S. Highway 49.
  - W.L. Runnels Industrial Drive, from U.S. Highway 98 to JM Tatum Industrial Drive.
  - Old U.S. Highway 98, from U.S. Highway 98 to U.S. Highway 49.
  - Bouie Street, also known in part as Gordon Street, within the full extent of the city limits and connecting to Old Highway 42.

### **Can the City temporarily change truck routes?**

Yes. Temporary changes could be made for construction, infrastructure repairs or emergencies. Temporary changes would require approval from appropriate City officials and could not last more than 180 days without City Council review.

### **Will truck routes have signs?**

Yes. The City would post locally maintained truck routes with appropriate signage. State-maintained routes would be handled by the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

### **How would special permits work?**

The Hattiesburg Police Department could issue a special permit for a truck movement that would otherwise not be allowed. A permit would be for one round trip or one coordinated movement on a specific route. It would not allow repeated or regular use of a prohibited route.

### **Does a state oversize or overweight permit allow trucks to use any city street?**

No. A state permit does not automatically allow a truck to travel on streets that are not designated truck routes. If a state-permitted movement needs to use a non-designated city street, the carrier would need to notify the Hattiesburg Police Department before the movement.

### **What are the penalties for violating the ordinance?**

Violations would be misdemeanors. A first violation would carry a fine of at least \$250. Repeat violations within one year could result in higher fines and additional penalties.

### **When would the ordinance take effect?**

If approved, the ordinance would take effect 30 days after passage.