

City of Los Alamitos

Agenda Report Discussion Items

July 20, 2009
Item No: 8D

To: Mayor Troy Edgar & Members of the City Council
Via: Jeffrey L. Stewart, City Manager
From: Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director
Subject: Consideration of an Analysis of Truck Weight Limits on Lexington Drive

Summary: An analysis of Lexington Drive weight limits as requested by Council during the July 6, 2009, Council meeting.

Recommendation: Receive and File.

Background

During the July 6, 2009, Council meeting, Council requested information regarding weight limits on Lexington Drive. In completing an analysis, staff reviewed the City's Municipal Code, the City's Master Plan of Highways, previous resolutions as well as the City's General Plan. The issue arose when Seal Beach City Council addressed large trucks by voting to post signs on Lampson Avenue reminding the public that trucks heavier than three (3) tons are prohibited from making regular trips along Lampson

The weight limit for all streets within the City of Los Alamitos is four (4) tons, unless the City Council has adopted a resolution designating a street (or portion of) as a "truck route." The City's 2001 General Plan designates two "truck routes"; Katella Avenue and Los Alamitos Boulevard. To the contrary, Resolution No. 1496, adopted by City Council in 1994, designates Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos Boulevard, Ball Road, Cerritos Avenue and portions of Bloomfield Street as truck routes. The same Resolution prohibits vehicles over four (4) tons from portions of Catalina Street, Pine Street, Reagan Street and Cherry Street. Resolution No. 1496, which designated five streets as "truck routes" was not incorporated into the adopted 2001 General Plan.

The Los Alamitos' Master Plan of Highways fails to designate Lexington Drive within a category. The City has adopted the OCTA's Master Plan of Highways, which also fails to designate Lexington Drive south of Katella Avenue. Both plans designate Lexington Drive north of Katella Avenue as secondary streets. A secondary arterial is designed

as a four lane undivided roadway with a typical right-of-way width of 82 feet designed to accommodate a maximum of 24,000 daily vehicle trips.

There is an exemption to the weight limit within Chapter 10.20.010 of the Los Alamitos Municipal Code, which allows trucks that exceed four (4) tons to deliver to any building or structure. The specific language from the Los Alamitos Municipal Code is as follows:

10.20.010 Truck routes.

A. *Whenever any resolution of this city designates and describes any street or portion thereof as a street the use of which is permitted by any vehicle exceeding a maximum gross weight limit of four tons, the city engineer is authorized to designate such street or streets by appropriate signs as "truck routes" for the movement of vehicles exceeding a maximum gross weight limit of four tons.*

B. *When any such truck route or routes are established and designated by appropriate signs, the operator of any vehicle exceeding a maximum gross weight limit of four tons shall drive on such route or routes and none other except that nothing in this section shall prohibit the operator of any vehicle exceeding a maximum gross weight of four tons coming from a "truck route" having ingress and egress by direct route to and from restricted streets when necessary for the purpose of making pickups or deliveries of goods, wares and merchandise from or to any building or structure located on such restricted streets or for the purpose of delivering materials to be used in the actual and bona fide repair, alteration, remodeling or construction of any building or structure upon such restricted streets for which a building permit has previously been obtained therefore.*

C. *The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) passenger buses under the jurisdiction of the public utilities commission; or to (2) any vehicle owned by a public utility while necessarily in use in the construction, installation or repair of any public utility.*

D. *Those streets and parts of streets established by resolution of the council are declared to be truck routes for the movement of vehicles exceeding a maximum gross weight of four tons.*

Seal Beach Code

Staff has also included the language from Seal Beach Municipal Code that addresses the same issue as follows:

§ 8.10.120 Truck Routes.

A. *Designation. The city council may by resolution designate streets and parts of streets as truck routes for movement of vehicles exceeding a maximum gross weight of 3 tons.*

B. Prohibition. No person shall operate a vehicle exceeding a maximum gross weight of 3 tons on any street that is not part of a truck route designated by city resolution and indicated by appropriate signs.

C. Exemptions. This section shall not apply to the following:

1. A vehicle that is subject to Public Utilities Code Sections 1031 to 1045, inclusive.

2. A commercial vehicle coming from an unrestricted street having ingress and egress by direct route to and from a restricted street when necessary for the purpose of making pickups or deliveries of goods, wares and merchandise from or to any building or structure located on the restricted street or for the purpose of delivering materials to be used in the actual and bona fide repair, alteration, remodeling or construction of any building or structure upon the restricted street for which a building permit has previously been obtained.

3. A vehicle owned by a public utility or a licensed contractor while necessarily used in the construction, installation or repair of any public utility.

§ 8.10.125 Commercial Vehicles.

The traffic engineer shall erect and maintain appropriate signs to indicate those streets on which commercial vehicles have been prohibited by city council resolution.

As stated above, on June 8, 2009, the Seal Beach City Council addressed the issue of heavy trucks traveling on Lampson Avenue by voting to place signs on Lampson Avenue reminding the public that trucks heavier than three (3) tons are prohibited from making regular trips along Lampson. As with the Los Alamitos Municipal Code, Seal Beach staff has stated that moving trucks, neighborhood trash trucks and tanker trucks delivering to the Chevron Gas Station are exempt. In summary, the weight limit on Lexington Drive is four (4) tons unless the vehicle is making pick-ups or deliveries of goods, wares and merchandise.

General Plan Goals and Objections

It is important to point out that there are several goals established within the City's General Plan that may be useful information in regards to the base:

Policy 5-1.2 *Employ feasible mitigation measures so that levels of service of nearby arterials and intersections are not degraded by traffic to and from the Armed Forces Reserve Center.*

Implementation 5-1.1.5 *Continue to work with Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) administration so that traffic flows to and from the AFRC do not impact City standards and level of service goals.*

Policy 5-2.2 Take feasible steps to minimize traffic impacts to residential areas to and from the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Implementation 5-2.2.2 Continue to work with AFRC administration so that traffic flows to and from the AFRC do not adversely impact local residential neighborhoods.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Los Alamitos.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Steven A. Mendoza
Community Development Director

Jeffrey L. Stewart
City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 1496
2) General Plan Master Plan of Arterial Highways
3) General Plan Truck Routes
4) Resolution 1368

RESOLUTION NO. 1496

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS ESTABLISHING TRUCK ROUTES WITHIN THE CITY AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 1368

WHEREAS, Chapter 12 of the Municipal Code provides that the City Council may designate truck routes in the City by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, residents have expressed concern over the volume of truck traffic along nearby local streets; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that truck traffic creates a negative impact for noise and emissions to residential neighborhoods within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the area has mixed land uses of residential and industrial which imposes traffic hardships on both land uses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has recognized that the structural pavement section of local streets are not adequate to sustain above average truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that certain roadway widths are inadequate to accommodate on-street parking and truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need for limited truck traffic within the City of Los Alamitos;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Los Alamitos that the following truck routes shall be established:


Section 1. The following are designated as truck routes:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Katella Avenue: | City limit to City limit. |
| 2. | Ball Road: | City limit to City limit. |
| 3. | Cerritos Avenue: | City limit to City limit. |
| 4. | Los Alamitos Blvd.: | City limit to City limit. |
| 5. | Bloomfield Street: | Between Katella Avenue and Cerritos Avenue. |

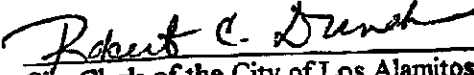
Section 2. Vehicles weighing over four tons in gross vehicle weight are hereby prohibited on the following reaches of roadway:

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Catalina Street: | Los Alamitos Blvd. to Cherry St. |
| 2. | Pine Street: | Florista St. to Catalina St. |
| 3. | Reagan St.: | Katella Ave. to Catalina St. |
| 4. | Cherry St.: | Florista St. to Catalina St. (South) |

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of February,
1994.


Mayor of the City of Los Alamitos

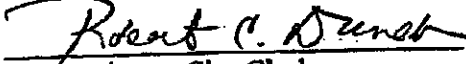
ATTEST:


City Clerk of the City of Los Alamitos

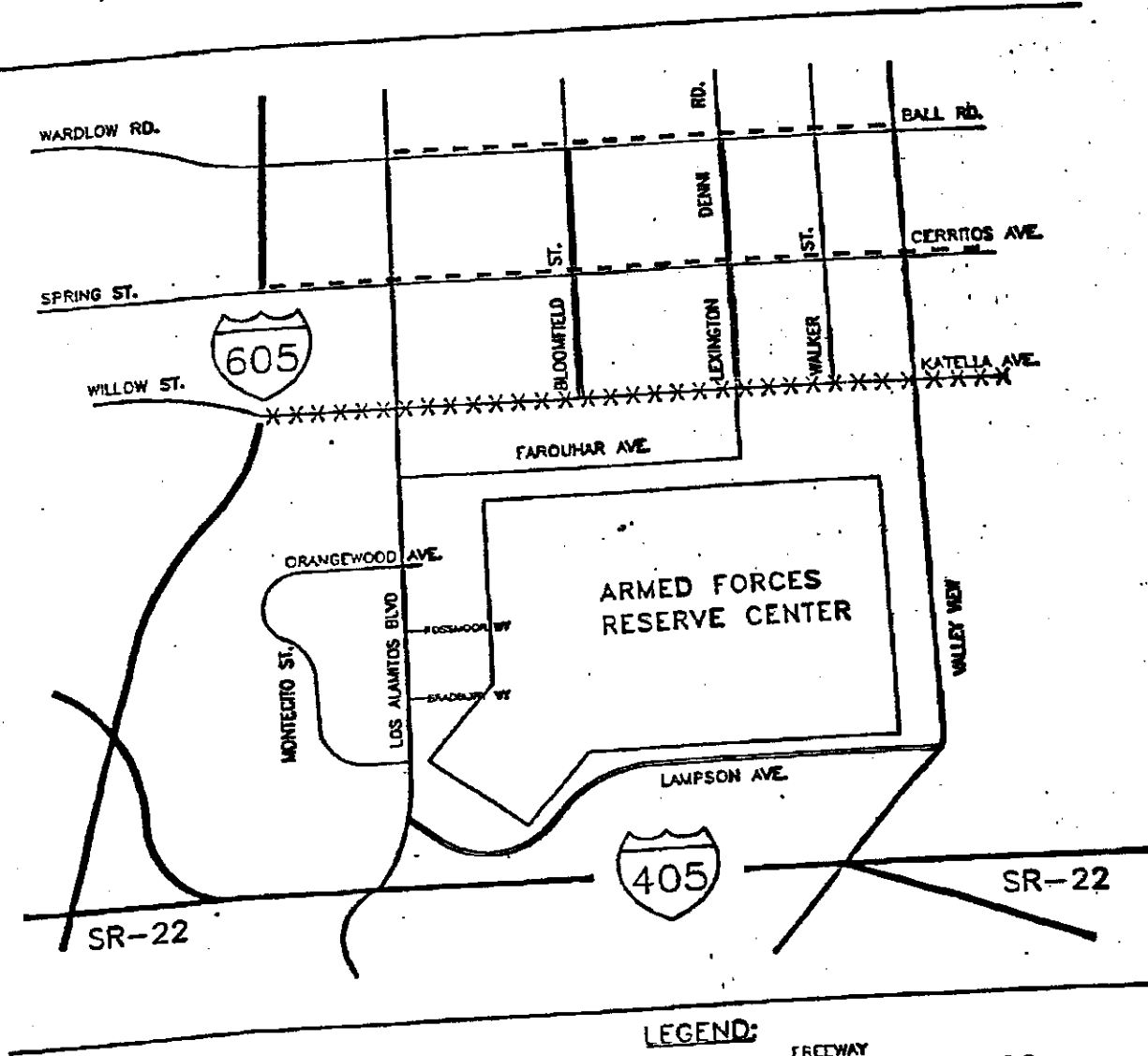
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS)

I, Robert C. Dunek, City Clerk of the City of Los Alamitos, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted on February 28, 1994, by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Selvaggi, Bates, Jemsa, Sylvia, Wahlstrom
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None


City Clerk

The City of Los Alamitos General Plan
GENERAL PLAN

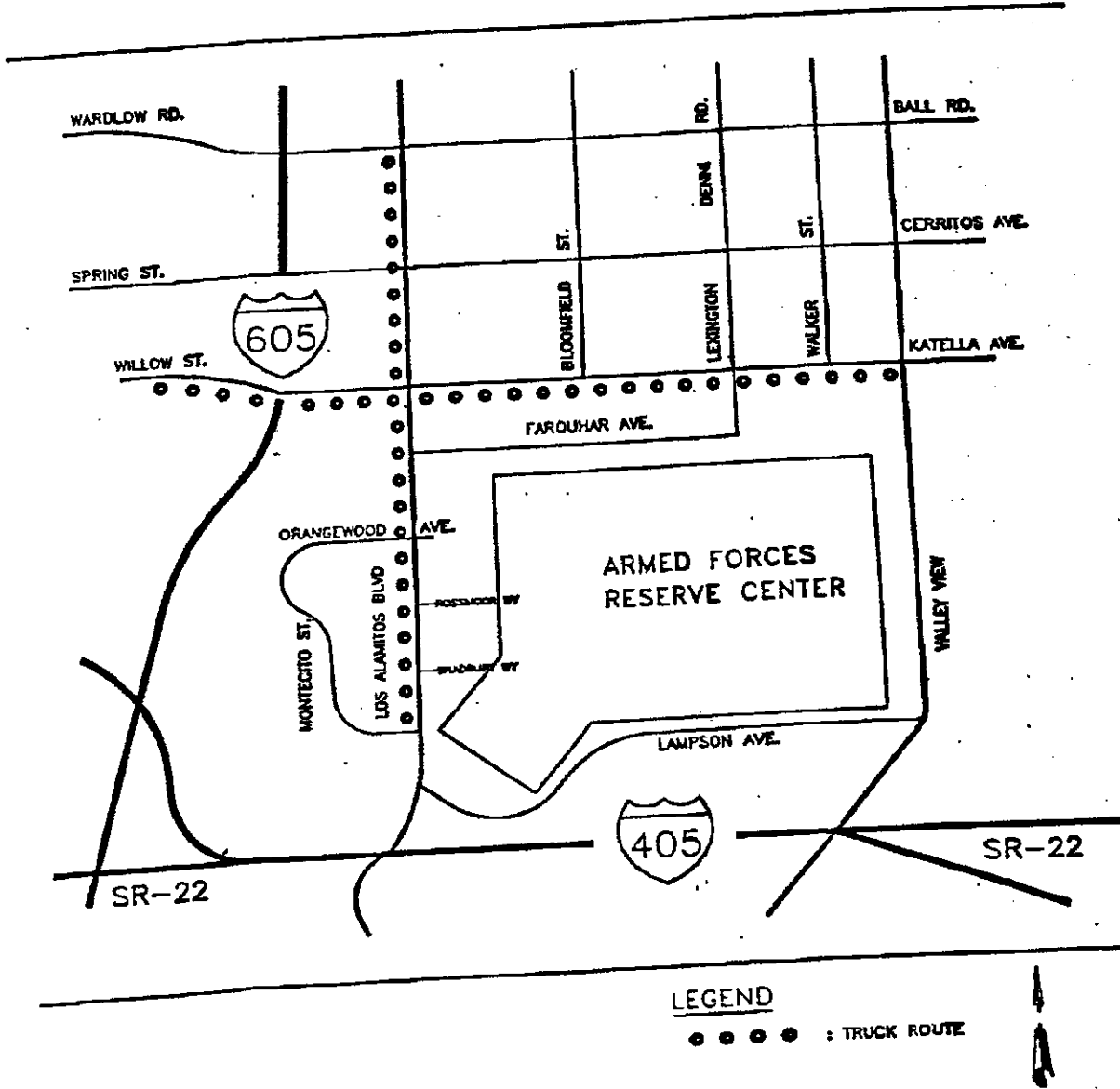


CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

MASTER PLAN OF ARTERIAL HIGHWAYS

FIGURE 5-2

The City of Los Alamitos General Plan
GENERAL PLAN



CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

TRUCK ROUTES
FIGURE 5-15

RESOLUTION NO. 1368.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS ESTABLISHING TRUCK ROUTES WITHIN THE CITY AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 981.

WHEREAS, Chapter 12 of the Municipal Code provides that the City Council may designate truck routes in the City by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said truck routes are a negative impact to residential neighborhoods within the City, and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need for limited truck traffic within the City of Los Alamitos.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Los Alamitos that the following truck routes shall be established:

Section 1. The following are designated as truck routes:

- 1. Katella Avenue: City limit to City limit.
- 2. Ball Road: City limit to City limit.
- 3. Cerritos Avenue: City limit to City limit.
- 4. Los Alamitos Blvd: City limit to City limit.
- 5. Bloomfield Street: Between Katella Avenue and Cerritos Avenue.

Section 2. Res. No. 981 is hereby repealed.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of May 1991.

Alice J. Jemsa
Mayor of the City of Los Alamitos

ATTEST:

Robert C. Dunek
City Clerk of the City of Los Alamitos

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) SS
CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS)

I, Robert C. Dunek, City Clerk of the City of Los Alamitos, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Alamitos at a Regular Meeting held on the 13th day of May 1991, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Jemsa, Bates, Selvaggi, Sylvia,
Wahlstrom
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

Robert C. Dunek
City Clerk