



City of Arts & Innovation

Mobility & Infrastructure Committee

TO: MOBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE **DATE: MAY 13, 2021**
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARD: 4**
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF 5-TON WEIGHT LIMIT & AXLE RESTRICTIONS – COYOTE BUSH ROAD & SEGMENT OF WESTBOUND VAN BUREN BOULEVARD – DIRECT SUBMITTAL

ISSUES:

Consideration of: 1) Establishment of a 5-ton weight limit restriction on Coyote Bush Road from Van Buren Boulevard to Aptos Lane; and 2) Establishment of an axle restriction prohibiting use by commercial vehicles exceeding three (3) axles on westbound Van Buren Boulevard from Coyote Bush Road to Dauchy Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Mobility & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the City Council approve:

1. Establishment of a 5-ton weight limit restriction on Coyote Bush Road from Van Buren Boulevard to Aptos Lane; and
2. Establishment of an axle restriction prohibiting use by commercial vehicles exceeding three (3) axles on westbound Van Buren Boulevard from Coyote Bush Road to Dauchy Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department may establish weight limit or axle restrictions to prohibit the use of select streets by larger commercial vehicles. These restrictions reduce commercial truck traffic on certain local, residential, and collector roadways by directing truck traffic onto arterial roads. Weight limit restrictions assist in preserving the pavement and promoting safe use of streets that may have specific roadway conditions, are residential in nature, or experience cut-through truck traffic. Such restrictions do not prevent use for the purpose of delivering or picking up materials/merchandise or the performance of services in connection with a property within the specific block.

On April 4, 2021, the Transportation Board unanimously recommended that the Mobility & Infrastructure review and provide guidance on a proposed 5-ton weight limit restriction on Coyote Bush Road and a proposed restriction for commercial vehicles exceeding three (3) axles along Van Buren Boulevard as detailed within the recommendations of this report.

DISCUSSION:

Coyote Bush Drive 5-ton weight limit proposal:

Residents have reported that commercial trucks exiting the March Joint Powers Authority (March JPA) commercial warehouse facility (located on the south side of Van Buren Boulevard) are proceeding straight from the signalized driveway exit (northbound crossing Van Buren Boulevard onto Coyote Bush Road) to bypass the existing left-turn restriction exiting the March JPA property. Trucks are said to then proceed northbound on Coyote Bush Road, turn left onto Aptos Lane and either turn around within the Amelia Earhart Middle School parking lot and return to Van Buren Boulevard, making a permissible right turn to head westbound; or are continuing westbound on Aptos Lane and turning left onto Barton Road to legally access westbound Van Buren Boulevard via a right turn from Barton Road.

The left-turn restriction was implemented as a condition of development for the March JPA project to prevent a high volume of commercial trucks originating from the facility from traveling through the City to reach the SR-91 or SR-60 freeways or other connecting destinations and direct them eastbound on Van Buren Boulevard to the nearby I-215 freeway.

The proposed restriction would further deter illegal westbound truck traffic on Van Buren Boulevard by eliminating the currently legal option for trucks to make northbound cut-through movements and bypass the left-turn restriction exiting March JPA by utilizing the residential neighborhood streets which are occupied by Tomas Rivera Elementary, Amelia Earhart Middle School, as well as residential properties. The weight limit restriction would provide an additional measure to support the intended route of commercial trucks exiting March JPA via eastbound Van Buren Boulevard to access the I-215 Freeway to get to their destinations rather than going through the City along Van Buren Boulevard to reach other connecting freeways such as the SR-91 or SR-60. The proposed weight limit restriction will also improve safety on Coyote Bush Road north of Van Buren Boulevard, which is occupied by residential properties, Tomas Rivera Elementary, and connection to nearby Amelia Earhart Middle School.

Westbound Van Buren Boulevard axle restriction:

The proposed axle restriction will address cut-through commercial truck traffic utilizing this westbound Van Buren Boulevard segment to bypass congestion on the nearby I-215 Freeway. The axle restriction would also aid in reducing safety and noise concerns created by large truck use and preventing excessive asphalt damage on this segment of roadway.

Van Buren Boulevard between Coyote Bush Drive and Dauchy Avenue has shared City and County jurisdiction with the westbound lanes located within the City and the eastbound lanes situated within the County. Following receipt of resident input regarding cut-through commercial truck traffic on westbound Van Buren Boulevard, the Public Works Department met and consulted with the County of Riverside regarding the matter, and the County now supports the establishment of the proposed axle restriction. The County has authorized the City to install signage within their jurisdiction in advance of the restriction to notify truck drivers

and provide them ample opportunity to take an alternate route or return eastbound to the I-215 Freeway should the proposal be recommended by City Transportation Board members, subsequently recommended by the Infrastructure & Mobility Committee members, and ultimately approved by City Council. If approved, the City would fabricate and initially install all necessary axle restrictions and advance warning signs, and the County would be responsible for future maintenance of the signs located within their jurisdiction.

Implementation of the proposed axle restriction would aid in regulating heavy truck traffic on this segment of westbound Van Buren Boulevard, keeping larger trucks on local area freeways promoting safer operations, and reducing impacts to residential neighborhoods which back up to Van Buren Boulevard. Trucks with more than three (3) axles directly en route to business locations in the vicinity and/or engaged in pick-up or delivery activities within this area would be in compliance with the regulations and not considered in violation of the posted axle restrictions. Additionally, trucks traveling westbound on Van Buren Boulevard entering the March JPA facility at Coyote Bush Drive would not be impacted by the proposed axle restriction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of sign fabrication and installation for the proposed Coyote Bush Drive 5-ton weight limit restriction is estimated to be \$400, and the cost of sign fabrication and installation for the proposed westbound Van Buren Boulevard axle restriction is to be determined with an approximate range between \$1,000 and \$4,000. Funding is available in the existing Public Works, General Fund, Streets Maintenance Division, Signing Supplies account number 4110100-424143, to cover these costs.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Coyote Bush Drive - Site Map
2. Coyote Bush Drive - Aerial Map
3. Coyote Bush Drive - Google Image
4. Van Buren Boulevard – Site Map
5. Van Buren Boulevard – Aerial Map
6. Presentation