

*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: JULY 6, 2021**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT      WARD: 4**

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF 5-TON WEIGHT LIMIT & AXLE RESTRICTIONS ON  
COYOTE BUSH ROAD & SEGMENT OF WESTBOUND VAN BUREN  
BOULEVARD - ORDINANCE**

## **ISSUES:**

Establishment of: 1) a 5-ton weight limit restriction on Coyote Bush Road from Van Buren Boulevard to Aptos Lane; and 2) 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 City Council introduce and adopt an ordinance to:

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

## **TRANSPORTATION BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

On April 7, 2021, the Transportation Board (Board) reviewed this matter; seven of eight members were present. The Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Infrastructure & Mobility Committee review and provide recommendations to the City Council regarding establishment of the proposed 5-ton weight limit and axle restrictions on designated segments of Coyote Bush Road and westbound Van Buren Boulevard.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On May 13, 2021, the Mobility and Infrastructure Committee met to review this matter; all three members were present. The Committee unanimously recommended that the City Council approve establishment of the proposed 5-ton weight limit and axle restrictions on the designated segment of Coyote Bush Road and westbound Van Buren Boulevard respectively.

## **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/or collector roadways by directing truck traffic onto arterial roadways. Weight limit restrictions assist in preserving the pavement and promoting safe use of streets that may have distinctive roadway conditions, are residential in nature, or experience cut-through truck traffic. Such restrictions do not prevent use to deliver or pick up materials/merchandise or the performance of services in connection with a property within the specific block.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Coyote Bush Road:**

The Public Works Department proposes establishment of a 5-ton weight limit restriction on Coyote Bush Road from Van Buren Boulevard to Aptos Lane to prohibit cut-through commercial truck traffic on this residential street. 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 Amelia Earhart Middle School parking lot returning to Van 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 the high volume of commercial trucks which originate 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 originating from the March JPA facility by eliminating the currently legal option for trucks to make northbound through movements and bypass the left-turn restriction exiting March JPA by utilizing the residential neighborhood streets which are occupied by Tomas Rivera Elementary and Amelia Earhart Middle Schools 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 the Coyote Bush Road north of Van Buren Boulevard, which is occupied by residential properties and Tomas Rivera Elementary, and connect to nearby Earhart Middle School.

### **Westbound Van Buren Boulevard:**

The Public Works Department is proposing establishment of an axle restriction prohibiting use by commercial trucks exceeding three (3) axles on westbound Van Buren Boulevard from Coyote Bush Road to Dauchy Avenue. The proposed axle restriction will address cut-through commercial truck traffic utilizing this segment of westbound Van Buren Boulevard 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 Road 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 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 restriction and advance warnings signs and the County would be responsible for future maintenance of the signs located within their jurisdiction.

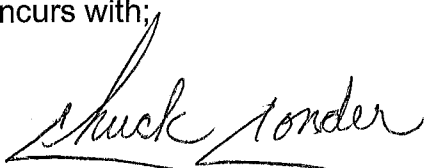
Implementation of the proposed axle restriction would aid in regulating heavy truck traffic on this segment of westbound Van Buren Boulevard, keeping larger trucks on local area freeways promoting safer operations, and reducing impacts to residential neighborhoods which back up to Van Buren Boulevard. Trucks in excess of three (3) axles that are directly en-route to businesses locations in the vicinity and/or engaged in pick-up and/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 Road would not be impacted by the proposed axle restriction.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact of this recommendation is estimated to be a maximum of \$4,400. The cost of sign fabrication and installation for the proposed Coyote Bush Road 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 of between \$1,000 and \$4,000. Funding is available in the General Fund, Public Works 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

Concurs with:



Councilmember Chuck Conder, Chair  
Mobility and Infrastructure Committee

**Attachments:**

1. Coyote Bush Road - Site Map
2. Coyote Bush Road - Google Image
3. Van Buren Boulevard – Site Map
4. Transportation Board Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2021
5. Mobility and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2021
6. PowerPoint Presentation