



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00774

Agenda Date: 12/5/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Discussion on Establishing a Regulated Truck Routes System in Alachua County

Presenter:

Ramon D. Gavarrete, Public Works Director

Description:

Discussion on Establishing Regulated Truck Routes System in Alachua County.

Recommended Action:

Based on the materials attached, there 43 Road Segments with travel lanes less than 11 feet wide. Direct staff to discuss with the Florida Highway Patrol/Office of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (FHP) for enforcement on the currently posted road segments and establishing a County-Wide Truck Route System Map.

Prior Board Motions:

On May 23, 2023, the Board directed staff to bring back information on Discussion on Establishing a Regulated Truck Routes System in Alachua County

Fiscal Note:

There are existing funds for signage in account: 149.79.7910.541.53.00 depending on the extent of roads falling under this classification, additional funds might need to be designated.

Strategic Guide:

Public Safety, Infrastructure

Background:

Florida Statute 316.515 Maximum width, height, length, provides direction on Truck Restrictions (attached). "The total outside width of any vehicle or the load thereon may not exceed 102 inches, exclusive of safety devices determined by the department to be necessary for the safe and efficient operation of motor vehicles. The use of public roads that do not have at least one through lane of 12 feet or more in width in each direction, and the use of public roads deemed unsafe for wider vehicles on the basis of safety and engineering analyses, by vehicles exceeding 96 inches in width may be restricted by the Department of Transportation or by local officials for streets and roads under their respective jurisdictions."

Around the County, Alachua Public Works has posted weight limits on several roadways. Most of the weight restrictions are imposed due to bridge loading limitations as per the bridge reports executed by

the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). There are “Low Weight Limit” roadways that will limit the type and sizes of trucks in certain areas. With that said, the county must give drivers advanced warning (through signage) that there is a low limit roadway ahead. This signage would need (usually) to be where there is an alternate route the driver could take before going over the low weight limit roadway.

Enforcement of the already established truck weight restrictions and “No Through Truck” routes is always challenging. The County has, in the past, sent letters to the Florida Highway Patrol/Office of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (FHP) requesting them to enforce such areas. If a letter is not sent, requesting enforcement, only current weight laws will be enforced. It is important to ensure “proper” signage because the commercial motor vehicle review board will not uphold a weight or size case if there is no proper signage of alternates and advanced warning.

It is not difficult to enforce from a local law enforcement standpoint, they can issue citations to the drivers for failing to obey a traffic control device. FHP can issue overweight penalties to the motor carrier at 5 cents per pound over the legal limit.

Other jurisdictions have established Truck Route System maps and regulations. Amongst them, the City of Gainesville. Gainesville’s map is attached and basically designates the State Roads as the Truck Routes with the exception of those through the City. Unfortunately, the map is only as good as enforcement, and trucks continue to use the restricted roadways.

Attached you will find the following information prepared by Public Works staff for discussion purposes:

1. MAP 230920 Collector Roads PCI 36 With Truck Counts
2. MAP 231023 VERIFIED Collector Roads less than 22ft wide
3. MAP 231120 Alachua County Truck Restriction Roadways
4. LIST 2311120 VERIFIED Collector Roads Less Than 22ft Wide
5. LIST 2311120 Collector, Local Roads PCI Less Than 50
6. LIST 231120 Current Alachua County Truck Restrictions
7. STATUTE 316.515 Maximum Width, Height, Length

If it is the direction of the Board of County Commissioners to continue the process, Public Works staff will engage with the County’s Growth Management Department for assistance. It is necessary to adopt regulations in order to assist in the enforcement of an adopted Truck Route System map. Furthermore, it will be necessary to engage the Florida Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area.

In addition to the above, staff is providing several examples of Truck System Route Maps from other Florida jurisdictions.

1. MAP City of Gainesville - Truck-Route-Map
2. MAP Pinellas County - Truck-Route-Map
3. MAP Hillsborough County - Truck-Route-Map
4. MAP Downtown Orlando - Truck-Route-Map
5. MAP City of Tampa - Truck-Route-Map
6. MAP City of Jacksonville - Truck-Route-Map
7. ARTICLE City of Jacksonville - Truck-Route-Map