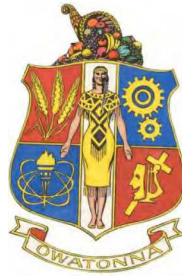


THE CITY OF



OWATONNA

Kris M. Busse
City Administrator

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Email: Kris.Busse@ci.owatonna.mn.us

DATE: January 16, 2015
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Kris M. Busse, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Opposition to increasing truck size or weight on public roads

Purpose:

Approval of Resolution 10-15 opposing an increase in the size and weight of trucks allowed on public roads.

Background:

The city was made aware of a current proposal in legislature to raise the state's weight limit for semi-trucks on public roads from 80,000 pounds to 97,000 pounds. This will have several negative effects on public safety, increased deterioration of transportation infrastructure and quality of life.

According to our Fire Chief Mike Johnson, the City's largest rescue airbag will lift 41.5 tons (82,000 lbs.). An accident leaving a truck weighing more than 82,000 lbs. on top of a passenger vehicle, would create a problem for our fire department. We would have to request heavy equipment to respond to the scene to lift the truck off the vehicle. This would cause a delay in emergency response to victims and cause additional difficulty and congestion at an accident scene.

Heavier trucks also negatively impact roads and bridges and unfortunately these costs are not absorbed by the trucking industry. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), the current 80,000 pound trucks pay for only 80% of the damage they cause to the roads and bridges that they use. With increasing the allowable truck size and weight to 97,000 pounds or more, FHA estimates trucks would then repay only 50% of their damages. This means that taxpayers would be on the hook for the increased difference.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 10-15.

RESOLUTION #: 10-15

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING
TRUCK SIZE OR WEIGHT INCREASES

WHEREAS, the City of Owatonna is concerned with the welfare of motorists and the cost, quality and reliability of city, county, and state infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the trucking industry is an important part of the nation's economy and safely sized and weighted trucks are vital to truck drivers to conduct their essential work in a safe and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, allowing heavier or longer trucks would threaten the safety of the traveling public because heavier and longer trucks would be more difficult to control, increase wear and tear on equipment and increase crash severity; and

WHEREAS, in Minnesota there were 2,542 large-truck crashes in 2013 and 60 fatalities in 2012 in large-truck crashes; and

WHEREAS, 1,513 bridges in Minnesota are rated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, according to the Federal Highway Administration; and

WHEREAS, it would cost \$121 billion to repair current structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges nationwide and an additional \$53 billion in costs to allow 97,000-pound trucks, according to USDOT; and

WHEREAS, today's 80,000-pound trucks accelerate the deterioration of road surfaces and bridges but only repay approximately 80 percent of the damage they cause; and

WHEREAS, allowing heavier trucks to operate would add new costs and proposed 97,000-pound trucks would only repay approximately 50 percent of the damage they cause.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Owatonna opposes any increase in truck size or weight at the state and federal level.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2015, with the following vote:

Aye ____; No ____; Absent ____.

Approved and signed this _____ day of _____, 2015.

ATTEST:

Thomas A. Kuntz, Mayor

Kris M. Busse, City Administrator/City Clerk