



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Jeff Hart, Public Works Director  
**DATE:** November 15, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Citywide Truck Routes and Traffic Efficiency

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**Description** Discussion regarding existing and potential truck routes throughout the City of Beaumont, particularly in the southeast portion of the City.

### **Background and Analysis:**

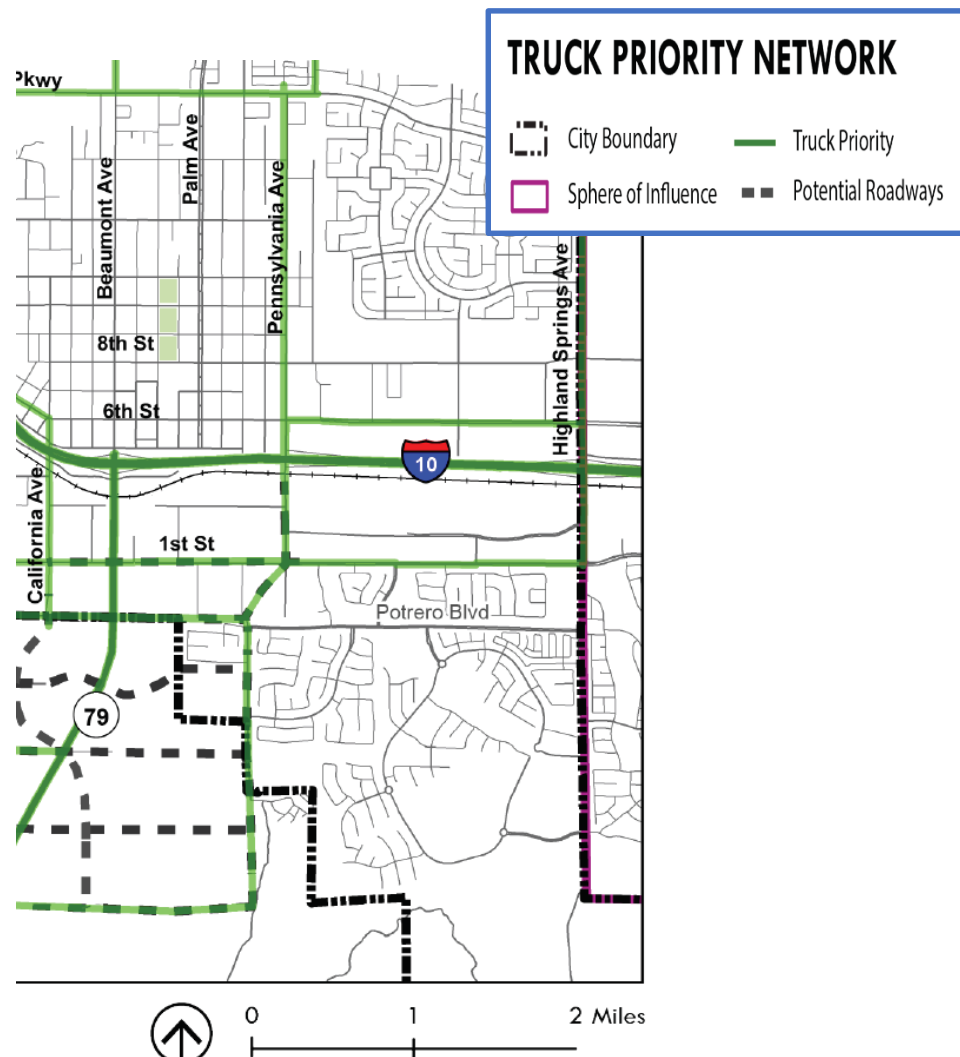
Existing, and future truck traffic congestion in the City has been identified by City Council as a concern and potential solutions have been requested. Extensive growth, particularly in the past 20 years, has led to impacted roadways and increased delays on major corridors. Congestion relief will be realized from several large-scale projects, such as:

- Highland Springs Interchange
- Pennsylvania Avenue Interchange
- Pennsylvania Avenue Widening
- Pennsylvania Avenue Grade Separation
- Second Street Extension

Though the aforementioned projects will bring much needed relief, they are not expected to come online for 1.5-5 years. Identifying potential solutions that can be implemented in the immediate future will help bridge the gap between now, and the time that the larger improvements are constructed.

### **Truck Priority Network**

Per the 2020 General Plan, a truck priority network has been identified (Attachment A, exert below). Per this network, both Highland Springs and First Street have been identified as “priority”. Truck routes prioritize automobile and heavy vehicle usage. Roadways in the system that are not designated truck routes are restricted to trucks under five tons, except for vehicles making pickups or deliveries within the City limits.



### **Future Congestion**

Entitled development in the area east of the City has the potential to create significant congestion to existing corridors which are already overly impacted. Identifying potential mitigations prior to implementation of interchange improvements is prudent to orderly development. The ability to minimize impacts to corridors and major intersections which are already failing must be assessed.

### **Potential Mitigations**

At the November 1, 2022 City Council meeting, \$250,000 was allocated for a city-wide traffic analysis. The intent of the analysis is to identify potential solutions to improve traffic efficiency throughout the City. Staff intends to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) in order to engage a qualified traffic engineering consultant to assess potential solutions which will ease congestion. As part of the scope, staff will include a requirement to review the existing Truck Priority Network (network) and modify if necessary. The network currently shows Highland Springs Avenue (between First

Street and Brookside Avenue), and First Street (between Highland Springs Avenue and Viele Avenue) as priority routes. These segments will be further analyzed to ensure they are aligned with the goals and objectives of the General Plan and the current environment. The expected deliverable will be established truck routes which would be finalized through a City ordinance or resolution.

Corroborative solutions with neighboring cities should also be explored to minimize expected impacts. Working jointly to identify preferred truck routes to and from future development can help reduce impacts to existing corridors. This will likely entail the extension of existing roadways which are not within the City's corporate boundary to allow for more efficient, less impacted roadways to access Interstate 10.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The cost to prepare this staff report is estimated to be \$500. There are no additional expenses at this time. Future analysis will be paid from the City-Wide Traffic Analysis Project (R-23) approved by City Council on November 1, 2022.

**Recommended Action:**

Provide staff direction to assess expected impacts from future development.

**Attachments:**

- A. Truck Priority Network