Adopted by Commonwealth Transportation Board October 16, 2003

GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERING REQUESTS TO RESTRICT THROUGH TRUCKS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HIGHWAYS

Section 46.2- 809 of the Code of Virginia provides:

> The Commonwealth Transportation Board, *or its designee,* in response to a formal request by a local governing body, after such body has held public hearings, may, after due notice and a proper hearing, prohibit or restrict the use by through traffic of any part of a *primary or* secondary highway if a reasonable alternate route is provided. *The Board, or its designee, shall act upon any such formal request within nine months of its receipt, unless good cause is shown.* Such restriction may apply to any truck or truck and trailer or semitrailer combination, except a pickup or panel truck, as may be necessary to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Nothing in this section shall affect the validity of any city charter provision or city ordinance heretofore adopted.

Background

It is the philosophy of the Commonwealth Transportation Board that all vehicles should have access to the roads on which they are legally entitled to travel. Travel by any class of vehicle on any class of highway should be restricted only upon demonstration that it will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth without creating an undue hardship on any of the users of the transportation system. The Board recognizes that there may be a limited number of instances when restricting through trucks from using a segment of a primary or secondary roadway will reduce potential conflicts, creating a safer environment and one that is in accord with the current use of the roadway. The Board has adopted these guidelines to govern and regulate requests for through truck restrictions on primary and secondary highways.

Process

The Commonwealth Transportation Board delegates the authority to restrict through truck traffic on secondary highways to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation. Such

restrictions can apply to any truck, truck and trailer or semi trailer combination, or any combination of those classifications. Consideration of all such restrictions by the Commissioner is subject to these guidelines as adopted by the Board. The Commonwealth Transportation Board retains the authority to restrict through truck traffic on primary highways.

In order to conform to the requirements of the Code of Virginia and to insure that all concerned parties have an opportunity to provide input, the local governing body must hold a public hearing and make a formal request of the Department. The following must be adhered to:

(A) The public notices for the hearing must include a description of the proposed through truck restriction and the alternate route with the same termini. A copy of the notices must be provided.

(B) A public hearing must be held by the local governing body and a transcript of the hearing must be provided with the resolution.

(C) The resolution must describe the proposed through truck restriction and a description of the alternate, including termini.

(D) The governing body must include in the resolution that it will use its good offices for enforcement of the proposed restriction by the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

Failure to comply with (A), (B), (C) and (D) will result in the request being returned. The Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Commissioner shall act upon any such formal request within nine months of its receipt, unless good cause is shown.

Criteria

Travel by any class of vehicle should be restricted only upon demonstration that it will promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth without creating an undue hardship on any users of the transportation network. The Virginia Department of Transportation will consider criteria 1 through 4 in reviewing a requested through truck restriction. The proposed restriction must meet **both** the first and second criteria in order to be approved:

1. Reasonable alternate routing is provided. The alternate route will be evaluated for traffic and

safety related impacts. To be considered "reasonable", the alternate route(s) must be engineered to a standard sufficient for truck travel, and must be judged at least as appropriate for truck traffic as the requested truck restriction route. If an alternate route must be upgraded, the improvement shall be completed before the truck restriction can be implemented. The termini of the proposed restriction must be identical to the alternate routing to allow a time and distance comparison to be conducted between the two routings. Also, the alternate routing must not create an undue hardship for trucks in reaching their destination.

2. The character and/or frequency of the truck traffic on the route proposed for restriction is not compatible with the affected area. Evaluation will include safety issues, accident history, engineering of the roadway, vehicle composition, and other traffic engineering related issues.

In addition to meeting the first two criteria, the proposed restriction must meet either the third or the fourth criteria in order to be approved.

3. The roadway is residential in nature. Typically, the roadway will be judged to be residential if there are at least 12 dwellings combined on both sides within 150' of the existing or proposed roadway center line per 1,000 feet of roadway.
4. The roadway must be functionally classified as either a local or collector.

Failure to satisfy criteria 1 and 2, and either criteria 3 or 4 will normally result in rejection of the requested restriction.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board when deemed necessary may modify or revise any provisions or criteria contained in these guidelines.