


City of Alexandria, Virginia

20
11-27-07

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD RECOMMENDATION TO PROHIBIT THROUGH TRUCKS ON WEST TAYLOR RUN PARKWAY BETWEEN JANNEYS LANE AND DUKE STREET

ISSUE: Traffic and Parking Board recommendation to prohibit through truck on West Taylor Run Parkway between Janneys Lane and Duke Street.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Concur with the Traffic and Parking Board recommendation to prohibit through truck traffic on West Taylor Run Parkway between Janneys Lane and Duke Street; and,
- (2) Request the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to City Code Section 10-1-15.1, *Truck traffic; prohibited on certain streets; penalty*, to include the 100 through 600 blocks of West Taylor Run Parkway and docket the ordinance for Council consideration in December.

BACKGROUND: West Taylor Run Parkway is classified as a residential collector on the City's street classification map and provides a connection between Janneys Lane and Duke Street. This section of West Taylor Run Parkway has residential homes on the west side of the street and Taylor Run, Angel Park, and a few houses on the east side. However, a number of heavy trucks have found West Taylor Run Parkway to be a convenient cut through to access the beltway. These trucks are coming from a number of different sources. Staff has been able to associate a small number of the trucks with construction sites inside the City and have taken appropriate action to keep the trucks from using this route. Staff also believes that most of these trucks are coming from nearby Arlington and Fairfax Counties and are just cutting through Alexandria to access the beltway.

The Traffic and Parking Board considered this request at its October 22, 2007, meeting. Following the public hearing on this matter, the Board voted unanimously to recommend a prohibition of through truck traffic on West Taylor Run between Janneys Lane and Duke Street. As a traffic control action affecting truck routes in the City, Council approval of this recommendation and a City Code amendment are required.

DISCUSSION: West Taylor Run Parkway presents an inviting opportunity as a cut-through to access the beltway. Every evening this is evident by the fact that a Police Department GRIP officer must be assigned to the intersection of Duke Street and West Taylor Run Parkway. Motorists, in an attempt to bypass traffic on Duke Street, are using the Janneys Lane to West Taylor Run Parkway route as a cut through. The cut-through traffic issue has been a long time concern dating back over 20 years. West Taylor Run Parkway already has a speed activated traffic signal as well as speed cushions to mitigate traffic problems.

Trucks have also found West Taylor Run Parkway to be a convenient cut through. Staff collected data and found that eight trucks per hour are using this route in the morning. This is an inappropriate use of this residential roadway with homes on one side and Angel Park, Taylor Run and a few homes on the other side. In addition to livability issues, the pavement of West Taylor Run Parkway is not designed to accommodate this heavy vehicle traffic and may start to fail if allowed to continue.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of posting recommended truck restriction is minimal. The associated enforcement costs have not been determined.

ATTACHMENTS: None

STAFF:

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Thomas Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES

Robert M. Garbacz, P.E., Division Chief, Transportation