

Floyd County Truck Route Ordinance Clarification
January 11, 2010

ISSUE:

Recently, Floyd County Public Works has installed signs designating County-maintained truck routes. These routes are clearly spelled out in the Floyd County Code of Ordinances. The new signs also indicate weight limits, and have caused some confusion for local businesses that use or rely on truck traffic.

IMPACT:

Truck traffic is continually found on non-truck routes in Floyd County and has generated concerns:

- Safety issues with large trucks on smaller roads that do not have the lane width, or vertical or horizontal alignment factors built in
- Damage to County non-truck route roads represent hundreds of thousands of dollars in road repair costs to the County
- Citizen complaints
- Violations of the Floyd County Ordinance

The signs are being erected to help clarify, for citizens, truck drivers, industry, and law enforcement, which roads are designated as County-maintained truck routes by Floyd County Code.

WHAT THE SIGNS MEAN:

These signs are being interpreted as “restriction,” when in fact they should be regarded as “permission.”

The signs are designating which roads/routes trucks **should** be on. Trucks should not be on roads that do not have these signs. **All County roads are rated at 28 tons by the Georgia DOT, unless the road has a bridge that is rated for less tonnage, thereby restricting the weight limit on that road.**

The Floyd County Code does allow for the Public Works Director to use discretion to allow trucks to carry a greater weight on these designated routes. Currently, the trucks are allowed to exceed the weight limit only on designated County-maintained truck routes:

- That do not have a bridge weight restriction
- Are traveling directly to a destination via that route

If a truck is found on a non-designated truck route, they must present some written evidence, such as a bill of lading, that justifies their presence on that road. If an overweight truck utilizes a road that is restricted by bridge-carrying load, then there are obvious threats to safety, including the truck, the bridge, and ensuing users of the bridge. In no case should a vehicle cross a bridge when its weight exceeds the weight restrictions of bridge.

If a truck uses a non-truck route road in Floyd County when not going directly to and from its destination, then the truck:

- poses a danger to itself and other road users
- damages the road unnecessarily
- violates the law

Please call Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director with additional questions. 706.236.2476.

Floyd County Code of Ordinances

Sec. 2-17-5. - Load limits generally, trucks.

- (a) Under the provisions of O.C.G.A. section 32-4-42(10), which provides that: "In addition to the power specifically delegated to it in that title, a county shall have the authority to adopt and enforce rules and regulations or ordinances to require permits and to perform all other acts which are necessary, proper or incidental to the efficient operation and development of the county road system, and the provisions of that title are to be liberally construed to that end. Any power vested in or duly placed on a county, but not implemented by specific provisions for the exercise thereof, may be executed and carried out by a county in a reasonable manner, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law."
- (b) The superintendent of public works shall study the roads of the county, and in such superintendent's discretion, without impeding the flow of necessary commercial traffic, make and determine proper load limits for those roads which are being damaged and destroyed by overweight traffic, and having determined a proper load limit, shall report the same to the board of commissioners for its approval, and recordation in the official minutes of the board, and shall post both ends of the road, with the standard state-designed sign, notifying the travelling public of the load limits, and after the signs have been in place for a period of one (1) week, the county police shall be instructed to enforce the same, under the provisions of O.C.G.A. section 32-1-10, which make it a misdemeanor to violate that title of the code.
- (c) In the event it is necessary for trucks carrying a greater weight to use the road for any purpose, the superintendent of public works shall have discretion upon application to permit the usage for the specific purpose requested, and on the terms and conditions which will protect the road, as determined by such superintendent.
- (d) A copy of this section shall be published once a week for two (2) weeks in the Rome News Tribune, posted on the bulletin board, and information as to the same be disseminated by the superintendent of public works in any other reasonable manner, so as to enable the citizens to become aware of this section, and to understand the meaning of the signs, after the superintendent of public works has determined proper and reasonable load limits, and has posted the road and reported the same to the board of commissioners, and has the load limits, the name of the road and the limits of the same duly entered in the minutes of the board.

(Code 1979, § 8-1004)

Sec. 2-17-6. - Truck routes.

- (a) All motor vehicles having a gross weight in excess of thirty-six thousand (36,000) pounds, including the load thereon, or having an overall length in excess of thirty (30) feet, except vehicles designed to carry passengers, are prohibited from using any public road within the county that is maintained by the county, except those herein designated as truck routes, with the following exceptions:
 - (1) Motor vehicles, whose terminal, parking lot, repair garage or headquarters which are not on a designated truck route, shall have ingress to, and egress from, such places by the most direct route available between the terminal, parking lot, repair garage or headquarters and nearest designated truck route; and
 - (2) Motor vehicles engaged in making a specific pickup or delivery on a public road not designated a truck route. On those roads designated as county-maintained truck routes, the maximum gross weight for any motor vehicle shall be fifty-five thousand (55,000) pounds, except bridge limits indicated, and the maximum length shall be seventy-five (75) feet and the maximum width shall be ninety-six (96) inches.
- (b) Any person driving or in charge or control of any restricted vehicle as defined in subsection (a) of this section, when upon a public road other than those designated as truck routes, shall be prepared to

present for the inspection of police officers such person's log book, weight slips, delivery slips or other written evidence of such person's destination and point of origin, to justify the presence of the restricted vehicle on a street other than a designated truck route.

(c) If any designated truck route, or portion thereof, shall be under repair or otherwise temporarily out of use, restricted vehicles, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall use other temporary truck routes as may be designated by the county.

(d) Violation of this section, or any part hereof, shall be punishable by the judge of the probate court by a minimum fine of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) for up to ten thousand (10,000) pounds over the maximum allowable load or four hundred dollars (\$400.00) plus five dollars (\$5.00) for each one hundred (100) pounds over ten thousand (10,000) pounds exceeding the maximum allowable load.

State law reference—Enforcement of load limitations, O.C.G.A. § 32-6-27 et seq.

(e) The county shall coordinate with the City of Rome in establishing truck routes that are reasonable, that provide for continuous vehicular passage in and out of the city, and that serve the interest of the general public.

(f) The following routes are hereby designated as truck routes:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Bridge Limitation Load (in pounds)</u>
(1) Calhoun Road, from SR 20 to SR 53	55,000
(2) Burnett Ferry Road, from SR 20 to Mays Bridge Road	35,000
(3) Mays Bridge Road, from SR 20 to Burnett Ferry Road	20,000
(4) Walker Mountain Road, from US 27 to Blacks Bluff Road	55,000
(5) Blacks Bluff Road, from Walker Mountain Road to SR 100	32,000
(6) Chulio Road, from US 411 to county line	37,000
(7) Pleasant Valley Road, from SR 101 to county line	20,000
(8) Big Texas Valley Road, from Huffaker Road to US 27	28,000
(9) Ward Mountain Road, from Calhoun Road to Kingston Road	20,000
(10) Storey Road, from US 27 to US 27	55,000
(11) Huffaker Road, from SR 20 to SR 20	26,000
(12) Barker Road, from SR 20 to Burnett Ferry Road	55,000
(13) Wax Road, from SR 101 to county line	21,000
(14) Reeceburg Road, from Booze Mountain Road to county line	20,000
(15) Booze Mountain Road, from SR 53 to Old Rockmart Road	15,000
(16) Old Rockmart Road, from SR 1E to SR 101	20,000
(17) Turner Bend Road from its point of intersection with Mays Bridge Road to a point three-tenths mile north of Mays Bridge Road.	
(18) Industrial Boulevard, N.E., from US 27 to Governor's Drive	55,000
(19) Superior Drive, from Industrial Boulevard to Booze Mountain Road	55,000
(20) Enterprise Drive, S.E., from Superior Drive for a distance of 920 feet east	55,000
(21) West Hermitage Road, N.E., from SR 53 to Calhoun Road	55,000
(22) M.C.C. Road, N.E., from West Hermitage Road to Metal Container Corporation	55,000

A map entitled "Floyd County Truck Routes", clearly delineating all current truck routes, shall be maintained in the office of the county clerk for inspection by the public.

(Code 1979, § 8-1004.1; Res. of 6-11-85; Ord. of 2-22-94, § 1)
