



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 5, 2006
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Meeting Date: July 18, 2006

TO: Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Truck and Bus Definitions

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Street and Traffic By-law No 2849 be revised to change the restriction on vehicles that must use truck routes from a Gross Vehicle Weight over 5,500 kg and more than 2 axles to any vehicle having a Gross Vehicle Weight over 10,000 kg consistent with a Translink recommendation substantially as shown in Appendix A.
- B. THAT the Street and Traffic By-law No 2849 be revised to change the definition of Bus from having a seating capacity of 10 persons including the driver to having a seating capacity of 12 persons including the driver consistent with the Passenger Transport Act substantially as shown in Appendix A.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

These by-law changes will ensure the City of Vancouver by-laws are consistent with other Municipal and Provincial regulations and by-laws. The truck definition change is part of an effort by TransLink to ensure a more consistent set of trucking regulations across the region. The General Manager supports the recommendations.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

These simple changes will assist the trucking and bus industry by providing a more consistent set of by-laws across the region. The City Manager supports the recommendations.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approves amendments and additions to Street and Traffic By-law.

On December 11, 2001, the City requested that TransLink begin a process to ensure Municipal by-laws are consistent across the region and with Provincial/Federal regulations.

On July 20, 2005, the GVTA Board endorsed the Major Road Technical Advisory Committee recommendation for a common definition of (heavy) trucks as "motor vehicles with greater than 10,000 kg licensed gross vehicle weight" for the purpose of limiting travel to designated municipal truck routes; and communicated its endorsement of a common definition to the municipalities, along with copies of the Truck Route Reference Guide for their use and distribution.

SUMMARY

The current definition of a vehicle that is required to use designated truck routes varies significantly from Municipality to Municipality. This by-law change will ensure that Vancouver truck route requirements are consistent with a regional TransLink standard making the truck route system easier to understand and simpler to enforce. A minor change is also proposed to update the current definition of bus to be consistent with the Passenger Transport Act.

DISCUSSION

Engineering staff have for some time been working with the police and industry representatives to better manage the trucking and bussing industry within the City of Vancouver. Although a great deal of success has occurred within City limits, many drivers and companies are confused by differing standards and by-laws across the region.

To assist in this goal, TransLink, who have a role in managing the regional truck routes, set up a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) Subcommittee of the Major Roads Technical Advisory Committee (MRTAC). The CVE committee included police, engineering and by-law staff from across the region as well as representatives from ICBC, UBC and the BC Trucking Association. One of the first actions of the committee was to support development of a regional truck route map and a common truck definition.

Municipality	Truck Route Restrictions Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) kg
Burnaby	13,600
Coquitlam	13,600
Delta	10,000
Langley City	10,000
Langley Township	5,600
New Westminister	13,600
North Vancouver	25,000
Port Coquitlam	4,600
Richmond	9,000
Surrey	5,000
Vancouver	5,500 and 2 or more axles
West Vancouver	10,000
White Rock	5,500

Current Weight Restrictions requiring use of a Truck Route

Through a review of the existing truck definitions as well as Provincial and Federal regulations, a definition of “Heavy” truck requiring use of truck routes was developed to be any motor vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) greater than 10,000 kg. This change would provide a consistent requirement for trucks to use Municipal truck routes. The change was fully supported by all members including the BC Trucking Association.

The current requirement for vehicles that must use a truck route in Vancouver is a GVW over 5,500 kg and more than 2 axles. The proposed change is slightly more restrictive than at present but would better match the public expectation of what is considered a truck. The impact of this change is expected to be minimal as many of these trucks presently use the truck route system.

To assist with the change, GVW > 10,000 kg tabs will be added to existing truck route signs. Staff will also update the truck brochures, web site information and brochures will be given out to construction sites. Enforcement of the by-law change will increase once the change is enacted region wide.

An additional housekeeping change is to modify the current bus definition in the by-law to be consistent with the bus definition used by the Province for licensing buses. The current definition of a bus is a motor vehicle having a seating capacity of more than 10 persons including the driver that is operated for hire or public transportation. This would increase to 12 persons. The impact of this change is minimal and matches the Passenger Transport Act.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional staff resources required for this by-law. Signage changes can be undertaken within existing budgets.

CONCLUSION

The truck definition change will assist the trucking industry by providing a consistent set of requirements for using the various truck routes within the region consistent with a TransLink recommendation. An additional “housekeeping” by-law change is to adjust the definition of a bus to be consistent with the Passenger Transport Act.

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Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849
regarding buses and trucks

Definitions

3. "Bus" means a motor vehicle having a seating capacity of more than 10 persons including the driver, that is operated for hire or for public transportation.

From the definition of "Bus" in section 3, strike out "10", and substitutes "12".

90B.

Areas Outside Downtown: A vehicle or combination of vehicles with more than 2 axles and having a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,500 kilograms may only travel on designated Truck Routes, as set out in Schedule B of this By-law, and on origin or destination. This section 90B shall not apply to transit vehicles when on approved transit routes.

From section 90B, strikes out:

- (a) "with more than 2 axles and"; and*
- (b) "5,500", and substitutes "10,000".*