

**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Douglas Commercial Truck Traffic**

**DOUGLAS, ARIZ. – May 22, 2020.** The City of Douglas has heard the concerns of the community and companies running the commercial trucks in our City. By municipal code, truck routes are designated. Traffic down 10<sup>th</sup> Street, especially since the start of the Bay Acres sewer project in January 2020, has been heavy.

Initially, commercial traffic had been directed through N. Washington Avenue to 15<sup>th</sup> Street in order to allow access to Airport Road and Geronimo Trail where the construction for the border wall is headquartered. However, the trucks had to be rerouted with the start of the Bay Acres sewer project which severely restricted traffic on Washington Avenue.

Alternative truck routes to avoid sensitive areas of residences, small business, churches and schools are a challenge due to the density of our community. Staff was charged with coming up with a resolution through evaluation, consideration of citizen and community concerns, and rerouting of trucks to other designated truck routes which could not avoid highly residential areas and increased time and cost to one of the local companies hauling with their large trucks. Residents comments focused on the speed and volume of trucks, the wear and tear on the roadway, dust and noise from the early/late hours of operations.

On May 20, 2020 City staff met with representatives from Southwest Valley Constructors (SWVC), leading the border wall project, Maddux & Sons' Trucking of Douglas and representatives from Cochise County to share information and solicit their input on the existing and alternative truck routes. SWVC expressed concerns with a one alternative and indicated 10<sup>th</sup> Street as preferred as a more durable than the 15<sup>th</sup> Street option in terms of wear and tear to the roadway. SWVC went further to explain that the multiple turns on the 15<sup>th</sup> Street route option would cause greater wear and tear on roadways. SWVC estimated that there were seventy trucks operating every two hours on moving materials, making about 3-4 trips throughout the day. This would total a range of 210 to 280 truck trips per day. The truck traffic has since been reduced to fifty trucks as of this week with additional decreases anticipated in the next few weeks.

Representatives of Maddux & Sons' Trucking added that the issue of increased commercial traffic throughout the city was temporary and looked to be decreasing significantly in the next few weeks. Maddux & Sons' asked the City to consider allowing the use of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street route for local traffic, such as their trucks, which was agreed to.

Discussions resulted in agreements that try to lessen the impacts on our roads, citizens and are satisfactory for the firms running the trucks. SWVC traffic supporting the border wall project would continue to use the 10<sup>th</sup> Street route. Local truck business will use the 15<sup>th</sup> Street route. Staff will prepare a resolution for City Council for a June business meeting to

codify the small portion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street route not already in the Code for use by local commercial traffic until such time that commercial traffic can resume on Washington Avenue, which is not anticipated for about a year.

If the motion is approved and the route accepted, the City will erect signage to mark both routes. The alternate 15<sup>th</sup> Street route will be added to the Douglas Municipal Code as a pilot commercial route. Citizens will be notified through public communications and police will enforce compliance to the plan and routes as well as the speed limits along the routes.

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