

June __, 2023

6/7/23 DRAFT

Mr. Gerald Charleston
ITS Regional Coordinator
NYS Department of Transportation Region 8
Hudson Valley TMC
200 Bradhurst Ave, Unit 1
Hawthorne, NY 10532-1626

Re: Qualifying & Access Highways Change Request for City of Hudson

Dear Mr. Charleston:

As Chair of the City of Hudson Ad Hoc Truck Committee, and representative of the City of Hudson, I am writing to request a change to one of the New York State Qualifying and Access Highway routes that enter/leave the City of Hudson. Specifically, the City of Hudson requests the removal of one of the two state routes, 2.5 miles of NY 9G/23B, that enter/leave the City of Hudson. This letter provides information concerning this matter.

Requested Change

As per the NYSDOT Qualifying and Access Highway Manual, there are two routes that enter and leave the City. See the attached pages 28 and 34 of the manual (Attachment 1).

We would like to request removal of a portion of NY 9G/23B referenced on page 28 as follows:

- “NY 9G: Western junction of NY 9G/NY23 overlap (Rip Van Winkle Bridge Approach) to the L&B Products terminal, a distance of 2.5 miles, in the City of Hudson and the Town of Greenport. (COLUMBIA)”

The purpose of this route was to accommodate truck traffic to/from the L&B Products terminal which was located west of Third Street. Route 9G becomes Third Street within the City and which opened in 1982. L&B Products terminal has long since closed, following its bankruptcy in 2003.

Background

By way of background, the City of Hudson received funding from the NYSDOT for a feasibility study (Study), secured by Assembly member Didi Barrett, to evaluate alternatives to the current State Truck Route which has existed since before the 1950s. The current Truck Route has enormous residential impacts to the City of Hudson, and significant concerns exist regarding the negative health impacts to residents and the environmental impacts of truck traffic (and related emissions and wear) on city streets, as well as social economic impacts of truck traffic on urban streets. The Study was conducted in 2020 by MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., and its final report—The Feasibility Study City of Hudson Truck Route Traffic Study Columbia County NY—was issued August 2021. As reported by MJ Engineering:

“The social and economic impacts of truck traffic upon the City’s business district and neighborhoods are especially worrisome... The community must contend with the particularly noxious influences of high truck volume such as noise, odors, dust, congestion, and visual degradation. In the City of Hudson, pedestrian traffic is very important to residents and visitors. Through truck traffic typically directly and negatively affects business and quality of life within the City. Diesel exhaust from truck traffic is a complex mixture of gases and fine particles. In an urban area such as Hudson, the

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narrow streets and tall buildings make it much harder for the gases and particles to dissipate in comparison to a rural setting with wider streets and less buildings. When the exhaust cannot dissipate, it causes an unhealthy environment for pedestrians in the city.”

Air quality studies have shown greater levels of truck traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) at homes in areas closest to the road, thus are particularly problematic in heavily populated urban areas such as the City of Hudson.

In September of 2022, the City of Hudson’s Common Council formed an **Ad Hoc Truck Committee** to follow up on the Truck Study and facilitate changes in the current Truck Route. Our stated objective is as follows:

“To improve the health, safety, and quality-of-life outcomes for Columbia County residents, move the truck route away from densely populated neighborhoods with housing and amenities close to the road. Identify and move the truck route to the most cost-effective alternate route which reduces residential impacts for Columbia County residents.”

As you know, the size and volume of trucks and truck loads have significantly increased since the truck routes entering/leaving Hudson were established. Also, as reported by MJ Engineering in the Truck Study report, the City of Hudson has an enormous volume of truck traffic flowing through its streets, and city streets are not designed to handle large trucks.

Your attention to this critical issue is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, would like additional information, and/or would like to get a copy of the MJ Engineering Truck Study report, please let me know. My contact information is provided below.

Best regards,

Margaret Morris
First Ward Council Member, City of Hudson
Chair of Hudson Common Council Ad Hoc Truck Committee

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