

**CITY OF HUDSON COMMON COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_ August 15, 2023**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MARGARET MORRIS, CHAIR OF AD-HOC TRUCK COMMITTEE, TO SEND A LETTER TO NYSDOT REQUESTING CHANGES TO ACCESS HIGHWAYS IN THE CITY OF HUDSON**

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Hudson established an ad-hoc committee relating to truck traffic in the city of Hudson; and

**WHEREAS**, this ad-hoc committee has identified that one of the access highways connecting Route 9G to Third Street within the City was established to provide reasonable access for trucks to and from L&B Products terminal which was located west of Third Street within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the L&B Products terminal closed following the bankruptcy of L&B Products in 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, the ad-hoc committee has proposed the elimination of this access highway; and

**WHEREAS**, this ad-hoc committee has identified that one of the access highways connecting US9 to Worth to the south of the City and US9 to Fairview to the north of the City travels through residential neighborhoods on Worth and Green streets and crosses the City at Park Place which is a narrow road at the western end of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the ad-hoc committee has proposed the elimination of this access highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the ad-hoc committee has proposed through trucks over 48 feet be barred from entering the City;

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council agrees with the recommendations of the ad-hoc committee that a request be made to NYSDOT for information on the process for removal of these access highways and for changes to permitted truck lengths within the City of Hudson;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Margaret Morris, First Ward Council member and Chair of the Ad-Hoc Truck Committee, be authorized to submit a letter to the NYSDOT requesting this information.

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Kamal Johnson, Mayor

Aug \_\_, 2023

**08/06/23 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: Access Highways Change Request – NY State Highway Routes 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 information regarding the process for changing Access Highways within the City of Hudson., We are also requesting the prohibition of trucks over 48 feet in length from entering the City unless they are making local deliveries. This letter provides information concerning these matters.

By way of background, 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 Committee includes membership from the Common Council, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, and the community, and includes the following individuals:

- Margaret Morris, Chair / First Ward Council Member
- Abdus Miah, Second Ward Supervisor
- Linda Mussmann, Fourth Ward Supervisor
- Mohamed Rony, Second Ward Council Member
- Dewan Sarowar, Second Ward Council Member
- Donna Streitz, Community Member

Our stated objective is: *“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.”*

The reference in our stated objective to the “truck route” includes both Access Highway routes.

**Changes Under Consideration – Request For Information on the Process**

The committee is considering changes to the two New York State Access Highway routes that enter/leave the City of Hudson. Specifically, the City of Hudson is considering the removal of one or both of these two NY State access highway routes that enter/leave the City of Hudson.

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

## **NY9G/NY23B**

We are considering removal of the Truck Access Highway route at 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 Access route was to provide reasonable access for trucks to/from the L&B Products terminal which was located west of Third Street and which opened in 1982. Route 9G becomes Third Street within the City. L&B Products terminal has long since closed, following its bankruptcy in 2003. This route travels through the two most densely populated wards in the city – Second Ward and Fourth Ward. Additionally, minority populations represent 73% of the population in one of these wards. The overall minority population for the City is 46%.

## **US9**

We are also considering removal of the Access Highway Route connecting US9 to the south, via Worth Avenue to 23B and US9 to the north (Fairview). This Access route travels through residential areas on Worth Avenue and Green Street. Additionally, trucks traveling on this route are required to make a turn at Park Place. This is a narrow street at the eastern end of the City. Please see the attached video which shows two trucks traveling in opposite directions on this portion of the route.

- “Junction of US 9 and NY 9G/NY 23B to the junction of NY 9H/NY 23, NY 9H, and NY 23 in the City of Hudson and the Towns of Greenport and Claverack. (COLUMBIA)”

## **Requested Change**

We are requesting that trucks over 48 feet in length be prohibited from entering the City unless they are making local deliveries. Many streets within the city are less than 30 feet wide, barely meeting the 20-foot-wide requirement when parked vehicles are taken into consideration. These larger trucks create a significant safety issue for the residents. I am attaching a video that shows two of these trucks at the intersection of Park Place and Warren Street, which is in the center of the City. One of the trucks mounts the curb as it navigates the turn.

## **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

Mr. Gerald Charleston  
New York State Department of Transportation  
Aug \_\_, 2023  
Page 3 of 4

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 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.”*

[https://cms3.revize.com/revize/hudsonny/162901\\_rsc\\_cor\\_d\\_rpt\\_FINAL\\_REV\\_FS\\_2021%2009%2027.pdf](https://cms3.revize.com/revize/hudsonny/162901_rsc_cor_d_rpt_FINAL_REV_FS_2021%2009%2027.pdf)

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.

As you know, the size and volume of trucks and truck loads have significantly increased since the Access Highway 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.

Information on the process for making the changes to the Access Highway Routes and a response to our request to bar trucks greater than 48 feet in length from entering the city 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. A link to the study is provided above. 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  
Mobile phone: 516 708 5295 / email: [margaret.morris@cityofhudson.org](mailto:margaret.morris@cityofhudson.org)

cc:

Tom DePietro, Common Council President  
Kamal Johnson, City of Hudson Mayor  
Michael Hofmann, City of Hudson Mayoral Aide

Mr. Gerald Charleston  
New York State Department of Transportation  
Aug \_\_, 2023  
Page 4 of 4

Ad Hoc Truck Committee:

Abdus Miah, Second Ward Supervisor  
Linda Mussmann, Fourth Ward Supervisor  
Mohamed Rony, Second Ward Council Member  
Dewan Sarowar, Second Ward Council Member  
Donna Streitz, Community Member