

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

BELL AND WILLIAMSON Counties

MINUTE ORDER

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AUSTIN AND WACO Districts

In accordance with Transportation Code §545.0651 and 43 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§25.601-25.604, the Texas Department of Transportation (department) is proposing a lane restriction applicable to trucks with three or more axles, and to truck tractors, regardless of whether the truck tractor is drawing another vehicle or trailer as defined in Transportation Code, §541.201. The proposed lane restriction prohibits those vehicles from using any traffic lane, other than the second and third controlled access lanes on each side of INTERSTATE 35 as counted from the center (inside left lane) of the highway from approximately 0.592 miles south of FM 2115 through Bell and Williamson counties to 1.297 miles south of the Bell/Williamson County line. This proposed restriction will connect with a current 104-mile truck lane restriction that is in effect for I-35 between 1.297 miles south of the Bell/Williamson County line and approximately 1.280 miles south of Loop 1604 in the city of Live Oak, Bexar County.

Transportation Code, §545.0651, authorizes the department to restrict through traffic, by class of vehicle, to two or more designated lanes of traffic on certain portions of the designated state highway system, and requires the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) to adopt rules. The commission adopted these rules, 43 TAC §§25.601-25.604 that became effective on January 8, 2004.

In accordance with TAC §25.604(e)(3), the department conducted a traffic study to evaluate the impact of the lane restriction. In accordance with §25.604(d), the department published a notice in the Texas Register for a 30 day comment period on September 18, 2009 and held a public hearing on the proposed restriction on September 29, 2009. The proposed lane restriction would be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and would allow the operation of those vehicles in a prohibited traffic lane for the purposes of passing another vehicle or entering or exiting the highway.

In accordance with 43 TAC §25.604(h)(2), the executive director may temporarily suspend the lane restriction in an emergency.

The commission, having evaluated the truck lane restriction proposal based on the safety of the traveling public and the factors listed in 43 TAC §25.604(f), finds that the proposed lane restriction should be approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the proposed lane restriction in Bell and Williamson counties is approved and shall become effective upon placement of all necessary traffic control devices.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Candice Rawson, Ph.D.
Interim Director, Traffic Operations Division

Recommended by:

Amadeo Sca...
Executive Director

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Minute Number Date Passed