



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**REGION 3**

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243  
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**BUTCH ELEY**  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &  
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

January 4, 2024

Walker Trucking & Excavating  
Attn: Jason Walker  
P.O. Box 849  
Ashland City, TN 37015

Dear Mr. Walker,

This letter is a response in regards to your letter to the City of Ashland City and your plan of operation at 1840 South Highway 12. The Department's understanding based on conversations with you was that operations were concluding. After reviewing your plan and understanding the scope and scale of this work, this is a much larger and longer operation than anticipated. Removing 200,000 Cubic Yards of material over a minimum of 12 months will require you to follow the guidance set out below.

After revisiting the Walker Quarry site on State Route 12 in Ashland City, the Tennessee Department of Transportation has determined that neither of the two driveways have been permitted and neither conform to the TDOT Highway System Access Manual. The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation is authorized to adopt reasonable and proper rules governing the construction of driveway entrances into highways on the State Highway System in order to maintain proper drainage, preserve the roadway from damage, and prevent interference with or the creation of hazards to public travel. Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-5-301. The primary function of a state highway is to provide system continuity and efficiency of state highway system operation and maintenance activities. The Department of Transportation recognizes that property owners have the right of reasonable access to their property, and the Department will work with property owners and local government authorities to provide reasonable access to the state highway system that is safe and enhances the movement of traffic through a permitting process that assesses the number, location, width, and design of driveways, whether residential or commercial. These rules establish procedures to apply for a driveway permit on a state highway, standards or guidelines for granting a driveway permit, and provisions for requesting a variance from the standards established in these rules. In order for Walker Trucking's driveways to comply with state law the following steps will need to be taken:

1<sup>st</sup> – TDOT will require a letter from the Ashland City that the Walker Quarry site has been approved for industrial use by Ashland City.

2<sup>nd</sup> – A temporary construction access permit will be required before any operations can resume after Step 1. Walker Trucking will be required to post sufficient bond and provide a certificate of adequate liability insurance. It is recommended that access be through Thompson Road due to the high number of dump trucks that are expected to come out of the rock quarry and allow proper acceleration and sight distance for SR 12. Barrier rail will be required along SR 12 and the area that is currently graveled must be constructed back to the original seed and straw stabilization. “TRUCKS ENTERING HIGHWAY” signs per MUTCD standards will be required in each direction along SR 12. The temporary access will be allowed for 120 days. If operations continue after 120 days, a permanent TDOT commercial driveway permit will be required.

3<sup>rd</sup> – The permanent TDOT commercial driveway shall follow all standards in the TDOT System Highway Access Manual, including but not limited to number of entrances, sight distance, clearance requirements, driveway widths, and driveway surface. The construction plans shall be stamped by a TN Licensed Professional Engineer.

These 3 steps shall be required from Walker Trucking to operate safe and efficiently along the SR 12 corridor in Ashland City. Section 54-5-301 of the Tennessee Code provides:

*Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the construction of an unauthorized entrance onto a highway in the state highway system is an offense punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by a fine only of five hundred dollars (\$500). If the entrance violates any rule or regulation of the department, the owner of the entrance shall have thirty (30) days to comply with all applicable rules and regulations. The department may impose a penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) for failure to comply with all applicable rules and regulations within thirty (30) days. Each day an entrance is in violation of this subsection (b) after the thirty-day period shall be considered a separate offense. The owner of an unauthorized entrance shall be civilly liable for any injuries proximately caused by the entrance.*

Tenn. Code Ann. § 54-5-301(b). The Department previously notified Walker Trucking that its use of the unauthorized commercial entrance(s) constituted violation of the above-cited statute. Any further use in excess of or outside the above-enumerated steps will constitute a separate violation and require additional enforcement measures.

Thank you for your cooperation; TDOT looks forward to working with you. Motorist safety is TDOT’s top priority and must be maintained along all state routes and interstates.

Sincerely,



James C. Norris IV, P.E.  
Assistant Chief Engineer

CC: Allen Nicholson  
Building & Codes Director  
Town of Ashland City  
Nathan Vatter  
Zane Pannell  
Derek Pryor  
Lindsay Sisco