

Chapter 74 - TRAFFIC

Footnotes:

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State Law reference— Authority of county to regulate traffic in unincorporated areas, O.C.G.A. § 36-1-20; power of local authorities generally, O.C.G.A. § 40-6-371.

Sec. 74-1. - Adoption of uniform rules of the road.

- (a) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 40-6-372—40-6-376, O.C.G.A. §§ 40-6-2—40-6-395, known as the uniform rules of the road, and the definitions contained in O.C.G.A. § 40-1-1, are hereby adopted as and for the traffic regulations of the county with like effect as if recited in this chapter.
- (b) Unless another penalty is expressly provided by state law, every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished in accordance with section 1-19.

State Law reference— Adoption of uniform rules of the road by local authorities, O.C.G.A. § 40-6-372.

Sec. 74-2. - Temporary traffic regulations.

In cases where traffic upon the roads of the county may become congested upon occasions of parades, at theaters and other public assemblages where large numbers of vehicles are assembled, the county law enforcement officers may make temporary rules directing and regulating the traffic in these congested districts; and any person who, after being warned of the temporary traffic regulations, shall violate them shall be liable therefor as for other violations of this Code.

Sec. 74-3. - Covering of loads.

No person shall operate or load any vehicle on the public streets and roads of this county unless the vehicle is constructed, loaded, and securely covered so as to prevent any of its load from dropping, escaping, or shifting in such a manner as to create a safety hazard or in such a manner so as to litter the streets and roads of the county.

Sec. 74-4. - Parking in deceleration or acceleration lanes prohibited.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to park any automobile, truck, bus, truck tractor, trailer, tractor, trailer combination, motorcycle, moped, or other motor vehicle within or upon the deceleration or acceleration lanes lying in the unincorporated areas of the county.
- (b) Deceleration and acceleration lanes shall be defined for the purpose of this section as those strips of pavement lying adjacent to and to the east of the northbound lanes of traffic and adjacent to and to the west of the southbound lanes of traffic not part of the regular roadway but

afford access into and out of the driveways and side roads along the highway.

- (c) Violation of the provisions of this section shall be a violation of a county ordinance and shall be prosecuted in the state court of the county under the authority of O.C.G.A. § 15-10-60 et seq. A violation of this section shall be punished as provided in section 1-19.

Sec. 74-5. - Use of speed detection devices authorized.

The board of commissioners approve the use of speed detection devices by the sheriff's department.

(Res. of 11-1-88)

Sec. 74-6. - Traffic and speed zones; signs and traffic control devices.

- (a) Upon approval by resolution of the board of commissioners, the public works director is authorized to designate and maintain by appropriate traffic control signs, markings, and devices:
 - (1) Crosswalks at intersections where there is particular danger to pedestrians crossing the roadway.
 - (2) Other safety zones for pedestrians.
 - (3) Traffic lanes.
 - (4) Speed, parking, truck, or other traffic control zones.
 - (5) Stop, yield, one-way, and other directional devices.
 - (6) Any other sign, marking, device, or zone necessary for orderly and safe conditions on the roads and streets of the county.
- (b) All traffic control signs, signals, devices, and markings shall conform to specifications in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices adopted by the state transportation board. All signs and signals required under this chapter for a particular purpose shall so far as practicable be uniform as to type and location throughout the county. All traffic control devices so erected and not inconsistent with the provisions of state law or this code shall be official traffic control devices of the county.
- (c) Any resolution approved pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be spread upon the minutes of the county and an official copy thereof shall be kept in the office of the county clerk. An accurate official map setting out all traffic zones, markings, signs, and other traffic control devices, and any amendments or changes thereto, may be adopted by resolution of the board of commissioners. If adopted, such map shall be known as the official traffic control map of the county and an official copy thereof shall be kept in the office of the county clerk and shall be available to the public. Copies of such map certified by the county clerk shall be admissible in

court as proof of the location of any traffic zone, marking, sign, or other traffic control device; however, the adoption of such map shall not be a prerequisite to the enforcement of any traffic control resolution or device approved pursuant to this section.

- (d) No person shall be charged with violating a traffic zone, marking, sign, or other traffic control device unless appropriate signs, markings, or devices are in fact operating or in existence on the streets involved.
- (e) Any violation of any traffic zone, marking, sign, or other traffic control device established pursuant to this section shall be a violation of this Code.

Sec. 74-7. - Off-road vehicles.

- (a) As used in this section, the term "off-road vehicle" means any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain and not intended for use predominately on public roads, and any other vehicle defined as an off-road vehicle by O.C.G.A. § 40-7-3 currently or as may be amended by the General Assembly of Georgia, and includes, but is not limited to, four-wheel drive or low-pressure tire vehicles, two-wheel drive vehicles, amphibious machines, ground effect or air cushion vehicles, and any other means of transportation deriving power from any source other than muscle or wind, except that such term shall exclude any motorboat; any military, fire, or law enforcement vehicle; any vehicles used exclusively on airports; all farm machinery, farm tractors, and other self-propelled equipment for harvesting and transportation of forest products, for clearing land for planting for utility services and maintenance, for each moving, construction, or mining; and self-propelled lawnmowers, snowblowers, garden or lawn tractors, or golf carts, while such vehicles are being used exclusively for their designed purposes.
- (b) Any person operating an off-road vehicle under any of the following conditions shall be deemed to be in violation of this section and shall be punishable as provided by section 1-19 of this Code:
 - (1) Without operative brakes or without mufflers or other silencing equipment;
 - (2) On any public property, including, but not limited to, any road or right-of-way under the possession or control of Effingham County, except property designated by the board of commissioners for use by off-road vehicles;
 - (3) On any private property without the express written permission of the owner of the property or his agent, proof of which shall be in the immediate possession of the operator of an off-road vehicle at all times when operating such vehicle and which shall be displayed upon demand of any law enforcement officer;
 - (4) On any private property in any zoning district other than an AR-1 or AR-2 zoning district, except the property of the operator or his or her immediate family.

Sec. 74-8. - Designated truck routes.

(a) *Definition of vehicle classification.*

- (1) There are eight classes of commercial motor vehicles in the United States, divided into three, more general categories: light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty. Commercial motor vehicles or trucks that operate on U.S. highways can be classified based on their gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or axle configuration.
- (2) Given the complexities of determining weight, the county has selected axle configuration as the guidance to determine vehicle class.
- (3) The county prohibits the use of medium and heavy-duty vehicles, defined as commercial vehicles class 6 through 13, on routes not listed as designated truck routes in section 74-8(f).






























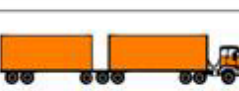





(b) *Vehicle type definition.*

- (1) The following vehicle type definitions shall be used to determine vehicle class, as defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Traffic Monitoring Guide (TMG):
 - a. Motorcycles—All two or three-wheeled motorized vehicles. Typical vehicles in this category have saddle type seats and are steered by handlebars rather than steering wheels. This category includes motorcycles, motor scooters, mopeds, motor-powered bicycles, and three-wheel motorcycles.
 - b. Passenger cars—All sedans, coupes, and station wagons manufactured primarily for the purpose of carrying passengers and including those passenger cars pulling recreational or other light trailers.
 - c. Other two-axle, four-tire single unit vehicles—All two-axle, four-tire, vehicles, other than passenger cars. Included in this classification are pickups, panels, vans, and other vehicles such as campers, motor homes, ambulances, hearses, carryalls, and minibuses. Other two-axle, four-tire single-unit vehicles pulling recreational or other light trailers are included in this classification. Because automatic vehicle classifiers have difficulty distinguishing class 3 from class 2, these two classes may be combined into class 2.
 - d. Buses—All vehicles manufactured as traditional passenger-carrying buses with two axles and six tires or three or more axles. This category includes only traditional buses (including school buses) functioning as passenger-carrying vehicles. Modified buses should be considered to be a truck and should be appropriately classified.
 - e. In determining information on trucks, the following criteria should be used:
 1. Truck tractor units traveling without a trailer will be considered single-unit trucks;
 - 2.

A truck tractor unit pulling other such units in a saddle mount configuration will be considered one single-unit truck and will be defined only by the axles on the pulling unit;

3. Vehicles are defined by the number of axles in contact with the road. Therefore, floating axles are counted only when in the down position; and
4. The term "trailer" includes both semi- and full trailers.
- f. Two-axle, six-tire, single-unit trucks—All vehicles on a single frame including trucks, camping and recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., with two axles and dual rear wheels.
- g. Three-axle single-unit trucks—All vehicles on a single frame including trucks, camping and recreational vehicles, motor homes, etc., with three axles.
- h. Four or more axle single-unit trucks—All trucks on a single frame with four or more axles.
- i. Four or fewer axle single-trailer trucks—All vehicles with four or fewer axles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
- j. Five-axle single-trailer trucks—All five-axle vehicles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
- k. Six or more axle single-trailer trucks—All vehicles with six or more axles consisting of two units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
- l. Five or fewer axle multi-trailer trucks—All vehicles with five or fewer axles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
- m. Six-axle multi-trailer trucks—All six-axle vehicles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
- n. Seven or more axle multi-trailer trucks—All vehicles with seven or more axles consisting of three or more units, one of which is a tractor or straight truck power unit.
- o. Certain truck configurations utilize axles that can be lifted when the vehicle is empty or lightly loaded. The position of these axles, sometimes called lift axles, drop axles, or tag axles, affects the classification category into which the vehicle falls. To maintain consistency between visual and axle-based counts, the FHWA-TMG recommends that only axles that are in the dropped position be considered when classifying the vehicle. While this promotes consistency, it may induce difficulty when interpreting classification. For example, a vehicle may exhibit directional differences in vehicle classification even though the same trucks may be travelling one direction loaded (with axles down) and the other direction empty (with axles lifted). For the purposes of this Code, the axle configuration used to determine class will be based on the observed configuration at the time of the violation.
- p. Figure 1 of this section lists the 13 vehicle category classifications used by the FWHA.

Figure 1 FHWA 13 Vehicle Category Classification

Class 1 Motorcycles		Class 7 Four or more axle, single unit	
Class 2 Passenger cars		Class 8 Four or less axle, single trailer	
			
			
			
Class 3 Four tire, single unit		Class 9 5-Axle tractor semitrailer	
			
			
Class 4 Buses		Class 10 Six or more axle, single trailer	
			
		Class 11 Five or less axle, multi trailer	
Class 5 Two axle, six tire, single unit		Class 12 Six axle, multi-trailer	
			
		Class 13 Seven or more axle, multi-trailer	
Class 6 Three axle, single unit			
			
			
			

(c) *Use of certain streets, etc., restricted to commercial vehicles.*

- (1) No vehicle defined as a commercial vehicle class 6 through 13 in sections 74-8(a) and (b) shall use the streets, etc., not listed in section 74-8(f), which is hereby incorporated herein and made a part of this Code by reference, a copy of which shall be maintained on file in the office of the county clerk and in the office of the county engineer, unless exempt as defined in section 74-8(d).

(d) *Commercial vehicles prohibited on certain streets; exception.*

- (1) Drivers of such vehicles defined as a commercial vehicle class 6 through 13 in sections 74-8(a) and (b) shall have in the cab of the truck a bill of lading, work order or receipt for services for an address on the street governed by this section or on a street that must be accessed from the street governed by this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit such vehicles from crossing or using such streets as may be necessary to make delivery of articles,

perform work, or pick up goods from any point along the line of the street, provided that the driver of such vehicle shall have in the cab of the truck a bill of lading, work order, or receipt for services that bears the address or an address along the line of the street governed by this section. In lieu of a bill of lading, work order, or receipt of services, the county may accept at its discretion a letter provided to the driver bearing the signature of a person of authority on company letterhead that denotes the truck destination or delivery point along the line of the street governed by this section.

- (2) Vehicles defined as a commercial vehicle class 6 through 13 in sections 74-8(a) and (b) going to or from the carrier's terminal facilities physically located on the street governed by this section.
- (3) Vehicles defined as a commercial vehicle class 6 through 13 in sections 74-8(a) and (b) going to or from a repair facility for service which is physically located on the street governed by this section.
- (4) Bobtail truck, defined as only the tractor with no trailer and/or chassis attached, going to or from, and parking at, the driver's residence located on the street governed by this section.
- (5) Wreckers on call, and emergency vehicles plainly marked with emergency equipment are exempt from this section.

Drivers of commercial vehicles classified as Class 6 through 13, as defined in Sections 74-8(a) and (b), are required to travel exclusively on designated truck routes. When accessing a location off the truck route, drivers must use the shortest and most direct route to and from the nearest designated truck route of their origin or destination. Enforcement of this requirement shall be carried out by the officials designated in Section 74-8(e).

- ~~(6) Drivers of such vehicles defined as a commercial vehicle class 6 through 13 in sections 74-8(a) and (b) shall travel the shortest and most direct route going to or from, and generally traveling in the direction of, the origin or destination and the nearest truck route.~~
- ~~Enforcement of this section is by the determination of the officials defined in section 74-8(e).~~

(e) *Violation and enforcement.*

- (1) *Violation.* Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as follows:
 - a. By a fine of not less than \$200.00 and not more than \$1,000.00.
- (2) *Enforcement.* All law enforcement agencies, officers and officials of this state or any political subdivision thereof, or any enforcement agency, officer or any official of any commission of this state or any political subdivision thereof, are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to enforce compliance with this section.

(f) *Designated truck routes.*

- (1) The following roadways are designated as truck routes. Any other road in the county shall be prohibited to commercial trucks class 6 through 13 traffic unless exempt per section 74-8(d).
 - a. Georgia State Highway 21
 - b. Georgia State Highway 17
 - c. Georgia State Highway 119

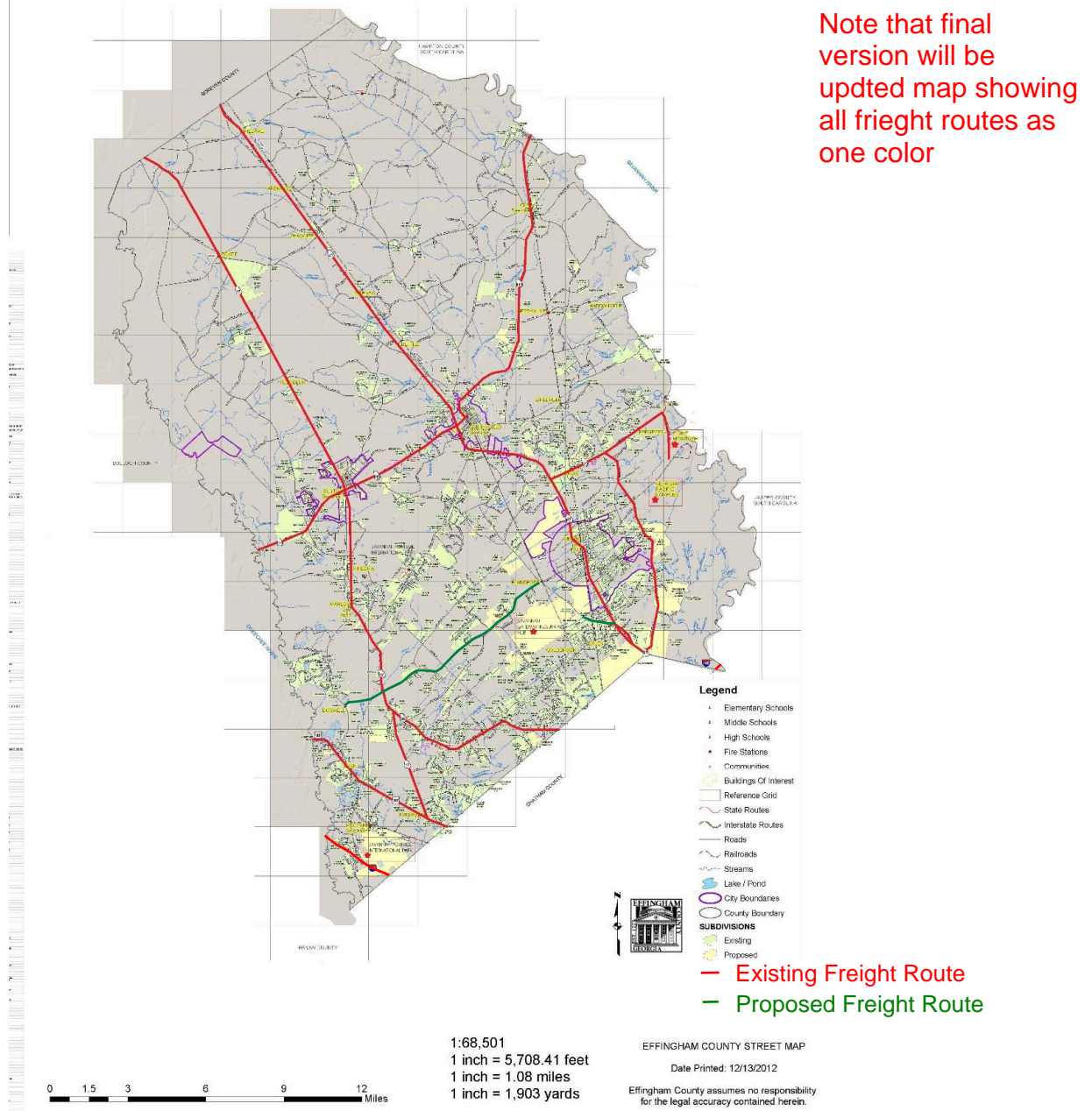
- d. Georgia State Highway 30
- e. Georgia State Highway 275
- f. Georgia State Highway 80
- g. Old Augusta Road South
- h. Old Augusta Central Road
- i. I-16
- j. I-95

- k. Blue Jay Road
- l. McCall Road (Gateway Parkway to Hwy 21/Rincon)
- m. McCall Road (Blue Jay to Hwy 21/Springfield)
- n. Rahn Station Road
- o. Sandhill Road

(2) The official truck route map shall be maintained by the county engineer. The official map is provided in figure 2 of this section.

Figure 2 Designated Truck Routes in Effingham County

EFFINGHAM COUNTY STREET MAP



- (3) Truck routes shall be signed as defined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) and as shown in figure 3 of this section.

Figure 3 Truck Routes Signage (excerpts from the MUTCD unless otherwise noted)

Truck Class Advisory Sign (Figure A)

This sign has been modified based on MUTCD Sign R12-3 for use in Effingham County. The sign shall be mounted on a single sign post as the primary sign. It may be used as needed near intersections facing turning traffic to inform drivers the road is not designated as a truck route.

MUTCD

Section 2B.61 TRUCK ROUTE Sign (R14-1)

Guidance:

01 The TRUCK ROUTE (R14-1) sign (see Figure 2B-30) should be used to mark a route that has been designated to allow truck traffic.

Option:

02 On a numbered highway, the TRUCK (M4-4) auxiliary sign may be used (see Section 2D.20).

Section 2D.20 TRUCK Auxiliary Sign (M4-4)

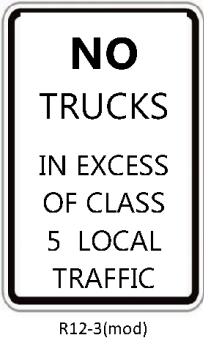
Option:

01 The TRUCK (M4-4) auxiliary sign (see Figure 2D-4) may be used to designate an alternate route that branches from a numbered route, when it is desirable to encourage or require commercial vehicles to use the alternate route.

Standard:


02 If used, the TRUCK auxiliary sign shall be mounted directly above a route sign.

Figure A. Truck Class Advisory Sign




R12-3(mod)

Figure 2B-30. Truck Signs




R14-1

Figure 2D-4. Route Sign Auxiliaries



M4-4



ADDITIONAL SIGN ALLOWED

Refer to MUTCD Current Edition Tables 2B-1 and 2D-1 for sizing of each sign based on road classification. Figure A size is 24" x 36" for 2-lane roads.

(Ord. of 2-4-20; Ord. of 02-21-2023(1))