



TOWN OF MONTEREY

302 E. Commercial Ave

Monterey, TN 38574

931-839-3770

05/06/2025

TDOT Traffic Operations Division
James K. Polk Building, Suite 1800
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: 615-253-1122
Email: Landon.T.Castleberry@tn.gov

Dear Mr. Castleberry,

I am writing to present a supporting rationale for restricting commercial vehicle traffic from utilizing State Route 84 through Commercial Avenue in the Town of Monterey, Tennessee. This request stems from growing concerns regarding noise, pedestrian safety, and damage to our infrastructure.

The volume of truck traffic along Commercial Avenue has steadily increased as industrial areas and freight providers North of Putnam County have utilized Livingston Highway-State Route 84 and Commercial Avenue as a convenient route to access Interstate 40 (I-40), located just South of Downtown Monterey. Additionally, the same is true for freight providers traveling West on I-40 seeking access to areas North of Putnam County. These providers routinely take the Monterey I-40 Exit and utilize Commercial Avenue as a more convenient route to access Highway 84 towards Highway 111 North through Livingston. This increase in truck traffic has resulted in heightened noise levels and increased vehicle safety hazards, particularly for non-motorized users.

A Complete Streets Plan conducted by Gresham Smith Engineering in 2024 highlighted several reasons for implementing such restrictions. Notably, a site visit and field review conducted on June 24, 2024, showed a significant number of freight trucks traveling East on Commercial Avenue and subsequently turning right onto Holly Street, which provides access to I-40. These trucks often travel at excessive speeds, making it difficult for them to navigate sharp turns at certain intersections along the corridor, resulting in crashes and property damage. Additionally, engagement participants routinely mentioned the loud noise generated by trucks, causing disruptions and concerns for property owners and businesses along the corridor. Approximately 32% of survey responses indicated a desire to reroute freight traffic along Commercial Avenue.

The increased freight traffic has also contributed to wear and tear on our infrastructure, leading to costly repairs and maintenance. For instance, the traffic light pole at the Southwest corner of Holly Street and Commercial Avenue is frequently struck by large freight vehicles trying to navigate the tight right-hand turn onto Holly Street from Commercial Avenue. Photo evidence of this occurrence has been attached to this rationale, along with survey results and a copy of the Town's adopted Complete Streets Plan.

In light of these issues, we kindly request that the Tennessee Department of Transportation consider allowing the Town of Monterey to restrict large trucks from utilizing State Route 84 through Monterey. As an alternate route, the Town proposes that freight providers North of Putnam County utilize Highway 111 to access Interstate 40 eastbound. For providers needing access to Highway 62 towards Clarkrange, the same alternate route could be utilized. Similarly, providers enroute to areas North of Putnam County could continue along Interstate 40 West to access Highway 111 rather than access Holly Street and Commercial Avenue to Highway 84. This measure will greatly improve the quality of life for our residents, enhance pedestrian safety, and preserve our infrastructure.

We want to assure you that our intention is not to negatively impact local freight companies that reside within the proposed restriction zone. We fully understand the importance of these businesses to our local economy, and we are committed to working with them to ensure their operations can continue with minimal disruption. We propose an exemption process for local freight companies, allowing them to access their businesses within the restricted area while limiting through-traffic of non-local commercial trucks. Our goal is to significantly reduce the amount of freight traffic passing through while still allowing local businesses to operate effectively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are eager to work with TDOT to find a solution that balances the needs of commercial transportation with the well-being of our community. We are open to discussions and suggestions to reach a mutually agreeable plan.

We have attached detailed documentation, including resident feedback, for your review. We look forward to your prompt attention to this critical matter and hope to schedule a meeting to discuss this request in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Alex Garcia
Mayor
302 E. Commercial Avenue
Monterey, TN 38574
931-839-3770