



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA

Regular Special

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

Title: Ordinance No. XXX-AC Amending Chapter 13, Article IV of the Needles Municipal Code to Prohibit Commercial Trucks Over 14,000 Pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) on Restricted Residential Streets

Background: This item recommends amending Chapter 13, Article IV (Use of Certain Streets by Commercial Vehicles Prohibited) to the Needles Municipal Code. The proposed ordinance would prohibit trucks over 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) from operating on restricted City streets, with exceptions for local deliveries, public safety, and essential services. The ordinance establishes a \$500 administrative citation for commercial truck parking and operation on non-designated routes.

On February 28, 2023, the City Council adopted the Land Use & Transportation Element, which established a framework for identifying a truck network to support industrial and commercial growth while minimizing impacts to residential areas and sensitive receptors. The Transportation Element recommended that the City formalize truck routes and restrict heavy truck traffic in residential neighborhoods.

On November 18, 2025, the City Council requested that staff evaluate prohibiting heavy truck traffic on residential streets and near schools.

The proposed ordinance, prepared in consultation with the City Attorney and consistent with California Vehicle Code Section 35701, establishes the following:

Truck Restrictions

- Prohibit trucks over 14,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) from operating on restricted streets identified in Exhibit A of the ordinance.
- Authorizes local deliveries and access for public utilities, emergency vehicles, solid waste haulers, postal services, and municipal operations.
- Compliant signage at all designated locations prior to enforcement.

Purpose and Benefits

The ordinance aims to:

- Enhance safety and mobility within residential and mixed-use areas.
- Reduce road degradation caused by heavy trucks.
- Align with the City’s Transportation Policy TR-1.9 and Assembly Bill 98 regarding sensitive receptor protection.
- Support local economic development by ensuring truck traffic remains on designated arterial corridors.

Fiscal Impact: Cost of regulatory signage for truck restrictions

Recommendation: Provide Staff Direction

Submitted By: Kathy Raasch, Director of Development Services/Capital Projects
Lena Wade, Esq., Deputy City Attorney

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 4/9/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____