


## COMMISSIONER'S AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

<b><u>SUBMITTED BY</u></b>	Public Works – Road Department	 Signature
<b><u>AGENDA DATE</u></b>	December 15, 2009	
<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	Weight Restrictions on County Roads	
<b><u>ACTION REQUESTED</u></b>	Authorize the County Engineer to implement weight restrictions on County Roads as required.	

### **SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

This is a common practice during any year and most utilized where we have had sustained periods of below freezing temperatures, which allows the base under the roads to freeze. As the roads begin to thaw, the integrity of the roads structure is severely impacted as the depth and condition of the roads base is shallow and usually saturated with water as the melting ice cannot drain out through the bottom. Until the thaw is through the entire depth of the freeze, heavy loads will compromise the roads strength and will show at the surface, given time.

The Road Superintendent will monitor and make a recommendation to the County Engineer once the thaw starts. Once the County Engineer authorizes these restrictions, notifications to any affected operations will be advised by County Road staff and posted on each road displaying the weight restricting information.

This Resolution allows for the County Engineer to implement these restrictions for a period of up to 100 days from the date of approval by the Board of County Commissioner's.

The County Engineer will provide a notice to the Sheriff at the time the restrictions are set in place, and again when they are removed.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Skamania County Commissioner's approves Resolution No. 2009 - 55, which allows weight restrictions to be applied to affected roads within Skamania County when deemed necessary by the County Engineer.

### **LIST ATTACHMENTS**

Resolution No. 2009-55  
RCW 36.75.270  
RCW 46.44.080

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009 - 55**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the provision of Session Laws of 1937, Chapter 53, Section 65, Laws of the State of Washington as amended and codified in RCW 36.75.270 and RCW 46.44.080, the Board of Commissioners may restrict or prohibit the operation of motor trucks or other vehicles on any county road, whenever such operation will damage such county roads or will be dangerous to traffic thereon;

**AND, WHEREAS, RCW 36.75.270** provides that a violation of this resolution constitutes a misdemeanor;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that all county roads and portions of county roads may be closed to travel by all vehicle or by any class of vehicles hereinafter described for a period not to exceed 100 days from the effective date of this resolution.

This order shall cancel and supersede any previous order or orders in conflict therewith; provided, however, that this order shall not supersede or modify any restrictions now in force covering limited loads on bridges located anywhere on the highway system referred to above.

Various roads within the county may be closed as needed, to all vehicles whose gross weight (vehicle and load) shall exceed the load limits set forth below for the various sizes.

CONVENTIONAL TIRES

<u>Tire Sizes</u>	<u>Gross Load Each Tire</u>
7.00	1,800 lbs.
7.50	1,800 lbs.
8.25	1,900 lbs.
9.00	2,250 lbs.
10.00	2,750 lbs.
11.00 or larger	3,000 lbs.

TUBELESS OR SPECIAL WITH .5 MARKING

8 - 22.5	1,800 lbs.
9 - 22.5	1,900 lbs.
10 - 22.5	2,250 lbs.
11 - 24.5	2,750 lbs.
12 - 22.5	3,000 lbs.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Engineer or his duly authorized representative shall prohibit or restrict as to weight and speed the operation of vehicles upon county roads exposed to serious damage by reason of rain, or restrictions issue special permits for the operation of school busses or motor trucks transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and welfare of local residents. The County Engineer, when issuing special permits, shall specify weight and speed restrictions as may be necessary to protect the county road from damage, and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby adopt the attached rules concerning the issuance of special permits in the event of county road closures.

SPECIAL PERMITS FOR CLOSED OR RESTRICTED ROADS

Permits may be issued by Skamania County Public Works to allow the operation of school busses, motor trucks transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and welfare of local residents on such county roads as may be closed or restricted in accordance with RCW 46.44.080, subject to specific weight and speed restrictions as may be deemed necessary by the County Engineer to protect the county roads from damage.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

S E A L

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

Approved as to form only:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prosecuting Attorney


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### **RCW 36.75.270**

## **Limitation of type or weight of vehicles authorized — Penalty.**

The board of county commissioners of each county may by resolution limit or prohibit classes or types of vehicles on any county road or bridge and may limit the weight of vehicles which may travel thereon. Any such resolution shall be effective for a definite period of time which shall be stated in the resolution. If such resolution is published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and if signs indicating such closure or limitation of traffic have been posted on such road or bridge, any person violating such resolution shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1963 c 4 § 36.75.270. Prior: 1949 c 156 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6450-8g.]

### **Notes:**

Local restrictions or limitations of weight: RCW 46.44.080.




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## RCW 46.44.080

### Local regulations — State highway regulations.

Local authorities with respect to public highways under their jurisdiction may prohibit the operation thereon of motor trucks or other vehicles or may impose limits as to the weight thereof, or any other restrictions as may be deemed necessary, whenever any such public highway by reason of rain, snow, climatic or other conditions, will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the operation of vehicles thereon be prohibited or restricted or the permissible weights thereof reduced: PROVIDED, That whenever a highway has been closed generally to vehicles or specified classes of vehicles, local authorities shall by general rule or by special permit authorize the operation thereon of school buses, emergency vehicles, and motor trucks transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and welfare of local residents under such weight and speed restrictions as the local authorities deem necessary to protect the highway from undue damage: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the governing authorities of incorporated cities and towns shall not prohibit the use of any city street designated a part of the route of any primary state highway through any such incorporated city or town by vehicles or any class of vehicles or impose any restrictions or reductions in permissible weights unless such restriction, limitation, or prohibition, or reduction in permissible weights be first approved in writing by the department of transportation.

The local authorities imposing any such restrictions or limitations, or prohibiting any use or reducing the permissible weights shall do so by proper ordinance or resolution and shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained signs designating the provisions of the ordinance or resolution in each end of the portion of any public highway affected thereby, and no such ordinance or resolution shall be effective unless and until such signs are erected and maintained.

The department shall have the same authority as hereinabove granted to local authorities to prohibit or restrict the operation of vehicles upon state highways. The department shall give public notice of closure or restriction. The department may issue special permits for the operation of school buses and motor trucks transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and welfare of local residents under specified weight and speed restrictions as may be necessary to protect any state highway from undue damage.

[2006 c 334 § 16; 1977 ex.s. c 151 § 29; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 15 § 1; 1961 c 12 §46.44.080 . Prior: 1937 c 189 § 54; RRS § 6360-54.]

#### Notes:

**Rules of court:** Monetary penalty schedule -- IRLJ 6.2.

**Effective date -- 2006 c 334:** See note following RCW [47.01.051](#).

**Federal requirements -- Severability -- 1977 ex.s. c 151:** See RCW [47.98.070](#) and [47.98.080](#).

Highway and street closures authorized -- Notice: Chapter [47.48](#) RCW.