

Truck Routes

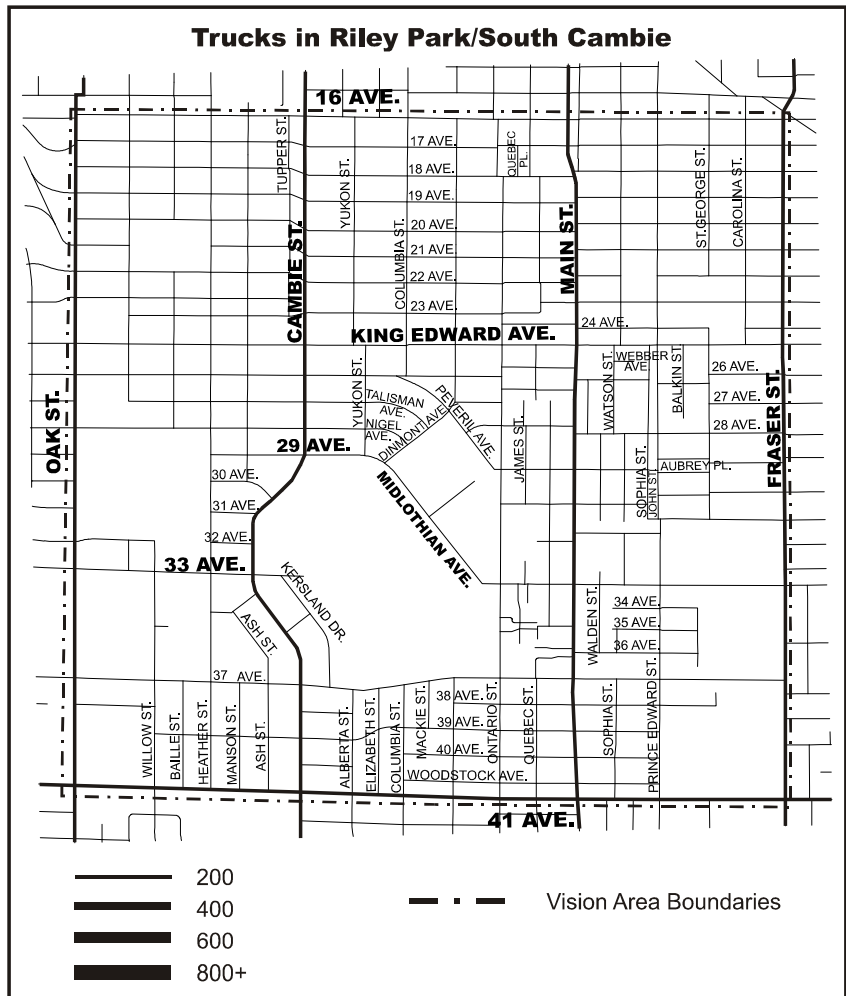
Truck movement is essential to providing us with the goods and services we need in our daily lives. Truck access into neighbourhoods is often needed to allow deliveries and for construction purposes. The efficient movement of trucks benefits residents by reducing the cost of shipping goods, and contributing to the economic growth of the city. Striking a balance between the benefits and impacts of truck traffic is difficult.

City-wide Truck Routes

Much of the truck traffic in the city serves businesses and commercial areas, construction sites, retail outlets, industrial areas, and the Port. The City currently has a network of truck routes and requires that trucks with three or more axles and a gross vehicle weight greater than 5,500 kilograms use these routes to access their destinations. The principle of the truck route system is to disperse truck movements over a relatively large number of arterials.

However, due to factors such as the steepness of hills, the location of major truck destinations, and the ease of connecting to access routes, truck traffic is not evenly distributed (see map overleaf).

On the east side, the largest volumes of truck traffic are on Knight Street, and on streets adjacent to the Port. On the west side, South West Marine Drive is the most direct route for much of the area's construction and UBC truck traffic. Truck volumes in Riley Park-South Cambie (RPSC) are significantly lower than areas to the east.



Trucks in RPSC

According to estimates in the City's 1997 Transportation Plan most streets in RPSC carry about the same number of heavy trucks per day.

Concerns of Truckers

A big worry for the trucking industry is increased delays from an overall increase in traffic congestion. Except for the Port Roadway and other minor traffic management measures, maintaining truck travel times will rely on the successful implementation of transit improvements and other measures to restrict the growth in the number of cars.

Vancouver's Transportation Plan

The City's Transportation Plan (approved May 1997) has a number of recommendations pertaining to goods movement via trucks. The Plan notes that the economy of the city and Port relies on an efficient road and rail network for goods movement. It recommends the existing truck route network be maintained to provide for movement of heavy trucks.

However, the Plan also recommends that the impacts of heavy trucks on neighbourhoods be addressed where practicable by such measures as stricter enforcement of traffic regulations, time restrictions on some routes, truck movement plans for major truck generators, and roadside mitigation where practical opportunities exist. City staff are continuing to work on these proposals and City Council has recently revised its bylaws to require tarps on loose loads.

UBC Truck Management Plan

UBC has attempted to reduce the impacts of development on adjacent neighbourhoods by implementing its Truck Management Plan. The components of the Plan include:

- strict compliance with all City of Vancouver truck bylaws (including tarp requirements, load and noise requirements). Large fines are levied against companies that do not meet these requirements.
- truck traffic dispersed over all designated truck routes on the west side of Vancouver
- scheduled truck arrivals and departures to more evenly distribute traffic throughout the day
- Onsite storage of fill material and investigation of other methods to use fill on site rather than transport out of UBC
- project rescheduling to reduce peaks in truck traffic

- a full-time inspector who monitors truck traffic arriving at UBC,
- fines issued to truck operators who fail to comply with requirements
- incentives for contractors to reuse materials, and thereby reduce truck traffic
- regular public notices regarding changes to road closures and truck routing, and
- daily monitoring and weekly reporting regarding truck activity, compliance with requirements, forecasts of future truck activity, impending changes and other truck management issues.

Source

- City of Vancouver Transportation Plan
- UBC Truck Management Fact Sheet

Heavy Truck Volumes

