



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/11/2020

Agenda Placement: 6T

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steven Lederer - Director of Public Works
Public Works

REPORT BY: Steven Lederer, Director, Public Works - 259-8228

SUBJECT: Establishment of Commercial Vehicles Limitations on Pratt Avenue Bridge

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works requests adoption of a resolution prohibiting commercial vehicles over five (5) tons from using the Pratt Avenue Bridge in order to promote safer traffic conditions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 35706 of the California Vehicle Code authorizes a local authority to reduce the permissible weight of vehicles and loads upon county bridges within its jurisdiction. At the request of the City of St. Helena, Public Works staff have analyzed the Pratt Avenue Ave. Bridge and recommend that commercial vehicles over 5 tons be excluded from using the bridge. The Pratt Avenue Bridge is a narrow two-lane bridge with no sidewalks or shoulders that connects Silverado Trail to Pratt Avenue in the City of St. Helena. The design of the bridge makes it difficult for oversize vehicles to drive on the bridge without driving over the center-line of the roadway. If approved, the exclusion will become effective and signs installed only if St. Helena passes a similar restriction and posts their side of the bridge accordingly.

St. Helena also recommended restricting left turns onto and off-of the bridge, but accident history does not provide data which supports that request. They also recommended a cost sharing arrangement whereby St. Helena would purchase and Napa County would install and maintain flashing beacons on Silverado Trail to warn motorists of the upcoming Pratt Avenue intersection. This activity does not require Board action, but the Roads Department is supportive of this request and will work with St. Helena to move forward with this unless otherwise directed by the Board.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	There is funding to do the work in the Roads Operations budget (Fund 2040 Sub-Division 2040000).
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The proposed signage will improve safety for the traveling public by eliminating larger trucks from using this narrow bridge.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Roadside signs need to be replaced every 10 to 15 years. Future costs will be charged to the Roads Fund 2040.
Consequences if not approved:	Traffic controls will remain in their existing state.
County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:	Livable Economy for All - Improve and maintain the existing transportation and roads system to safely accommodate all users.
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Consideration and possible adoption of a Categorical Exemption Class 1: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. [See Class 1 (“Existing Facilities”) which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15301; see also Napa County’s Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act, Appendix B.]

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The intersection of Pratt Avenue and Silverado Trail is a T-intersection with Silverado Trail running north/south and Pratt Avenue connecting into it from the west. The city line follows the center of the Napa River, and thus is in the middle of the Pratt Avenue bridge. While accident records do not show a high rate of accidents at this intersection (there are only three documented accidents at the intersection within the past 12 years, and one of those was a drunken driver), the narrowness of the Pratt Avenue bridge, the sightlines, and the high speed nature of Silverado Trail combine to raise concerns. The City of St. Helena reached out to County staff to raise similar safety concerns.

Traffic analysis indicates that prohibiting large trucks from using the Pratt Avenue Bridge will improve safety on the bridge as it is nearly impossible for large trucks to stay within their lane on the bridge. There is a much safer alternative route nearby, the stop-controlled intersection of Silverado Trail and Deer Park Road, for any trucks that would have used this route. The City of St. Helena staff has stated they intend to take a similar restriction proposal to their City Council so as to install similar signage on their side of the bridge (i.e., the eastbound approach). The County considered other safety measures, such as restricting all vehicles from making left turns from Silverado Trail onto the bridge, but found it unnecessary and a hindrance to general circulation in the area. The County will work with the City to potentially cost share and add other warning devices on Silverado Trail, such as flashing beacons, to assist drivers.

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed resolution and approve the proposed signing of the Pratt Avenue Bridge. If approved, the California Highway Patrol and the City of St. Helena will be formally notified of the change.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Leigh Sharp