Watts Neighborhood Council
Watts Neighborhood Council Office
1513 E 103rd Street, Suite 205
Los Angeles CA, 90002

August 11, 2026

RE: Community Impact Statement For Council File 26-0964: Truck Traffic Restrictions and Traffic Safety Improvements – Watts Residential Streets

Position: SUPPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

The Watts Neighborhood Council (WNC) supports Council File 26-0964 and commends Councilmember Tim McOsker for bringing forward a thoughtful effort to improve public safety and reduce the impacts of heavy-duty truck traffic within the Watts community. The proposed truck restrictions and requested traffic study represent an important first step toward protecting residential neighborhoods from unnecessary freight traffic while improving roadway safety.

The Watts community has historically experienced disproportionate environmental and transportation burdens resulting from freight movement, industrial activity, and regional goods movement. Heavy-duty diesel trucks contribute not only to traffic collisions and roadway deterioration, but also to noise pollution, diesel particulate matter, greenhouse gas emissions, and cumulative health impacts affecting residents, schools, childcare facilities, parks, senior housing, and other sensitive community receptors.

While the proposed truck restrictions improve safety on specific residential streets, the Watts Neighborhood Council believes the City's long-term objective should extend beyond relocating truck traffic from one neighborhood street to another. Redirecting trucks without considering cumulative environmental impacts may unintentionally shift pollution, safety risks, and quality-of-life concerns to neighboring residential blocks or additional sensitive receptors.

Accordingly, the Watts Neighborhood Council respectfully recommends that this motion serve as the foundation for a broader **Healthy Freight Routing Initiative** that integrates transportation planning, environmental justice, public health, and emerging navigation technologies.

Healthy Freight Routing

The Watts Neighborhood Council proposes the development of a **Healthy Freight Routing** framework that prioritizes freight movement based not only on efficiency, but also on protecting public health, reducing emissions, and minimizing impacts on vulnerable populations.

Under this framework, designated truck routes would prioritize:

- Major arterial roadways designed for freight movement.
- Commercial and industrial access points intended for truck traffic.
- Reduced exposure to homes, schools, childcare facilities, parks, senior housing, healthcare facilities, houses of worship, and other sensitive receptors.
- Safe turning movements and roadway geometry appropriate for heavy-duty vehicles.
- Reduced idling, congestion, and unnecessary neighborhood circulation.
- Improved emergency access and pedestrian safety.

Rather than identifying only the **fastest** or **shortest** route, the City should seek to identify the **Least Community Impact Route**.

Smart Navigation Partnerships

Because commercial drivers increasingly rely upon digital navigation platforms, the Watts Neighborhood Council recommends that the City explore partnerships with providers including Google Maps, Waze, Apple Maps, commercial trucking GPS providers, and fleet management software companies to incorporate officially designated Healthy Freight Routes into their navigation systems.

Integrating approved freight corridors into digital navigation platforms would encourage trucks to utilize appropriate commercial routes while discouraging routing through residential neighborhoods that were never intended to accommodate heavy truck traffic.

This innovative approach has the potential to significantly reduce neighborhood truck conflicts while improving operational efficiency for businesses.

Proof of Concept: Watts

The Watts Neighborhood Council further recommends that Watts serve as the City's pilot community for developing and evaluating a Healthy Freight Routing Program.

At approximately **2.12 square miles**, Watts provides an ideal proof-of-concept area because of its manageable geographic size, existing freight activity, diverse transportation network, environmental justice designation, and active community partnerships.

The pilot should evaluate measurable outcomes including:

- Traffic safety improvements.

- Truck collision reduction.
- Diesel particulate matter exposure.
- Greenhouse gas emissions.
- Noise reduction.
- Travel efficiency.
- Emergency vehicle access.
- Roadway preservation.
- Community satisfaction.
- Public health indicators.
- Protection of sensitive receptors.

Successful implementation in Watts could provide a scalable model for freight routing in environmental justice communities throughout Los Angeles and California.

Environmental Justice Alignment

The Healthy Freight Routing Initiative directly supports the goals of the South Los Angeles AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan, which encompasses Watts, by reducing unnecessary diesel exposure, protecting overburdened neighborhoods, improving neighborhood air quality, and prioritizing the health of communities that have historically experienced disproportionate environmental impacts.

The Watts Neighborhood Council recommends that LADOT coordinate with the South Coast AQMD, CARB, Caltrans, local businesses, freight operators, community organizations, and navigation technology providers when developing future freight routing strategies.

Additional Recommendation

The traffic study requested in this motion should include a **Cumulative Community Impact Assessment** evaluating:

- Diesel emissions.
- Noise pollution.
- Traffic collisions.
- Roadway deterioration.
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- School travel routes.
- Sensitive receptors.
- Environmental justice indicators.

- Freight efficiency.
- Air quality impacts.

This assessment should identify the **Least Community Impact Route** rather than solely the shortest or fastest route for heavy-duty truck travel.

Conclusion

The Watts Neighborhood Council respectfully supports Council File 26-0964 while encouraging the City to seize this opportunity to establish a new model for Healthy Freight Routing. By combining transportation engineering, environmental justice, digital navigation technology, and public health, Los Angeles can create a freight management system that better serves businesses while protecting the communities through which goods move every day.

The Watts Neighborhood Council believes that a successful pilot in Watts can become a replicable model for neighborhoods across Los Angeles, California, and beyond.

In Service,

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