



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE

December 03, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

43 December 3, 2024

EDWARD YEN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**TRANSPORTATION CORE SERVICE AREA
AMENDMENT TO TITLE 15, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE
REGARDING THE BLOCKING OF HIGHWAYS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Public Works is seeking Board approval to amend Title 15, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Los Angeles County Code by modifying and adding various sections to Chapters 15.64 and 15.200. The amendment will modify and clarify parking restrictions for blocking a highway or private street that is open to the public.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed ordinance amendment and posting or removing the corresponding regulatory and advisory signage are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the project.
2. Introduce, waive reading, and place on a future agenda for the adoption of a proposed amendment that amends Title 15, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Los Angeles County Code, to modify Sections 15.64.300 and 15.200.010 and add Section 15.64.302.
3. Approve the ordinance amendment that amends Title 15, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Los Angeles County Code, to modify Sections 15.64.300 and 15.200.010 and add Section 15.64.302.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to initiate changes to the Los Angeles County Code to modify and clarify the definition of blocking a highway and allow law enforcement to impose higher fines based on objective criteria. Constituents and law enforcement have had situations where roadways with limited width were impeded by improperly parked vehicles, which resulted in increased emergency response times. Public Works is recommending these actions to improve emergency vehicle access and to discourage improper parking. These actions will benefit all users of the various roadways and will support Public Works' transportation priority to improve traffic safety. Requests for the ordinance amendment were generated by residents, law enforcement, and the Fire Department.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Focus Area Goal D, Sustainability, Strategy i, Climate Health, by supporting multimodal transportation investments that improve safety and mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund. Funding is included in the Road Fund (B03 – Services and Supplies) Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget to cover the minor costs of installing and/or removing the necessary signs and markings.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The California Vehicle Code Section 22507(a) authorizes the Board, by ordinance, to prohibit or restrict the stopping, parking, or standing of vehicles on certain streets or highways, or portions thereof, during all or certain hours of the day. California Vehicle Code Section 22504(a) requires that a person stopping, parking, or leaving standing a vehicle on an unincorporated highway must leave an unobstructed width on the highway opposite a standing vehicle to allow for the free passage of other vehicles. The analysis of this ordinance approved by County Counsel is enclosed (Enclosure A).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed ordinance amendment to modify and clarify parking restrictions for blocking a highway, including the installation or removal of related traffic control devices required to notify the motoring public is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. These activities, within the existing right of way with no expansion of use nor addition of automobile lanes, are within a class of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which meets the criteria set forth in Section 15301 of the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and Class 1 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, and Class 1(x) (7) of the Environmental Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by the Board. In addition, based on the proposed project records, it will comply with all applicable regulations, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, damage to scenic highways, listing on hazardous waste site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or indications that it may cause a

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

12/3/2024

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substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource that would make the exemption inapplicable.

Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impacts to current County services or projects during the implementation of the proposed ordinance amendment. The implementation of the proposed amendment will enhance the flexibility in how the blocking of highways is addressed during the normal course of business and have a positive impact by enhancing traffic flow and safety.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works, Traffic Safety and Mobility Division.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK PESTRELLA, PE

Director

MP:EK:wm

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Chia-Ann Yen)
County Counsel
Executive Office

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Sections 15.64.300 and 15.200.010 and adds Section 15.64.302 of Title 15 – Vehicles and Traffic – of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to parking restrictions for blocking a highway or private street that is open to the public. The amendments and additions increase the required space for vehicular traffic to pass to 12 feet or more, prohibit parking where any part of a parked vehicle is on or extends across the edge lines on a marked highway or private street that is open to the public, and impose a civil penalty of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) where any part of a parked vehicle is on or extends across the edge lines on a marked highway or private street that is open to the public.

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By



LAURA T. JACOBSON
Deputy County Counsel
Public Works Division

LTJ:jy

Requested: 12/19/2023
Revised: 06/06/2024

ORDINANCE NO. _____

This ordinance amends Sections 15.64.300 and 15.200.010 and adds Section 15.64.302 of Title 15 – Vehicles and Traffic – of the Los Angeles County Code, relating to parking restrictions for blocking a highway or private street that is open to the public.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 15.64.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15.64.300 **Blocking a hHighway or pPrivate sStreet Open to the Public.**

A person shall not park any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon any highway ~~where the roadway is bordered by adjacent curbs or upon any private street~~ which that is open to the public under Chapter 15.24, whether bordered by curbs or not, unless ~~not less than eight~~ twelve (12) feet or more of the width of the paved or improved or main traveled portion of such highway or ~~such~~ private street that is opposite such parked vehicle is left clear and unobstructed for the free passage of other vehicles.

SECTION 2. Section 15.64.302 is hereby added to read as follows:

15.64.302 Blocking a Highway or Private Street with Edge Line

Markings.

A person shall not park any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon any portion of a highway or private street that is open to the public under Chapter 15.24 where the roadway is marked at its border with edge line markings, unless no part of such parked vehicle is on or extends across the marked edge line markings.

SECTION 3. Section 15.200.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15.200.010 Civil Penalties for Violations of Parking Laws.

A. The schedule of parking penalties for violations of the following provisions of the Los Angeles County Code is as follows:

Section	Description	Penalty
15.20.070	FAILURE TO OBEY SIGNS/CURB MARKINGS	\$50.00
...		
15.64.300	BLOCKING STREET	\$40.00
<u>15.64.302</u>	<u>HIGHWAY PARKING ON OR ACROSS EDGE LINE MARKINGS</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
...		

[1564300LJCC]