

**AMENDED  
POLICY NO. 49**

**BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR**

**SUBJECT: Special Haul Routes**

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**AMENDED: April 2, 2013**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**INTRODUCTION**

The St. Clair County Road Commission is authorized by Michigan statute (MCL 257.726, MSA 9.2426) to designate routes for the operation of vehicles of a weight exceeding the maximum specified for said roads. In St. Clair County, a designated haul route is defined as a road or series of roads where normal load and dimension limits may be exceeded up to the designated load and dimension maximums. Permits may be issued on a seasonal or shorter term basis dependant on the route to be followed and the conditions of the road or series of roads along the route. This policy describes procedures and requirements for property owners, materials suppliers, and truck operator's who wish to obtain permits for designated haul routes on roads under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Road Commissioners of St. Clair County.

A permit for a designated haul route must be obtained from the St. Clair County Road Commission office at 21 Airport Drive, St. Clair, MI 48079 and must be approved prior to commencing hauling operations. All applications for permits will be reviewed for safety, traffic and other transportation impacts. These items include, but are not limited to, location of driveways, sight distance, interference with other driveways and road intersections, width of haul route roadway and shoulders, dust control on unpaved roads, horizontal and vertical curves, traffic volumes, adjacent land uses, and the composition of the road and the drainage system to withstand the proposed use. All conditions and specifications appearing on the permit are considered to be part of this policy. Haul route permits will not be issued if, in the opinion of the Road Commission, the requested usage will adversely impact the public health, safety and welfare. Haul route permits may be issued for periods up to but not exceeding one year and all permits shall expire no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year unless otherwise specified.

It is the intent of the Board of County Road Commissioners that no designated haul route permits will be issued that would allow vehicles to cross bridges and/or culverts while carrying loads, which exceed the posted limitations. Any permit so issued will in no way supersede posted load limitations on any bridge or other roadway structure.

Permits will not be valid during the time of weight restrictions as set forth in Public Act No. 300 of 1949, as amended (commonly referred to as Seasonal Weight Restrictions) and at other times during the year as determined by the Board of County Road Commissioners.

It is anticipated that road improvements may be necessary in connection with the issuance of designated haul route permits to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. These improvements shall be made at the applicant's expense and the extent of such improvements will depend on the nature and duration of the requested usage. In the event that the applicant's type of operation can reasonably be expected to be continuous over a number of years and is of a high volume nature, the Commission may require that the haul route be upgraded at the applicant's expense to such an extent that a haul route permit is no longer required.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Short Term Haul Routes are those established for a specific project that will not exceed a period of two years. These are typically used to move construction materials such as sand, gravel, concrete, asphalt, or fill to a specific project, or materials disposal location. On these routes the applicant shall pay the cost of road improvements prior to permit issuance, and the cost of "above normal" maintenance items as needed. Upon completion of hauling operations, the applicant shall pay the cost of returning the road to a condition equal to or better than that, which existed immediately prior to the issuance of the permit.

Long Term Haul Routes will be established when the need for such routes is expected to exceed two years. These may include routes serving extraction operations, landfill sites, agricultural commodities, and hauling raw materials to and finished products from manufacturing and warehousing installations. In many cases, the roadway will have to be upgraded at the applicant's expense prior to permit issuance.

Above Normal Maintenance includes all work required that is a direct result of the additional loading placed on the road by the applicant's hauling operations. This is based upon past experience and the judgment of the Road Commission. It includes, but is not limited to, such items as additional grading, gravel/limestone application, pavement repair, seal coating, resurfacing, shoulder restoration, and dust control. Unless otherwise specified on the permit, the Road Commission will perform all maintenance work.

County Designated Routes are paved roads designed and constructed to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) all-season road standards and/or roads that are so designated as such by the Road Commission. This designation may be based on both the design and current conditions of the road.

County Normal Routes are gravel roads and those paved roads that are subject to normal load and dimension maximums as defined by Michigan statute.

All Season Truck Routes are shown on the current edition of the Road Map published by the Board of County Road Commissioners of St. Clair County. This map is available at the Road Commission Administrative Office.

## **GENERAL**

County roads which have been designated by the St. Clair County Road Commission as special haul routes are those upon which overweight loads may be carried. The Commission will designate special haul routes by granting permits to allow overweight truck traffic. A special haul route will be designated only with respect to the Permit Holder under permit and only for the duration of the permit.

1. The Commission may, at its discretion, authorize the use of Class B roads to carry Class A loads.
2. A special haul route permit application must be submitted to the Commission on forms provided by the Commission at least sixty (60) days before the requested effective date of the permit.
3. All required fees, bonds, cash deposits, or other agreed methods of financial surety must be deposited prior to the issuance of a special haul route permit.
4. All special haul route permits shall expire no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year unless otherwise specified.
5. A special haul route permit may be revoked by the Commission whenever the Permit Holder fails to abide by the terms of the permit. In an attempt to minimize permit revocations, staff will endeavor to work closely with the Permit Holder to gain permit compliance.
6. Unless otherwise specified, all road maintenance and repair which the Commission determines is necessary as a result of the permit activity will be performed by the Commission, or its contractors, with full reimbursement by the Permit Holder. Billings will be processed monthly and are to be paid within thirty (30) days.

If the Permit Holder's use of the special haul route is expected to continue for several years and, in the opinion of the Commission the road is not suitable to handle the anticipated loads, the Commission and the Permit Holder shall discuss a voluntary road improvement plan which will result in accommodating the operation of vehicles of a weight exceeding the maximum specified for said road.

7. Special haul route permits will not be issued if, in the opinion of the Commission, the requested usage will create hazardous conditions for the public.
8. All trucks shall carry a load ticket.
9. Any maintenance by Permit Holder or its agents shall be at the direction and under the supervision of the Commission.
10. A copy of each haul route permit will be provided to the respective township.
11. The Board of County Road Commissioners will receive a summary report annually detailing the terms, locations and company names of all haul route permit holders.

#### **PERMIT FEE**

A non-refundable permit fee as part of the Commission's Permit Fee Schedule will be charged to cover the issuance of the permit.

#### **FINANCIAL SURETY**

Financial Surety to protect the integrity of the roadway shall be provided in the form of an Irrevocable Letter of Credit assigned to the Road Commission. The amount of the Irrevocable Letter of Credit shall be at the rate of \$5,000 per mile for gravel surface roads and \$20,000 per mile for bituminous or concrete surface roads. The Irrevocable Letter of Credit, minus any unpaid costs to provide maintenance repairs, will be released at the expiration of the permit.

#### **ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

On all haul routes, the applicant may be required to accomplish improvements of the roads according to the following requirements in order to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare, and to protect the public investment in the current road system. The Road Commission, based on the existing road conditions and the expected use by the applicant, will determine the amount of improvements required. The improvements shall be done prior to issuance of the permit, in accordance with the terms of an approved agreement between the applicant and the Road Commission:

##### **1. Improvements on gravel roads:**

- a. *Small volumes:* For volumes up to 75,000 tons per year. Provide adequate sight distance at the driveway access.
- b. *Medium volumes:* For volumes of 75,000 – 250,000 tons per year. In addition to intersection sight distance improvements, reconstruct the road to current standards suitable as a base for a future hot mix

- asphalt surface, establish drainage, and widen narrow segments to allow for safe, two-way traffic and other improvements as directed.
- c. *High volumes:* For volumes of 250,000 tons per year or more. Reconstruct to a County designated route road standard.

**2. Improvements of paved roads:**

- a. *Small volumes:* For volumes up to 75,000 tons per year. Provide adequate sight distance at the access driveway.
- b. *Medium volumes:* For volumes of 75,000 – 250,000 tons per year. Provide adequate intersection sight distance at the access driveway. Pave all access driveway approaches for at least 60 feet from the edge of pavement of the public road to meet current commercial driveway approach standards. Resurface the haul route and improve drainage as determined necessary by the Road Commission.
- c. *High volumes:* For volumes of 250,000 tons per year or more. Reconstruct the haul route to a County designated route road standard. Pave the facility driveway approaches as required above.

The Permit Holder shall be responsible for all costs of “above normal” maintenance work necessary on the haul route. Unless otherwise specified on the permit, the Road Commission shall perform all maintenance work. The cost of the “above normal” maintenance is based on current labor rates, equipment rental rates and material costs, plus indirect costs and overhead. The applicant shall reimburse the Road Commission within 30 (thirty) days following issuance of billing statements for costs incurred by the Road Commission or the permit may be revoked.

Roadway improvements may be undertaken by the Permit Holder or his agents or by the Commission or its agents as determined by mutual agreement and approved by the County Board of Road Commissioners. All design and road improvements shall meet the Road Commission Construction Standards and be approved by the St. Clair County Road Commission Highway Engineer. Work shall be completed under Commission supervision. The cost for roadway improvements shall be the responsibility of the Permit Holder. The Permit Holder is required to provide a Certificate of Insurance for General Liability Insurance which meets the following insurance requirements anytime work is performed within the Road Commission right-of-way by anyone other than the Road Commission.

**INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Permit Holder must provide a Certificate of Insurance for General Liability Insurance, which shall include the current language necessary to name the St. Clair County Road Commission, et al, as additional insured. The amounts shall be as follows:

Bodily Injury Liability      \$1,000,000 each Occurrence  
   \$1,000,000 Aggregate

Property Damage Liability    \$1,000,000 each Occurrence  
   \$1,000,000 Aggregate

Or \$1,000,000 combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property  
Damage

Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability

A certificate from the insurance carrier stating the coverage, policy numbers and the expiration date, etc., shall be filed with the Commission and shall contain a clause requiring at least thirty (30) days notice to the Commission prior to cancellation of the policy by the insurance company.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Following completion of permit application analyses as indicated, general notice of the application will be provided in a newspaper of general circulation affording an opportunity for public comment on the proposed special haul route permit. The general notice will be accompanied by a map indicating the proposed routing on county roads. A copy of the notice will also be provided the municipal authority or authorities in which the haul route is located. The fee for circulation will be in addition to the permit fee.

### **PERMIT APPROVAL**

Notification of permit approval shall be provided to the municipal agency in which the haul route is located, local law enforcement agencies, fire, rescue and emergency response agencies and emergency management personnel.

### **PRE-HAUL MEETING**

Preliminary to the commencement of haul activities, the permittee and representatives of the permit department shall meet to discuss the permit issuance and associated road safety and maintenance concerns.

### **PERMIT RENEWAL**

It is anticipated that Short Term Haul Route Permits will not be renewed or reissued more than once.

It is anticipated that Long Term Haul Route Permits will be renewed or reissued each year, providing that the Permit Holder complied with rules and regulations, met the financial requirements, performed all required improvements and further that the condition of the road permits such continued use.

It may be possible that the level of financial surety provided may not be sufficient to provide the level of improvements necessary to ensure the integrity of the roadway. Should that occur, it shall be a condition of permit renewal that the roadway be improved prior to reissuance of the permit. Upon completion of road improvements, the Permit Holder may expect to be able to continue to use the haul route for a number of years by renewing the permit annually. However, the Commission does not relinquish its right to protect the road. It may be necessary to reduce load limits on a haul route after the Permit Holder has performed improvements in order to preserve the route during abnormal times of the year.


The Permit Holder is fully responsible for all operations arising out of and as a result of the issuance of a haul route permit.

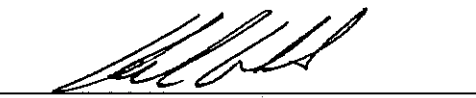
### PERMIT REVOCATION

The permit may be revoked at any time for a violation of any applicable rule or regulation or upon a determination by the Commission that revocation of the permit is in the public interest.

Permit Holder, its employees, agents, successors and assigns do not acquire any vested interest in or to any road or part thereof because of the issuance of the permit or the performance of any of the conditions of the permit. The Commission may terminate the permit at such times and upon such conditions as the Commission may deem proper, and all rights of the Permit Holder, its employees, agents, successors and assigns, and any other party or entity claiming through the Permit Holder are terminated and held for naught.

The termination of the permit by the Commission does not relieve the Permit Holder of any liability or obligations which it may have incurred as a consequence of the issuance of such permit and the operation of vehicles upon the county roads thereunder.

  
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William L. Blumerich, Chairman

  
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Kirk D. Weston, Managing Director

Originally adopted:	08/23/83
Amended:	02/14/84
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