



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power **FILE:**
Director – Legislative Services & City
Clerk

FROM: Councillor Mark Bentz

DATE: 06/23/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

SUBJECT: Request for Referral – Designated Truck Route By-law
By-law 211-2025

**MEETING &
DATE:** City Council - 06/23/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

While the designated truck route (DTR) offers benefits to road safety on Highway 102 and Arthur St, it does so by placing an additional 1500 long-haul trucks per day on to the Thunder Bay Expressway; a high-speed, high-volume arterial connecting the north and south sides of the city with numerous signalled intersections.

Currently, long-haul truck passing through Thunder Bay utilize three primary corridors: Arthur Street, Highway 11/17 and Highway 102. The implementation of the DTR will route all cross-country long-haul trucks on to one corridor: Highway 11/17.

Concerns have been raised in the community regarding the implementation of the DTR prior to making additional safety improvements to the Expressway to improve issues that could arise at the Red River Road, John Street and Oliver Road intersections. Of particular concern to residents and truckers that I have spoken to is the sight lines and downhill grade when approaching the Oliver Road intersection when heading south on the Expressway; many residents report having witnessed trucks going through red lights at this intersection and truckers have confirmed this has happened to them when operating heavily loaded trucks. To improve the safety of the thousands of Thunder Bay residents who utilize the Expressway daily, I am requesting council's consideration of the following referral:

WITH RESPECT to By-law 211-2025 – Designated Truck Route (DTR), we recommend that this By-law be referred to Administration for the purpose of further collaboration with Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) officials, MPP Holland and MPP Vaugeois to express City Council's concerns for motorist safety on the Thunder Bay Expressway as it relates to the DTR and acquire feedback on additional safety upgrades to the Expressway prior to the implementation of the DTR including:

1. That the south-bound approach to the Oliver Road intersection on the Thunder Bay Expressway be equipped with advance warning lights to alert long-haul truck drivers of an impending red light to ensure they have sufficient notice for a controlled stop.
2. That traffic signal synchronization be explored for the Thunder Bay Expressway to improve the safe travel of long-haul trucks through the many intersections within the city limits that will see large increases in truck traffic.

AND THAT Administration report back to City Council with the results of their collaborations with the MTO and local MPP's regarding these matters so that safety issues on the Expressway are addressed to the satisfaction of Thunder Bay City Council prior to the implementation of the Designated Truck Route.