



ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP
65 MOUNT HOPE ROAD, ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY 07866

CLERK'S OFFICE
Mary C. Cilurso, Municipal Clerk

cc: Admin



TO: Governor Jon S. Corzine
Senator Anthony Bucco
Assemblyman Michael Carroll
Assemblyman Rick Merkt
Board of Chosen Freeholders
NJ Department of Transportation
Senator Richard J. Codey
Senator Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.
39 Municipalities

FROM: Mary Cilurso, Township Clerk *MC BK*

SUBJ: Resolution 08-43

DATE: April 9, 2008

Enclosed please find a certified copy of Resolution #R08-43 entitled

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING NEW STATE REGULATIONS TO PERMIT
LOCAL POLICE TO ENFORCE NEW TRUCKING REGULATIONS AND
THE CREATION OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO OFF-SET THE
IMPACT OF NEW TOLL HIKES**

which was Adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway at a duly convened Meeting held on April 1, 2008.

MC:bk
Enclosure
c: Police Department

R08-43

RESOLUTION REQUESTING NEW STATE REGULATIONS TO PERMIT LOCAL POLICE TO ENFORCE NEW TRUCKING REGULATIONS AND THE CREATION OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO OFF-SET THE IMPACT OF NEW TOLL HIKES

WHEREAS, the Governor of New Jersey has unveiled a fiscal plan for balancing the State budget that relies on periodic substantial annual increases in tolls on New Jersey's toll roads; and

WHEREAS, the operating characteristics of 102-inch wide trucks and double-trailer truck combinations (hereinafter called large trucks) require greater stopping distance and greater distances to maneuver; and

WHEREAS, the physical limitations of two-lane highways and local roadways other than the interests (hereinafter called local roadways) do not offer a safe means of travel for large trucks; and

WHEREAS, the use by large trucks of local roadways poses a significant risk to the health, safety and welfare of the residents who live on and along these roads; and

WHEREAS, the use by large trucks of local roadways poses a substantial risk to the health, safety and welfare of the millions of school children being bused on these roads to and from schools on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the use by large trucks of local roadways poses a substantial risk to the millions of commuters on these roads each day; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) imposed a ban on the use of two-lane county and state highways by large trucks passing through the State; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 ban on large trucks resulted in a twenty² to forty-five² percent reduction in heavy trucking on Route 31 depending on the season; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2006 the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the 1999 ban; and

WHEREAS, in response, the DOT passed emergency regulations limiting the use by large trucks of New Jersey's State, county and local roads; and

WHEREAS, the DOT has now proposed permanent trucking regulations that limit the ability of large trucks to use New Jersey's State, county and local roads; and

WHEREAS, the new DOT truck regulations are intended to mitigate the risk to the public by encouraging large trucks to use only the interstate highways and other roads designated as part of the "National Network", including the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway, two of the toll roads slated for substantial increases under the Governor's plan; and

WHEREAS, counter to the new truck regulations, the proposed increase in tolls will result in increased truck traffic on local roadways (an increase of anywhere between seven percent³ to thirty percent⁴); and

WHEREAS, this increase in truck traffic on local state, county and municipal roads will increase the risk to life, limb and property of local residents and the traveling public⁵; and


WHEREAS, since the enactment of the DOT regulations are only part of the solution, a coordinated, regional approach to safety on local municipal roadways must be established.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township encourages the Governor and the DOT to install adequate signage to remind large trucks to remain on the "National Network" in keeping with the DOT regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township encourages the Governor and the DOT to create additional funding sources to help municipalities make necessary repairs created by the accelerated deterioration of roadways and deal with the resulting economic burdens resulting from increased large truck traffic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of New Jersey, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, all Senate and Assembly legislators, all New Jersey Freeholder Boards and all New Jersey Mayors.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution Adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Rockaway, County of Morris and the State of New Jersey at a duly convened Meeting held on April 1, 2008.


Mary Cilurso, RMC/CMC
Township Clerk

Sources:

1. NJ State Police random inspections, State Highway 31, 2002-2003
2. DOT Counts, State Highway 31, 2000-2007
3. DOT Estimates, Trenton Times, 1/24/08
4. Steer Davies Gleave report Trenton Times, 1/24/08
5. Penn State University Study, Trenton Times, 1/24/08