

## DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

**TO:** Mike McCurdy  
**FROM:** Michael Baker  
**DATE:** October 30, 2000  
**RE:** Ordinance Revision for Issuance of Oversized Vehicle Permits

Village staff proposes adoption of the attached ordinance, which amends the existing oversized vehicle restrictions. The primary purpose of the revisions to the ordinance is to establish a fee to be levied on permit applicants.

The Illinois Vehicle Code establishes the following minimum dimensions that a vehicle must meet or exceed on at least one dimension before the owner or operator is required to carry a permit:

- Maximum Gross Weight: 73,280 pounds
- Maximum Gross Length: 60 feet
- Maximum Gross Height: 8 feet, 6 inches
- Maximum Gross Width: 13 feet, 6 inches

The Vehicle Code mandates that each jurisdiction that owns and maintains the roads over which an oversized vehicle intends to travel must issue a permit for the movement of the vehicle.

Under the current procedures, Village permits are approved on the basis of state or county permit receipt. A permit applicant will transmit a copy of their state or county permit to the Police Department administrative staff. After reviewing the terms of the permit, if it meets the standards for approval, staff will place a stamp on the document and transmit it back to the permit applicant. This process currently satisfies the requirements for driving an oversized vehicle in Downers Grove. No fees are collected from the applicant during this transaction.

The amendment to the existing statute would attach a fee to the issuance of the permit. There are several reasons why the establishment of a fee system is appropriate and justified. There are currently no mechanisms in place to recover any of the administrative costs expended by Police Department staff persons who are responsible for overseeing this program. In addition, this fee-based system will provide greater measures of control for specifying and tracking the movements of oversized Vehicles in the Village. The use of a separate Village permit application will allow staff to collect information that pertains more directly to the movement of oversized vehicles within the Village limits.

Finally, the passage of oversized vehicles along the Village road network substantially contributes to the deterioration of roadway infrastructure. It is estimated that one 80,000-pound truck creates the same level of wear on pavement as do 8,025 passenger cars. In FY2000/01 the Village budgeted \$1,139,004 in street improvements, not including the funding received from

other governmental sources or directed to projects involving downtown reconstruction. Though this fee system will not recover all of the costs for damage inflicted on the road system by overweight trucks, it offers an opportunity to recoup some of the costs that these vehicles incur.

The ordinance changes being proposed are modeled after ordinances that currently exist in the Villages of Carol Stream and Lombard. The two municipalities both report revenue generation between \$20,000 and \$25,000 annually from the fees in recent years. With the increase in fees that the Village of Carol Stream is now implementing, revenue generation there could be as high as \$50,000 annually in future years.

The proposed amendment to the Village's oversized vehicle ordinance creates a set of ranges within each dimension (weight, length, height and width) that will be used to determine the exact fee charged to the permit applicant based on the size of the vehicle. Fee determinations are also based on the route of each vehicle, whether it is one-way, round trip, or continuous. The ordinance revisions also allow the Village to charge additional administrative or engineering fees if the dimensions of the vehicle require an escort by the police department or a substantial amount of engineering work in determining the effect of the movement of an extremely large vehicle.

It is expected that the additional administrative requirements needed to execute this new system will be minimal. Fees will be collected by issuing monthly bills to the permit applicants. This will offer a streamlined billing process, as companies typically apply for multiple permits during a month. The Financial Services Department currently uses this procedure to conduct its false alarm billing and does not expect any difficulties adapting it to oversized vehicle permits. Police department staff will continue to review and approve permit applications, consulting with engineering when necessary for movement of extremely large vehicles. Prior to the implementation of the fee-based permit system, staff will mail notification letters to those applicants whose names and addresses it currently has on file.

If the ordinance revisions are approved, staff would like to begin implementing this new system during the Winter of 2001. This time of year marks a low point in the frequency of permit applications received and will provide staff the most opportune time to adjust to the new system.