



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587-3225
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Houghton Community Council

From: Nancy Cox, Development Review Manager

Date: January 15, 2008

Subject: HOUGHTON TRANSFER STATION MITIGATION PROJECT FOLLOW-UP

During your last meeting on the Houghton Transfer Station Mitigation Project, you requested staff prepare a letter to the City Council regarding commercial truck traffic routes to and from the transfer station. You requested the letter in response to comments from citizens during the public hearing about the haulers speeding or traveling on nearby residential streets like 122nd Ave. NE.

I spoke with John MacGillivray the City's Solid Waste Coordinator. He provided information that helped me to understand the issue. He also spoke with Rick Whitney who was willing to hold on the letter until your January meeting to discuss the issue further with the full Community Council.

John MacGillivray prepared the attached memo which presents background information and describes how the City responds to issues when they arise. Please read the memo and feel free to contact me or John in advance of the meeting with further questions; John will not be attending the meeting. His number is (425) 587-3804.

Attachment 1 – Memo from John MacGillivray 12-30-08

cc: John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Coordinator
File ZON07-00039



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

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MEMORANDUM

To: Nancy Cox, Development Review Manager

From: John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Coordinator

CC: Daryl Grigsby, Public Works Director
Rob Jammerman, Development Engineering Manager

Date: December 30, 2008

Subject: Houghton Transfer Station Signage

The purpose of this memo is to provide background information for the Houghton Community Council pertaining to the management of outgoing traffic at the Houghton Transfer Station and the effectiveness of the “right turn only exit rule”.

Background

The Houghton Transfer Station, owned and operated by the King County Solid Waste Division (KCSWD), acts as the hub into which Waste Management, Inc (under contract with Kirkland, Redmond, Bothell, and Woodinville), Allied Waste (under contract with Bellevue), and other self-haulers bring their municipal garbage for eventual transport by the KCSWD to the Cedar Hills landfill. Traffic enters the station via both east and westbound NE 60th Street. According to a traffic study conducted in 2005, there are about 92 commercial and 290 self-hauler trips generated by the station on a daily basis during the weekdays. The study showed that approximately 75 percent of the traffic enters and exits the station from/to the west. In 2008 (January-November) the station has received the following number of trips:

- Number of Waste Management trips: 17,054
- Number of Allied Waste trips: 2,969
- Number of self-hauler trips: 103,084
- Number of King County Solid Waste Division trips to Cedar Hills Landfill: 8,400

In 2005, the City of Kirkland and the KCSWD received several complaints related to commercial hauler vehicles turning left when exiting the station onto NE 60th Street and then using the residential 122nd Ave NE street as a cut-through route. Reports of the trucks not obeying the posted speed limit were also received. In response, the City of Kirkland convened the Solid Waste Subcommittee which sought to resolve the issue by restricting commercial haulers to right turns only when exiting the station. The “right turn only exit rule” was implemented as a way in which to direct commercial trucks away from the residential neighborhood and student foot traffic from Ben Franklin Elementary School. In lieu of installing a RIGHT TURN ONLY sign at the exit of the station, the City elected to make a formal written request to the

commercial haulers to voluntarily comply and turn right when exiting the station. Signage directing exiting vehicles to the right was not installed so as to avoid confusing the self-hauler and self-employed business customers.

Voluntary Compliance Update

After an initial learning curve over the first couple of months in getting the haulers to abide by the right turn exit only request, the haulers, as well as the King County Solid Waste Division, have done an excellent job in complying with the rule. The most recent report of a commercial hauler ignoring the rule was received in June 2007. In response, the City of Kirkland convened the Solid Waste Subcommittee to discuss and formulate a response to the issue. City of Kirkland staff followed up with the hauler in a subsequent meeting and the hauler recommitted to voluntary compliance. Since that time, there is no record of any complaints made to the City of Kirkland Solid Waste Division regarding commercial haulers exiting to the left, using 122nd Ave NE as a cut-through, and/or not observing the posted speed limit. As such, we will continue to rely upon voluntary compliance as the most effective and least confusing means through which to control commercial hauler traffic exiting the station in lieu of installing signage.

City Contacts

We acknowledge that from time to time a commercial hauler may not abide by the established rule and, as such, we need the neighbors surrounding the station to act as our eyes and ears. We take the commitment made on the part of the commercial haulers to comply with the right turn only exit rule very seriously. Any reports of non-compliance will be acted on immediately and the commercial hauler(s) will be contacted to begin an investigation and take corrective action. Due to recent improvements in GPS tracking capabilities, Waste Management trucks are equipped with a GPS tracking system called ZONAR which provides route managers real-time and recorded data pertaining to such things as time spent at a site, idle time, service time and, most importantly, direction of travel and speed. The tracking system can act as a deterrent to drivers considering taking a short cut through the neighborhoods and/or not obeying the posted speed limits.

If any neighbors in the area see a commercial hauler's trucks exiting the station to the left, using 122nd Ave NE as a cut-through, and/or not observing the posted speed limit, I ask that they contact me directly at (425) 587-3804 or via email at jmacgillivray@ci.kirkland.wa.us. If possible, provide the color of the vehicle, a truck number, and/or license number to assist staff in identification process.