



### Interstate Truck Lane Restrictions Being Evaluated in N.C.



With North Carolina’s current population estimated to be over 7.5 million (11<sup>th</sup> nationally), and vehicle miles of travel at an all time high (82 billion miles in 1998), there are more people traveling closer together on N.C. highways than ever before. In North Carolina, a traffic crash is reported every two and one-half minutes, and a person is injured in a crash every three and one-half minutes. During 1998, there were 150,000 people injured and 1,593 people killed in traffic crashes on North Carolina streets and highways. Every injury and crash is significant, and the impacts are felt by everyone.

**Safety** is the Department of Transportation’s **Top Priority**, and we are committed to reducing injuries and fatalities in *The Good Roads State*. Traffic crashes are complex sequences of events that involve driver, vehicle and roadway factors. The most effective safety solutions address the relationship of these factors and include strategies from the four (4) E’s, education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency response.

One strategy already visible to N.C. travelers is the restriction of trucks with three or more axles to the right most lanes along specific interstate sections. This initiative is consistent with national efforts to reduce large truck related fatalities and is part of North Carolina’s comprehensive Truck Safety Plan to improve traffic safety and highway operations. As a result, the following 123 miles of interstate have been designated with lane restrictions for trucks:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-40/I-85 – From 1 mile east of SR 3056 (Rock Creek Dairy Rd) in Guilford Co to 0.2 miles east of SR 1120 in Orange Co. (24.9 miles);</li> <li>• I-40 – From US 158 (Stratford Rd) eastward to 1 mile west of US 311 in Forsyth Co. (6.1 miles);</li> <li>• I-40 – From .3 miles east of SR 2531 in Buncombe Co. to US 70 in McDowell Co. (5.6 miles);</li> <li>• I-85 – From .4 miles north of NC 274 in Gaston Co. to SR 2480 (Sugar Creek Rd) in Mecklenburg Co. (26.4 miles);</li> <li>• I-77 – From the S. C. state line northward to NC 160 (West Blvd) (8.75 miles);</li> <li>• I-440 – From SR 1427 (Lake Dam Rd) to Glen Eden Drive in Wake Co. (17.3 miles)</li> <li>• I-85 – From SR 1117 in Guilford Co. to US 29-52-70/I-85 Business in Davidson Co. (33.6 miles; Signs will be erected after completion of resurfacing project)</li> </ul> |
| <p>Along the above designated sections of Interstate freeways, North Carolina restricts single trucks with three or more axles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 26,000 lbs.; or truck and truck trailer combinations with three or more axles and a combined GVWR of more than 26,000 lbs. to the right lanes.</p> <p>Information Link: <a href="http://www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/preconstruct/traffic/safety/trucksafety">www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/preconstruct/traffic/safety/trucksafety</a></p>  |

These truck lane restrictions are being monitored and evaluated by NCDOT’s Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch for impacts on crash rates, crash severity, and traffic operations. As a safety precaution, truck lane restrictions were excluded from highway sections with left-side exits and merging areas, and between closely spaced interchanges. Ongoing engineering evaluations of the safety and operational performance of restricted sections will be used to determine which sections continue the lane restrictions and which sections may be better suited for other countermeasures.

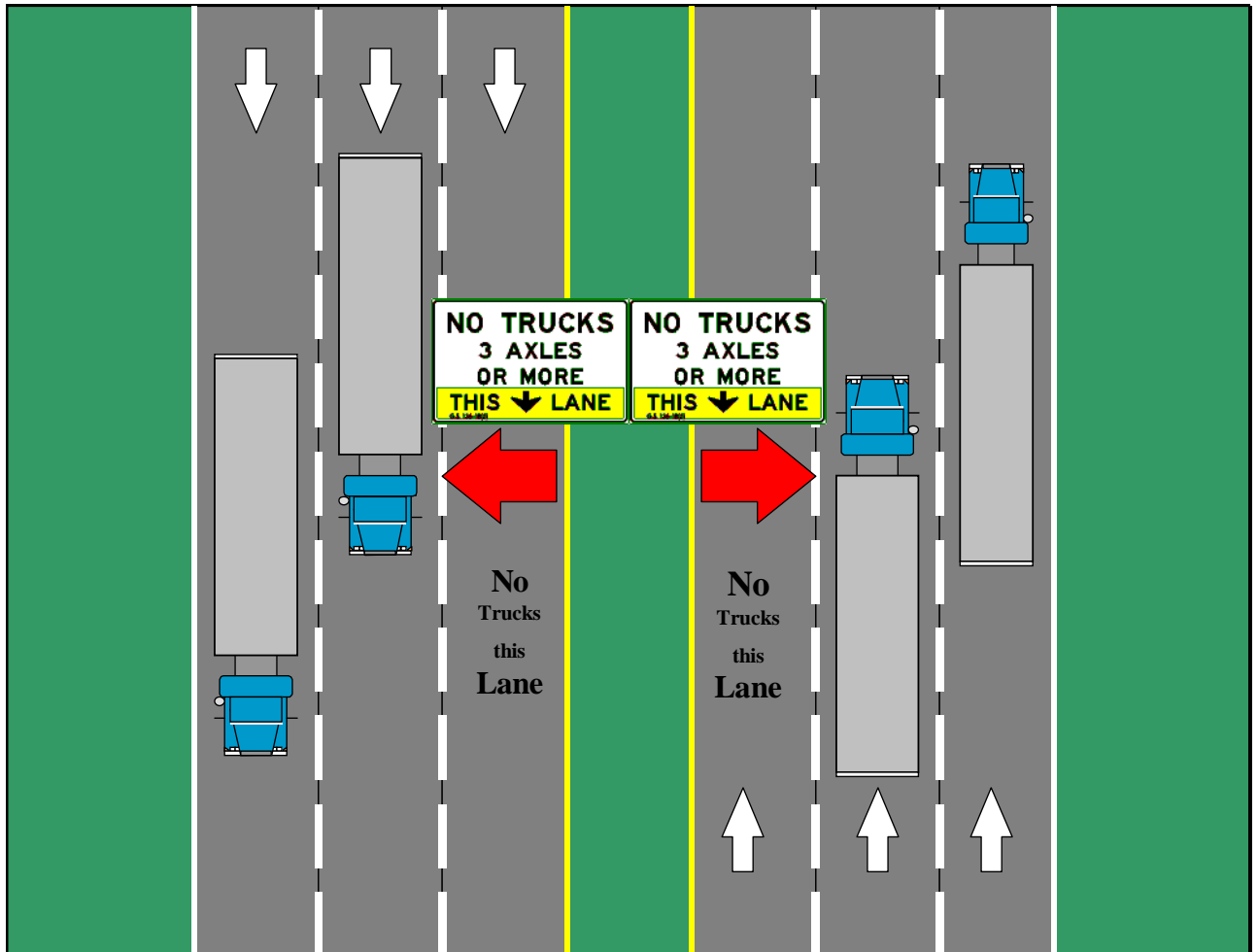
Some of the advantages of keeping the largest and heaviest vehicles out of the highest speed through lanes include:

- Providing additional separation between trucks and opposing direction traffic and median barrier systems
- Providing additional margin of safety for vehicles that may be disabled and/or involved in an incidents in the leftmost lanes and along median shoulders

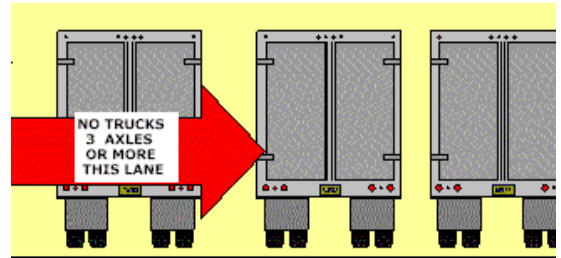
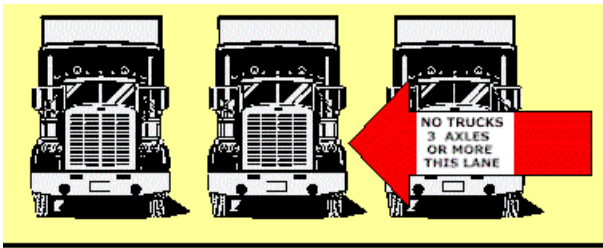
- Reducing the frequency of passenger vehicles being “boxed-in” by large trucks and a reduction in evasive truck maneuvers to the right, or into the trucker’s “blind” side.

Recent federal and state legislation has helped define a framework for efforts to improve not only truck safety, but also overall highway safety in North Carolina. These ongoing efforts are visible in NCDOT’s Truck Safety Process Improvement Committee as well as the Commercial Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Committees. These multi-agency (public and private) workgroups have emphasized innovation and utilization of new technologies in combination with effective traditional safety efforts such as North Carolina’s Spot Safety Program, hazard elimination projects, and ongoing maintenance projects. These efforts have provided highway median and shoulder guardrails and barriers, improved clear recovery zones, auxiliary turn lanes, traffic control devices (such as traffic signals and signs), pavement markings (that are more visible and longer lasting), and more protection for workers and travelers in work zones.

All of us traveling on North Carolina’s streets and highways have an important role in improving highway safety. We can help reduce crashes by focusing on the task of safe driving, increasing our following distances, and by staying out of the “No-Zone” areas immediately behind and around larger trucks. Together, we can work toward making North Carolina the *Safe Roads State*.

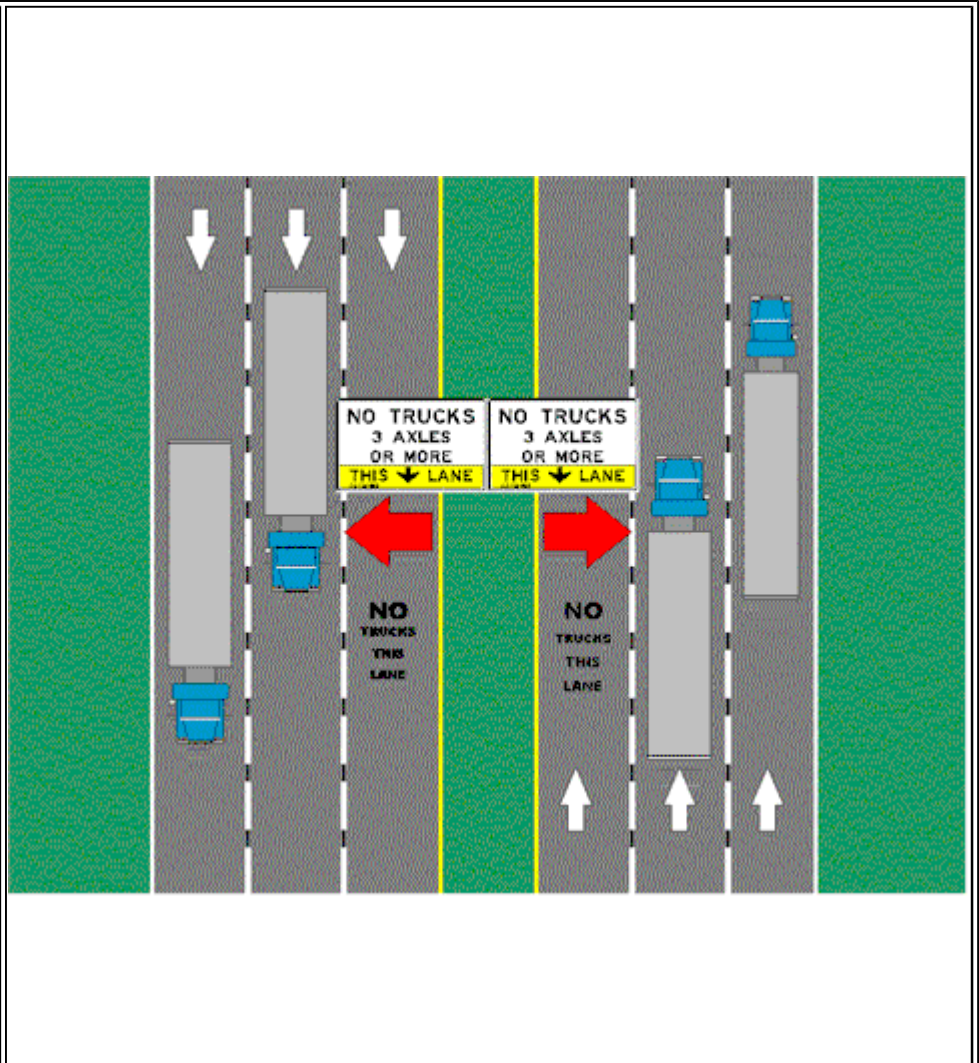


# North Carolina Interstate Truck Lane Restrictions



Along the following designated sections of Interstate freeways, North Carolina restricts single trucks with three or more axles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 26,000 lbs. to right lanes

- **I-40/ I-85** - From 1 mile east of SR 3056 (Rock Creek Dairy Rd) in Guilford Co. to 0.2 miles east of SR 1120 in Orange Co. (24.9 miles);
- **I-40** - From US 158 (Stratford Rd) eastward to 1 mile west of US 311 in Forsyth Co. (6.1 miles);
- **I-40** - From .3 miles east of SR 2531 in Buncombe Co. to US 70 in McDowell Co. (5.6 miles);
- **I-85** - From .4 miles



north of NC 274 in Gaston Co. to SR 2480 (Sugar Creek Rd) in Mecklenburg Co. (26.4 miles);

- **I-77** - From the S.C. state line northward to NC 160 (West Blvd) (8.75 miles);
- **I-440** - From SR 1427 (Lake Dam Rd) to Glen Eden Drive in Wake Co. (17.3 miles)
- **I-85** - From Guilford Co. to US 29-52-70 /I-85 Business in Davidson Co. (33.6 miles)

### What it Does

- Prevents "No-Zone" Wrap, Tractor trailer's on two (2) sides of passenger cars at same time
- Positions largest vehicles out of the highest speed lanes
- Reduces the frequency of passenger vehicles being "boxed-in" by large trucks
- Reduces evasive truck maneuvers to the right, or into the trucker's "blind" side
- Provides additional spacing from life-saving median barrier systems.
- Provides additional truck clearance from opposing direction traffic.
- Improves visibility and clearance for disabled vehicles in or along median shoulders.

[Download More Information](#)

### Other NC Truck Restrictions



N.C. State Highway Patrol and Local Law Enforcement Officers will issue citations for violations relating to restricted lane travel by a commercial motor vehicle [Effective December 1, 1999].



[RETURN TO NC TRUCK RESOURCES](#)

## OTHER NC TRUCK RESTRICTIONS

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| US 74 from the west intersection of NC 226 to SR2245-Midway ( <b>Cleveland County</b> )                               |
| NC 24 Jacksonville ( <b>Onslow County</b> )   |
| I-26 from 3.3 miles west of SR1135-Skyuka eastward to a point 0.40 miles west of SR1135-Skyuka ( <b>Polk County</b> ) |
| I-26 from 0.40 mile east of NC225, eastward to a point 2.4 miles east of NC225 ( <b>Henderson County</b> )            |
| I-40 <b>Wake County</b>   |
| I-40 from the Tennessee state line eastward to US 276 (Exit 20) ( <b>Haywood County</b> )                             |
| I-40 Business/US 421 from US 52 to Knollwood Street, Winston-Salem ( <b>Forsyth County</b> )                          |
| I-40 Eastbound from milemarker 34 eastward to milemarker 36 ( <b>Haywood County</b> )                                 |



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