



**Date:** November 18, 2008  
**To:** Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember, First District *BL*  
**Subject:** Resolution to Oppose Federal Legislation regarding Longer Combination Vehicles and Support the Safe Highway and Infrastructure Preservation Act (SHIPA, H.R. 3929)

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**BACKGROUND**

Longer Combination Vehicles (LCVs), including double tractor and triple tractor-trailers, are extremely dangerous on our roads and are known to cause tremendous amounts of damage to our roads and bridges. The US Department of Transportation found that LCVs are 11% more likely to be involved in a fatal accident.

Many of the bridges in California are old and greatly in need of repair. Over fifty five percent of the bridges in California are over 40 years old and the US Department of Transportation already rates thirty percent as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. These LCVs increase the risk of bridge failure, accelerate bridge deterioration, and add to the cost of maintaining our highway infrastructure.

In 2004, the City Council passed a resolution to voice their opposition to the operation of LCVs within the jurisdiction of the City of Long Beach, as a condition of approval for the I-710 project. Today, there is again a movement in Congress to increase truck sizes and weights and allow LCVs in California. The Safe Highway and Infrastructure Preservation Act (SHIPA, H.R. 3929) would protect our infrastructure and our communities by maintaining current size and weight limits and would extend the existing freeze on Interstate operations of LCVs to the entire National Highway System.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Request that the City Council adopt the attached resolution to Oppose Federal Legislation regarding Longer Combination Vehicles and Support the Safe Highway and Infrastructure Preservation Act (SHIPA, H.R. 3929)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LONG BEACH VOICING OPPOSITION TO  
INCREASES IN TRUCK WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS  
OPERATING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION  
OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH**

Whereas, the City of Long Beach is concerned for the health, welfare and safety of the City's residents and the conditions of its infrastructure; and

Whereas, the City of Long Beach is concerned that attempts are being made at the federal level as part of the reauthorization of the SAFETEA-LU to increase the size, weight and allowable number of trailers beyond the capacity of existing road infrastructure; and

Whereas, bigger and heavier trucks cause greater acceleration of the deterioration of the city's alleys, streets, roads and bridges putting further pressure on local tax payers to fund regional infrastructure; and

Whereas, according to a Minnesota Department of Transportation study, a 20% increase in weight almost doubles the fatigue damage to bridge decks, beams, and trusses; and

Whereas the US Department of Transportation's 2007 National Bridge Inventory states that 13,428 of the bridges in the State of California are more than 40 years old and 6,977 of the bridges in the State of California are already designated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and

Whereas, the City of Long Beach, along with many of the municipal associations in the area has a history of opposing increase in truck weights and strongly opposes all legislation that attempts to shift costs and liability of private businesses on to local governments and threatens local control of local roads; and

Whereas, the increased weights and operation of LCVs on state highways and freeways are opposed by the Peace Officers Research Association of California, the California Police Chiefs Association, the California Association of Highway Patrolmen, the California State Association of Counties, Congress of California Seniors, and others;

Now, therefore, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

Sec. 1 That the City of Long Beach opposes any legislation increasing truck weight and size beyond the capacity of our road systems and putting Long Beach alleys, streets, roads and bridges at risk of increased damage or deterioration.

Sec. 2 This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.



**City of Long Beach Memorandum**  
Working Together to Serve

## REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: November 18, 2008

To: Larry Herrera, City Clerk

From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember, 1st District

Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of November 18

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Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
1	Bonnie Lowenthal	Bianca Roman for BL
9	Val Lech	Val Lech
4	Patrick O'Donnell	Pat O'Donnell

Attachment: Staff Report dated \_\_\_\_\_

CC: Office of the Mayor