

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. TAB 26-03**

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CLERKS OFFICE

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO MSB 11.08 CLOSURES AS ADOPTED ON MARCH 17, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board advises the Assembly on transportation-related issues; and

WHEREAS, the Manager is authorized to restrict use of or close any road, street, or other public way maintained by the borough, including those maintained through service areas, whenever the Manager considers such closures or restriction of use necessary for the protection of the public, or for the protection of the roadway from damage during storms, floods, thawing conditions or during construction or maintenance operations; and

WHEREAS, our current road design and infrastructure is not built to accommodate full commercial axle loading during thawing conditions and therefore it substantially reduces the structural capacity of roads due to saturated and weakened subgrade soils; and

WHEREAS, heavy vehicle loading during these periods significantly accelerates pavement degradation, increases maintenance and reconstruction costs, and shortens the service life of transportation infrastructure; and

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WHEREAS, protecting the local road system is essential to maintaining safe, reliable access for residents, emergency services, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, road shoulders damaged by overweight loading during thaw conditions serve as a facility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users on much of the borough road network, and shoulder degradation directly compromises the safety of these users; and

WHEREAS, engineering best practices demonstrate that weight limits are among the most effective tools for preventing damage during seasonal thawing events; and

WHEREAS, broad or loosely defined exemptions undermine the effectiveness of weight restrictions and can lead to inconsistent enforcement, inequitable treatment of users, and increased infrastructure damage; and

WHEREAS, in many cases there are alternative transportation methods, routing, timing, or load configurations that exist can reduce or avoid the need for overweight vehicle travel during restricted periods; and

WHEREAS, exemptions should be narrowly tailored, clearly defined, and limited to essential or emergency services where no reasonable alternative exists; and

WHEREAS, the exemption permit fee is \$100.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Transportation Advisory

Board recommends that the Assembly further amend MSB 11.08 to enhance protection of borough road infrastructure during weight restriction periods, including but not limited to the following provisions:

Eligibility for Exemptions:

- Weight exemption permits should be issued only in the case of an emergency or when an essential function requires movement of an overweight load, and not for convenience or expediency.
- Conditions constituting an emergency and essential functions justifying an exemption should be clearly defined in code.

Permit Conditions and Oversight:

- The cost for exemption permit should be \$500.
- The permitting process should require route approval by the appropriate MSB road authority.
- The permitting process should include inspection of the proposed route prior to approval and following completion of the permitted travel. Pre- and post-travel route inspections should specifically document the condition of road shoulders and any non-motorized facilities along the permitted route, and shoulder damage should be included in cost-recovery calculations

under the enforcement provisions.

- Permit applications should require the applicant to document how vehicle weight will be reduced to the minimum safe operating weight.
- The following emergency essential functions are pre-approved and exempt from permitting cost and road damage:
 - All police and fire-related functions; and
 - MSB, State of Alaska DOT&PF, and MSB-approved companies for emergency or required road repairs.

Enforcement and Cost Recovery:

- Violations of weight restrictions should be subject to \$1,000 fine.
- Violators should be required to reimburse the Borough for the actual cost of repairing road damage, including shoulders and non-motorized facilities caused by overweight travel (for inspection, repair, documentation, and reporting as determined by various MSB Departments).
- MSB Manager should develop a reporting tool in Problem Reporter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Board supports the revisions to MSB 11.08 as proposed in Ordinance

26-045 as a positive step toward limiting exemptions to essential purposes and improving protection of borough roads.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Transportation Advisory Board this 10th day of APRIL, 2026.


Jesse Peterson, Chair 4/10/26
Date

ATTEST:


Julie Spackman, Staff Member 4/10/26
Date