

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



The District Department of Transportation (DDOT)'s mission is to ensure efficient and safe mobility of commercial vehicles traveling in the District of Columbia while mitigating community impacts and preserving transportation infrastructure. Commercial vehicles are essential to the District of Columbia, providing goods and services to thousands of District residents and businesses every day.

Our distinct urban environment and mix of land uses inform the District's regulatory framework for trucks and commercial vehicles. The information provided here is for educational purposes only; please refer to the official [District of Columbia Municipal Regulations](#) (DCMR) for the most current rules and regulations governing trucks and commercial vehicles.

Commercial Vehicle Definition

A Commercial Vehicle is any four-wheeled vehicle that is longer than twenty-two (22) feet; or used for transporting commercial loads or property; or described as a commercial vehicle on its certificate of title; or has an irremovable commercial advertisement or insignia.

Commercial Vehicle Routes & Restrictions

The District of Columbia designated citywide truck and bus routes, which should be used as long as possible until reaching their final destination. These maps also identify where bus travel is restricted and where through truck travel is restricted. Few streets in the District of Columbia are completely restricted to trucks, however. A truck restriction means that the street is closed to through truck traffic, but open to trucks making local deliveries.

DDOT's interactive map of [DC Truck and Bus Routes](#)

DDOT's PDF map of [DC Truck and Bus Routes](#)

Truck Route Trip Planner Tool

DDOT also offers a truck route trip planner tool to map out the best routes for oversized/overweight and simply large vehicles traveling through the District. To access the tool, click "Guest Access" when you are prompted to log in, then select your "Boundary Location" or point of entry into the District as your origin, enter your destination, and press "Generate" for your route.

[DDOT's Truck Route Trip Planner](#)

Commercial Vehicle Restrictions approaching Washington DC

No trucks are permitted on the Roosevelt Bridge entering/exiting Washington DC and Virginia.

Please note that trucks are prohibited on I-66 east of I-495. Contact the [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) for details about truck restrictions on Virginia roadways.

The National Park Service (NPS) also manages several parkways in the vicinity of Washington DC with varying restrictions for commercial vehicles. Please contact the NPS directly for details about the following parkways:

[Baltimore-Washington Parkway](#)
[George Washington Parkway, Clara Barton Parkway, Spout Run](#)

Hazardous Materials Restrictions

Section 1403.1 of the DCMR restricts any motor vehicle carrying hazardous materials from entering the following,

- The Interstate - 395 freeway tunnel from the south portal to the most northerly portal at K Street, N. W.; and
- The Ninth Street Expressway tunnel from the north portal at Madison Drive to the south portal, which is south of Independence Avenue.

DDOT's authority to establish restrictions on specific roadways for commercial vehicles is outlined in Title 18, Chapter 40 of the DCMR.

Oversized / Overweight Vehicle Permits

The District of Columbia has size and weight restrictions for vehicles traveling on roadways within its boundaries; any vehicles larger than the dimensions and weights listed below will require an Oversized/ Overweight permit to operate within the District:

Unless otherwise posted, the maximum as-of-right dimensions for vehicles:

- Width: 8 feet, or 8 feet 6 inches for 15+ passenger buses
- Height: 13 feet 6 inches
- Length: 40 feet for all single unit vehicles; 60 feet for all buses; 55 feet for all semi-trailers and other combinations of vehicles*

Weight Restrictions:

Unless otherwise posted, the maximum as-of-right weight for vehicles:

- Weight on any one axle: 21,000 pounds
- Weight on any two consecutive axles less than 10 feet apart: 34,000 pounds

Any vehicles exceeding these restrictions require an oversized/overweight vehicle permit to travel within the District of Columbia.

- For an OSOW permit, please apply online through DDOT's Transportation Online Permitting System, [TOPS](#).
- Oversized / Overweight Vehicles [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Curbside Regulations & Programs

Commercial vehicles can be ticketed for:

- Double parking
- Parking in a residential neighborhood – if the vehicle seats more than 15 passengers, is longer than 22 feet or wider than 8 feet, and/or is designed to haul trash or debris
- Parking at meters – unless displaying a commercial loading permit during off-peak hours
- Parking in a commercial vehicle loading zone for longer than the posted time limit
- Idling longer than three minutes – or longer than five minutes if the temperature is 32°F or below

Commercial loading zones are signed, on-street metered loading zones exclusively for commercial vehicles. These zones aim to support the delivery needs of District businesses and reduce the traffic impacts of loading/unloading. Commercial loading hours are between 7:00 AM and 6:30 PM, for up to two hours at a time, unless otherwise posted. Commercial vehicles need to pay by permit or phone for the use of commercial loading zones; annual and daily loading zone permits are available through DDOT's Transportation Online Permitting System [TOPS](#). For a map of commercial loading zones, please visit <http://godcgo.com/dc-truck-and-bus-map/> To request a commercial loading zone assessment (such as to add, remove, or adjust a zone), please contact DDOT.freight@dc.gov

Pick-Up Drop-Off (PUDO) Zones are signed, curbside locations exclusively for passenger pick-up and drop-off and short-term commercial loading 24 hours a day. These curbsides are dedicated full-time to pick-up/drop-off activities to enable passenger and commercial loading directly at the curb, and out of travel lanes. Parking will not be allowed at these locations at any time of the day.

Tractor-trailer parking outside of commercial vehicle loading zones is extremely limited within the District of Columbia. As per DCMR 2405.5 and 2405.6, a trailer may not park on any public thoroughfare adjacent to any private dwelling or apartment, house of worship, school, playground, or hospital when not engaged in work at such place; or adjacent to any public park. One of the few private lots that may accommodate tractor trailers is the [Union Station Parking Garage](#). Please plan accordingly.

Contractor and service vehicles may be issued a temporary residential parking permit for home repairs. For more details, please contact DDOT.parking@dc.gov, or visit [DDOT Parking Services](#).

Address-specific commercial parking or equipment storage, including moving truck loading/unloading, can be accommodated via DDOT's Transportation Online Permitting System. Please visit [TOPS](#) to learn about Parking / Occupancy Permits.

For information about motor coach parking or other parking services, please visit [DDOT Parking Services](#).

Enforcement

- **Parking Tickets:** The [Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#) is responsible for the adjudication and payment of parking tickets.
- **Towed Vehicles:** The [Department of Public Works \(DPW\)](#) is responsible for towing vehicles that are in violation of parking regulations. For more information on locating a towed vehicle, call 311.

- **Moving Violations:** The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is responsible for enforcing restricted truck and bus routes as well as truck size/weight regulations within the District of Columbia.

Related Resources

- [Interactive Map of Truck Routes, Restrictions, and Loading Zones](#)
- [Truck Route Trip Planner](#)
- [Transportation Online Permitting System](#)
- [International Registration Plan \(IRP\)](#)
- [Freight Rail Information](#)
- [Bridge and Tunnel Vehicle Clearances Map](#)