

FREIGHT AND VEHICLE EMPHASIS



Although all streets must be complete streets, the network must continue to provide for the efficient movement of vehicles and freight.

Some streets in the network are explicitly designated to emphasize freight and vehicle movement. These streets must still be designed to safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and all other travelers.

Grand Rapids has an adopted truck route plan. All streets designated as truck routes must be designed to accommodate at least the occasional large vehicle. However, some streets may be specifically designated for a higher proportion of freight vehicles. Additionally, as the center of the regional economy, Grand Rapids must anticipate and accommodate the efficient movement of regional vehicle travel. Within the city are several MDOT streets designated for Freight and Trucking. To ensure the successful movement of freight and the continued need for efficient vehicle movement, some streets are designated with a Freight and Vehicle emphasis.

As with all other streets, designation as Vehicle and Vehicle emphasis does not mean that other modes can be unacceptably compromised. Safety for all potential users remains paramount. Additionally, these streets, as with all streets, must continue to serve and support their abutting land uses. However, by their nature, Freight and Vehicle emphasis streets may be less attractive to pedestrians and bicyclists who have other route alternatives.

Unless specifically designated with another of the overlays, both Maker/Industrial streets and Crosstown Connectors have an inherent emphasis to safely and efficiently move freight vehicles and automobiles. The Freight and Vehicle emphasis overlay may also be applied to Network Residential, Neighborhood Business, and Urban Center street types.

Among other design approaches, streets overlaid with a Freight and Vehicle emphasis may have signal controlled intersections or free flowing roundabouts, wider curb radii, long signal cycles, long block lengths and many curbside restrictions. Depending on the underlying context of the street, Freight and Vehicle emphasis streets may either have a high number of access points, such as on 28th Street, or very limited access, such as on East Beltline.