



Catawba Valley

Traffic Club

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March 3, 2008

STAA Update Regarding 4-Lane Highway 321

Thanks to everyone for pitching in, becoming involved, sending letters to the various government officials, for making phone calls to involve others, and for spreading the word!

NCTA NEWS 2/25/8 - Progress on 53 foot trailer issue!!

The club has received phone calls, letters, feedback, direction, and information from the following individuals: Rep. Mitchell Setzer, Catawba, NC/Lisa Avery – on behalf of Michael Basley – NC Department of Transportation, Raleigh, NC/Charlie Diehl, NC Trucking Association, Raleigh, NC/ Graham Fields – on behalf of Sen. Elizabeth Dole, Raleigh, NC.

Last week, Ed Toler (Atlantic Coast Trailers), forwarded to the club a North Carolina Trucking Association e-mail up-date, regarding the Highway 321 issue. The information specifically noted the current situation, regulations, and the current efforts taken to address this issue and on Monday of this week we did receive the following up-dated information:

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"There is still work to do, state-wide, but some important routes just
> became correctly classified as STAA routes for 53 foot trailers.
> (See the message below from the NC Highway Patrol.) 53_ trailers are
> now (immediately) legal on all parts of US Hwy 321, US Hwy 421, and on
> US Hwy 221 between Boone and the South Carolina state line.
>
> This ruling does not affect twin trailers, but there may still be some
opportunity on that issue.
>
> NCTA and its partners in these efforts will keep at it.
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Charlie Diehl"

Excerpts from e-mail dated 2/28/8 - NC Trucking Association/Julie Richards)

53' Trailers – STAA ROUTES

“The North Carolina Attorney General's office has provided a corrected interpretation of those roads in North Carolina designated as accessible by truck/tractors pulling semi-trailers of not more than 53 feet in length. State Highway Patrol members have previously been made aware that truck/tractors pulling semi-trailers longer than 48 feet, but not more than 53 feet, and trucks pulling double trailers were limited to a network of roads designated by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA). This network of roads, commonly referred to as the STAA Network, are outlined in red and silhouetted on a map of the State of North Carolina. These designated routes consisted of Interstates and other primary routes.

Per the new interpretation, the routes listed on the STAA Network map for trucks pulling double trailers have not changed. However, US 321 and US 421 statewide will now be accessible for truck/tractors pulling semi-trailers not more than 53 feet in length. US 221 between Boone and the South Carolina State Line will also be accessible to semi-trailers not more than 53 feet in length. Again these new route designations do not apply to trucks pulling double trailers, unless already outlined by the STAA Network.

Effective immediately, no enforcement action shall be taken against drivers solely for operation of truck/tractors with semi-trailers longer than 48 feet, but no more than 53 feet, on these newly designated routes. All other provisions of law shall still apply with the exception of length on these designated roads. Reasonable access shall be granted up to 3 miles from the new designated routes.”

– North Carolina Trucking Association, Excerpt taken from NCTA e-mail – Dated: 2/25/2008 – Titled: NCTA NEWS – 2/25/8 Progress on 53 foot trailer issue.

Joella Stough

President

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