



To: Jason R. Rogers, City Manager
From: Emily Whittington, Policy Analyst I
Subject: Adams Heights Concerns
Date: January 2, 2025

During the December 2, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting City Council motioned to direct the City Manager to have a comprehensive report about the efforts being made by the City staff to deal with the problems that have arisen regarding the issues at 68th and Albion. This motion passed unanimously with all nine council members voting yes. City staff from both Public Works and the Police Department provided a summary of work and large-scale projects that have been completed in the Adams Heights neighborhood over the course of the last few years, which are outlined below in this memo.

The City's Public Works staff has made improvements in response to resident infrastructure concerns in the Adams Heights neighborhood. Since 2021, the following steps were taken to address concerns from residents in the area:

- **68th Avenue Multi-Modal Project:** An ongoing project including the addition of widened sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, new crosswalks, intersection bulb outs (curb extensions), Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), reconstructed ADA-compliant curb ramps, lane restriping, new street lighting, and drainage improvements that aim to improve safety and multimodal connectivity. The cost for this project totals over \$2 million, with \$455,000 allocated for design and \$1.55 million for construction.
- **Speed Humps:** Originally installed for the new Alsup School site in 2021, with an additional speed hump installed in 2022 along 68th between Albion and Ash. The cost to install the speed humps in 2021 was \$4,400.
- **68th Avenue Mill/Overlay & Restripe:** In 2022, 68th Avenue was milled, overlaid, and restriped to provide traffic calming measures by reducing the travel lane width and adding another crosswalk for Alsup Elementary. Adams 14 School District paid for the restriping.
- **Signage:** All existing truck restriction signs on Colorado Boulevard and Brighton Boulevard were replaced in 2023 to assist the Police Department in enforcement.
- **68th Avenue Striping Modification:** A striping modification was made on 68th Avenue in 2023, to provide a right edge line to restrict the eastbound travel lane between Albion and Ash. The cost for the modification was \$700.
- **Speed Data Collection:** Following speed hump installation in August 2022, February 2024, and August 2024 speed data was collected. Data collection confirmed speeds had been significantly reduced from before the 2021 speed hump installation. Prior to the speed hump installation in December 2018, the average speed was 34 miles per hour (MPH) while 428 vehicles were measured travelling at 40 MPH, including 10 over 65 MPH. Post speed hump installation in August 2022, the average speed was 27 MPH. In

August 2024, the average speed was 24 MPH and 1 vehicle was measured travelling at 40 MPH or higher. The average speed was 25 MPH in February 2024.

- **Annual Storm Water Cleaning:** Both inlets on Albion at 68th Avenue were cleaned for typical sediment and debris on July 25, 2024.
- **Sweeping Program:** The area is scheduled to be swept in April, June, and August. Public Works also provided sweeping on July 25th and 26th this year.
- **Site Visits:** On October 10th, Public Works visited 68th to 74th on Colorado Boulevard. Debris was identified near inlets on Albion and staff completed a cleaning on November 5th. There were no violations identified by Code Enforcement or the Police Department.

The City's Police Department (PD) has implemented improvements and programs in response to resident public safety concerns in the Adams Heights neighborhood. Since 2022, the following steps were taken to address concerns from residents in the area:

- **Incident Log:** Between January 1, 2022 and December 9, 2024 there have been a total of 1,900 calls for service in Adams Heights. From January 2022 to date, over 260 citations have been issued in the Adams Heights area for several violations including, but not limited to: speeding, reckless driving, exceedance of the posted weight limit, disorderly conduct, and a variety of parking violations. 103 citations were issued in 2022, 86 citations were issued in 2023, and 67 citations were issued in 2024.
- **Targeted Enforcement:** The PD completed a targeted enforcement plan in the Adams Heights neighborhood Q4 2023. Multiple meetings were held with Ms. Valdez and representative staff from PW, PD, and the City Manager's Office. A memorandum summary (see attached) was prepared outlining action items for signage, raised median and traffic calming, police presence and enforcement, and Brannan Sand & Gravel truck turning issues.
- **Signage:** The PD installed a VMS board eastbound on 68th Avenue near Ash. The board is mobile and programmed by staff. Because the PD had owned the VMS board, there were no costs associated other than operator time for the installation and programming of the board.
- **Established CMV Unit:** The PD partnered with Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and Port of Entry to run an operation with scales in two areas around Adams Heights. The first was conducted along 70th at Colorado Boulevard and the second was located on Colorado Boulevard near 66th. A total of 15 inspections were completed, with 53 violations noted. Nine of the 53 violations were out of service violations. This partnership has also completed operations in other areas of Commerce City throughout the summer months.
- **CMV Certifications:** Currently one officer is a level one certified CMV inspector and another officer is working through the 32 required inspections for certification. There are three other officers that completed CMV training and are required to complete the 32 required inspections to receive certification.
- **CMV Data:** On December 17th, the PD ran a CMV operation with CSP and Port of Entry. The operation took place on 79th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard as well as 72nd

Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. There was a total of 22 inspections and 76 violations noted. There was a total of 41 OOS violations and 11 citations created. Ten citations were given for overweight vehicles.

- **CMV Messaging:** Messaging on truck routes along Colorado Boulevard have taken place on the variable messaging board, Public Safety Town Halls, as well as Facebook and other social media postings.
- **Pole Camera Installation:** There are a total of two pole cameras installed. A camera is installed to view 68th Avenue, west of Albion, and east down 68th Avenue. The camera is monitored by PD staff frequently. The pole camera installation cost was \$11,680 for both pole cameras. There is also an annual cost of \$1,280 for the ability to stream into Flock for monitoring.
- **Speed Study:** A speed study was completed at 6641 Colorado Boulevard. The study found that the average speed of lane one was 36 MPH. The average speed of lane two was 34 MPH. The posted speed limit is 35 MPH. There were some outliers observed, though they were not identified as major speed issues outside the allowance in the area. An additional speed study was completed at 68th Avenue and Ash. The results showed an average of 24 MPH and the posted speed limit is 25 MPH.

Since 2021, the City has spent approximately \$2,018,060 in total to address the concerns raised in the Adams Heights area to date. This amount is an estimation using the costs mentioned throughout this memo as identified by City staff. The exact amount spent in the area to address resident concerns may be higher. These efforts by the City were in direct response to resident concerns received by City Council and City staff.

MEMO

POLICE
DEPARTMENT

To: File
From: Dennis Flynn
Subject: Summary Of CCPD Efforts For 6600 Albion
Date: September 6, 2023

The below memorandum was completed on 07/12/23, after a meeting with Jackie Valdez regarding commercial vehicles driving in “No Commercial Truck” zones.

This memorandum provides an update of the progress made in each of the identified areas of concerns. For ease of reading, each area is updated, in red ink, listed under the Action Item section.

PREVIOUS MEMORANDUM

On 07/12/23, a meeting was held with Jackie Valdez in reference to the ongoing issues she has experienced with commercial trucks driving around her residence, located at 6695 Albion, Commerce City, which is a “No Commercial Truck” zone.

The meeting was attended by the following people:

Name	Representing	Title
Jackie Valdez	6695 Albion Commerce City	(303) 287-5211 Momjv8@gmail.com
Kristi Douglas	City Council	Councilwoman
Annette Peters	City Manager’s Office	Executive Administrator



MEMO CONTINUED

Michael Renk	Public Works	Transportation Engineer
Dax Nance	PD	Traffic Officer
Arnold Aguilar	PD	Traffic Officer
Michael Gray	PD	Patrol Sgt
Talon Darling	PD	Commander
Dave Mowery	PD	Commander
Jeremy Jenkins	PD	Commander
Dennis Flynn	PD	Deputy Chief

Previous conversations and meeting with Mrs. Valdez have occurred regarding numerous commercial vehicles driving on her street, (6600 block of Albion), as well as other streets in the area, all of which are not to be used by commercial vehicles. The chief concern is 68th Avenue, from Brighton to Colorado.

The following topics were discussed as well as items that will be acted upon.

Signage

Traffic officer Dax Nance explained the current signage regarding commercial trucks not allowed is confusing. This includes current sign of an “arrow” on 68th, on Colorado Boulevard, and on 72nd Avenue. The current signs could imply that trucks simply need to turn around.

Action Item: The CCPD Traffic Officers will help design a traffic sign and deliver it to Michael Renk in Public Works. Public Works will then put the new signs up around the area which should reduce confusion as well as make enforcement efforts easier. Commander Mowery will

MEMO CONTINUED

also work with CSO's to place VMS boards in the area and work with City Communication to further educate that commercial vehicles are prohibited.

08/15/23 UPDATE

Commander Mowery discussed this update with Michael Renk. Per Michael Renk, the new signage was received and installed on 08/14/23. Photos of these the new signs, and their locations, will be attached the last page of this report.

Raised Median and Traffic Calming Cones

The idea of raising the median at the top and bottom of East 68th Avenue, at the "T" intersection of Colorado was discussed. While it was agreed this would likely help prevent commercial trucks from using the roadway, it may have an adverse impact on fire engines, RTD buses, school buses, and delivery vehicles.

Action Item: Commander Darling has a diagram of what this would look like and he will check with Fire, RTD, and Schools to see how they could be impacted.

08/15/23 UPDATE

Commander Mowery discussed this action item with Sean Poe. Sean Poe said they will be meeting with CDOT to discuss the viability of these, (raised median and traffic calming cones), as there are large "non-commercial" vehicles which could be negatively impacted.

MEMO CONTINUED

Quarry

It was discussed that Brannan Sand & Gravel quarry, located at 7271 Colorado Boulevard, often has drivers which exit the quarry and turn right, putting them in this area. If signage was put up at the exit of the quarry that indicated no right turn was possible and all vehicles exiting had to turn left, it would help. It was further discussed that due to traffic backups, it was likely the exiting drivers would simply turn right anyway to avoid the traffic backup.

Action Item: Michael Renk from Public Works will have a sign installed indicating no right turn is allowed.

08/15/23 UPDATE

Commander Mowery discussed this with Michael Renk. Michael Renk explained the area that the signage was to be placed is on private property, which is not a possibility. Additionally, Michael Renk said that while the idea may have seemed plausible in the initial meeting, forcing all vehicles to turn left would assist Mrs. Valdez, it would have a tremendous negative impact on traffic backups, as most of the vehicles want to exit and turn right. He also explained, allowing for a right turn was permissible for these trucks.

Identify Top Five Commercial Violators

Mrs. Valdez said she has consistently noticed there are approximately five top commercial violators who illegally drive on the streets, (usually a specific cement company and Fed Ex are the top two).

Action Item: Mrs. Valdez will note the top five commercial vehicle violators and provide those company names to Commander Mowery. Commander Mowery's team will make site visits to each of these five companies to educate them and attempt to gain compliance.

MEMO CONTINUED

09/01/23 UPDATE

We have sent weekly emails to Mrs. Valdez but have we have not received any information from her on frequent violators.

Police Presence

It was discussed that simply having an officer present more often would likely cut down on the amount of commercial truck violators.

Action Item: Commander Mowery will discuss with Patrol and Traffic and request that when they need to complete reports, to park in this affected area to complete their reports to add to the visibility.

09/01/23 UPDATE

Although we have not required out participating officers to “code out” over the radio and tell ADCOM they are completing their reports at this location, officers have been doing this on a regular basis, and witnessed by patrol supervisors.

Police Enforcement

Police discussed with Mrs. Valdez the two times of the day when she notices the most commercial truck violations. She indicated in the morning, between 0600-0800 and in the afternoon between 1500-1700. We explained the morning hours are similar to school zone enforcement as is the beginning of the afternoon hours, which she understood. Although we will be beginning school zone enforcement soon, we will also make sure we do some targeted enforcement in her area, during the times she provided.

MEMO CONTINUED

Action Item: The three commanders, (Darling, Jenkins, and Mowery), will work with Traffic and Patrol to ensure some targeted enforcement will occur in the designated area during both time frames Mrs. Valdez provided. The targeted enforcement efforts, (regardless if any violators were found), will be sent to Commander Mowery.

08/30/23 UPDATE

The below enforcement stats are from 07/23/23 – 08/30/23 (38 days of enforcement):

Total stops for commercial vehicle violations – 42

Total Summons – 24

Total hours of enforcement – 63

These updates have been emailed to Mrs. Valdez, each week, as agreed upon.

Police Meetings

Mrs. Valdez shared that she believes that any citations issued to commercial violators are often just dismissed by Commerce City muni court.

Action Item: Commander Mowery will schedule a meeting with Commerce City attorney Adam Gollin and explain the numerous complaints we have been dealing with in this area with commercial vehicles and to ask for the prosecutor's assistance in holding violators responsible if citations are issued.

08/30/23 UPDATE

On 08/23, I met with the City Municipal Court Attorney, Adam Gollin, to discuss the summons issued regarding this situation. I provided Adam with some of the background regarding this enforcement effort, and he stated he was aware that there were summons issued specific to this

MEMO CONTINUED

concern. Adam stated that these summonses are never summarily dismissed, and he and his office will continue to hold violators responsible, and take appropriate action when these citations are received by the courts.

Police Updates

It did not appear that Mrs. Valdez was aware of the continual work that has been done in her area regarding commercial trucks.

Action Items: Commander Mowery will collect the enforcement data from Patrol and Traffic. He will provide a weekly email of the enforcement efforts to Mrs. Valdez, Annette Peters, and Dennis Flynn. The data will be the dates/times of the enforcement and what type of enforcement efforts were taken, (citations issued, warnings given, etc.).

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MEMO CONTINUED

Project Updates

Police explained that these efforts will take some time but they are committed to the 3 E's of traffic safety; Education, Engineering, and Enforcement, and believe this meeting, and the plans discussed, have attempted to work on each of these three E's.

Action Item: It was agreed we would meet again in 45 days, (the same invited group), to discuss progress and if driving behaviors have changed. Commander Mowery and Annette Peters will work to schedule a meeting for the week of August 28th.

08/15/23 UPDATE

I will ask Commander Mowery to work with Annette Peters to begin to schedule the agreed upon meeting, which is scheduled to occur the week of August 28, (two weeks from this memo).

City Council Update

Councilwoman Kristi Douglas explained that she would like to involve other City Council members in contacting commercial truck offender businesses, to help educate them. She also asked if CCPD could provide an update to City Council in 30 days.

Action Item: Police explained it would probably be best to look to provide an update to City Council in 45 days, as this is the same time we asked of the group. Police Chief Guadnola will be briefed on Councilwoman's Douglas' request.

08/15/23 UPDATE

I will discuss this with Police Chief Guadnola to receive his guidance on this.

MEMO CONTINUED

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR NEW SIGNAGE PHOTOS

08/15/23 Commercial Vehicle Signage Update (Received from Michael Renk)

MEMO CONTINUED

