## Routing Trucks through Georgia: Avoiding Posted Bridges

Posted bridges carry restrictions on truck travel. These restrictions notify truck drivers of the maximum weight the bridge is designed to carry by type of truck.

Road signs are posted indicating the type of truck and corresponding weight limits along the road in the direction of travel approaching a posted bridge. The 00 on the signs as depicted below indicates that type of vehicle is not currently posted. The numerical values beside each truck indicate the legal limit for that truck.



The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requires trucks that contain loads over the posted weight limit to take an alternate route. For truck drivers, this may require planning the route in advance to avoid posted bridges.

The following instructions are designed to allow a truck driver or other commercial carrier to identify posted bridges along their route and find routes to avoid posted bridges.

These instructions use freely available technologies and data to allow anyone to perform these steps on a computer with Internet access.

- Open an Internet browser such as Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Go to the following URL for the GDOT ArcGIS Bridge KML/KMZ Downloader: <u>http://gdottruckrouteservices.dot.ga.gov/</u>

• After a brief period, you will be prompted to download a **Bridges.kmz** file, this file contains all the posted bridges. **DO NOT OPEN IN GOOGLE EARTH**. You will prompted to open in Google Maps further down in the document. Save the file

Do you want to open or save Bridges.kmz (96.9 KB) from gdottruckrouteservices.dot.ga.gov? Ope	oen 🤇	Save	)	Cancel	×
---	-------	------	---	--------	---

- Select your browser options to save the file
- Launch Google My Maps (<u>https://www.google.com/maps/d/splash?app=mp</u>)
- In the upper right, click Sign In

#### Sign in 🛛 🗱

 When prompted either create a Google account (<u>https://accounts.google.com/SignUp?service=mymaps&continue</u>) or sign in using an existing Google account

Google

# One account. All of Google.

Sign in with your Google Account

Email	
Password	
Sign in	
✓ Stay signed in	Need help?

Create an account

- Enter your account information and click Sign In
- Click Create a new map



- Login with this account to Google My Maps
- In the Untitled map, under Untitled layer, click Import (https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024836?hl=en)

#### Untitled map

All changes saved in Drive



Base map

• A prompt will display for you to add layers to the screen

#### Choose a file to import

Upload	Google Drive
1	
l I	Drag a CSV, XLSX or KML file here
	Or, if you prefer
	Select a file from your computer

• Using your mouse, drag the **Bridges.kmz** file into the box or click the button to **Select a file from your computer** 



• It should now upload the Bridges.kmz file to Google My Maps

• This created a personal map for you of all posted bridges in the state

- Closed Bridges are depicted with a stop sign symbol:
- Load Limited Bridges are Depicted with a truck sign symbol:

Please Note: at this time there are occasional bugs that are causing the

above icons to occasionally display with default Google symbology depicted to the right. The placement and the load data is unaffected and is correct. The Symbology icon is the only error.



• Load Limits can be viewed by clicking on a particular bridge as depicted below:





• Click the Directions icon under the search bar



• You should see a layer added for creating driving directions

🗹 Untitled layer	:
🚔 Driving	
8	

- Type in the beginning address or location you will be driving from within the A block
- Type in the ending address or location for your route in the B block
- Click Add Destinations if needed, to add more locations
- Locations can be deleted or edited or dragged into the correct driving/sequential order



 The map now shows your driving route and if any posted bridges are along the way



- In this case, driving this route from Tifton to Ocilla, no posted bridges were intersected
- You can hover over the route to see a white circle, then click and drag your mouse to create a different route



• Or add a destination to create another route



- In this case, driving from Tifton through Brookfield to Ocilla, intersected 3 posted bridges
- Clicking on the menu icon
  next to the heading of the directions

✓ Directions from Tifton, GA, United... <sup>\*</sup>

will allow you to select the option to see Step-by-Step Directions

### Drive 19 mi, 22 minutes



• If desired, you can continue to drag the route or Add Destinations to avoid or reroute around posted bridges



• In this case, driving from Tifton through Brookfield along some of the other routes to Ocilla, will avoid posted bridges, but shows a path allowing me to travel to my desired destinations

×

• To ensure you are using current data, periodically download and overwrite your saved copy of the **Bridges.kmz** file

Due to the bugs mentioned previously the **Bridges.kmz** file cannot always be opened successfully using Google Earth and Google Earth Pro (Both Free). It is recommended to use Google Maps until the software manufacturer resolves the bugs.

- Multiple maps can be created, customized, marked-up, and saved to Google My Maps
- Maps created can also be shared following these instructions: <u>https://support.google.com/maps/answer/144361?hl=en</u>
- Additional help on Google Maps can be found here: <u>https://support.google.com/maps/?hl=en#topic=3093585</u>
- In particular, see Your Google Maps and Advanced features on Maps instructions by expanding or clicking on the plus (+) sign
  - Your Google Maps
  - Advanced features on Maps