



WEIGHT LIMIT SURVEY

LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD (No. 2204)

FROM SOUTH LAKE TAHOE CITY LIMIT TO NORTH UPPER TRUCKEE
ROAD (No. 159)

NORTH UPPER TRUCKEE ROAD (No. 159)

FROM LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD (No 2204) TO US HIGHWAY 50

SAWMILL ROAD (No. 2202)

FROM LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD (No 2204) TO US HIGHWAY 50

Reviewed by the Traffic Advisory Committee on AUG 14 2025

☒ COMMITTEE APPROVED STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION.

☐ COMMITTEE REQUESTED FURTHER ACTION.

Action APPROVED

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WEIGHT LIMIT SURVEY

Location: Lake Tahoe Boulevard (No. 2204) from South Lake Tahoe City Limit to North Upper Truckee Road (No. 159)

North Upper Truckee Road (No. 159) from Lake Tahoe Boulevard (No. 2204) to US Highway 50

Sawmill Road (No. 2202) from Lake Tahoe Boulevard (No. 2204) to US Highway 50

Subject: Weight Limit Survey

Date: July 15, 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

California Vehicle Code, Section 35712

(a) Any county may, by ordinance, prohibit the use of any highway located in an unincorporated residential or subdivision area by any commercial vehicle exceeding a gross weight of 14,000 pounds.

(c) This section does not apply to a vehicle operated by, or on behalf of, a public utility in connection with the installation, operation, maintenance, or repair of its facilities.

California Vehicle Code, Section 35711,

No ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 35706, or 35712 or 35712 shall prohibit any commercial vehicle from using any county highway by direct route to or from a state highway for the purpose of delivering or loading for transportation goods, wares, or merchandise.

El Dorado County Ordinance Code Section 12.12.010 Highway Weight Limits

Authorizes the Board of Supervisors to set county highway weight limit by resolution.

2. REQUEST REFERENCE:

At the April 17th, 2024, South Lake Tahoe Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting, during Open Discussion, Traffic Unit staff was directed to study placing weight restrictions on the County maintained portion of Lake Tahoe Boulevard, Sawmill Road, and North Upper Truckee Road. The purpose of these proposed restrictions is to increase public safety, facilitate the orderly movement of traffic during snow events, improve snow removal operations, reduce the potential for damaging two shallow drainpipes crossing under these roads, and prevent large commercial vehicles from avoiding the agricultural check station and/or chain control checkpoints.

Road 1: Lake Tahoe Boulevard (No. 2204)

The El Dorado County maintained portion of Lake Tahoe Boulevard can be divided into three sections.

- The first section runs from the South Lake Tahoe City Limits to Industrial Avenue. This section is included in the National Highway System. This section is a four lane, divided, Principal Arterial that is 0.25 miles in length and serves an average of 3,733 vehicles per week day. The speed limit on this section is 55 miles per hour. The roadway is straight and level. This section borders on an industrial area and provides an outlet for several South Lake Tahoe city-maintained roads which serve that industrial area.
- The second section begins at Industrial Avenue and ends at Sawmill Road. This section is included in the National Highway System. This section is also a four lane, divided, Principal Arterial that is 1.29 miles in length and serves an average of 3,733 vehicles per week day. The speed limit on this section is 55 miles per hour. The roadway is curvilinear with large radius curves and level to gentle grades. This section travels through forest.
- The third section begins at Sawmill Road and ends at North Upper Truckee Road. This section is a two-lane Minor Arterial that is 1.58 miles in length and serves an average of 2,076 vehicles per week day. Portions of this section have speed limits of 55, 45 and 35 miles per hour. The roadway is curvilinear with gentle to moderate grades. This section of Lake Tahoe Boulevard travels through residential areas of varying density.

In the past few years, navigation apps have increasingly routed US Highway 50 through traffic, including commercial vehicles, onto all sections of Lake Tahoe Boulevard.

Road 2: North Upper Truckee Road (No. 159)

- North Upper Truckee Road is a two lane, Minor Arterial Road that is 2.43 miles in length and serves an average of 1,938 vehicles per week day. The speed limit on North Upper Truckee Road is 40 miles per hour. The roadway is curvilinear with level to moderate grades. North Upper Truckee Road historically has provided an outlet for many local residential roadways. However, in the past few years, navigation apps have increasingly routed U.S Highway 50 through traffic, including commercial vehicles, onto North Upper Truckee Road.

Road 3: Sawmill Road (No. 2202)

- Sawmill Road is a two lane, Major Collector Road that is 1.84 miles in length and serves an average of 1,132 vehicles per week day. The speed limit on Sawmill Road is 45 miles per hour. The road is curvilinear with level to gentle grades. Sawmill Road historically has provided an outlet for local residential roadways and individual driveways. However, in the past few years, navigation apps have increasingly routed U.S Highway 50 through traffic, including commercial vehicles, onto Sawmill Road.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Navigation apps have increasingly routed US Highway 50 through traffic, including commercial vehicles, onto Lake Tahoe Boulevard, North Upper Truckee Road, and Sawmill Road. Portions of Lake Tahoe Boulevard, North Upper Truckee Road and Sawmill Road are two lane roads that pass through mostly residential and forested areas. Several segments of Lake Tahoe Boulevard and North Upper Truckee Road include moderate downhill grades. During snowy and icy conditions, medium and large commercial trucks have frequently attempted to traverse these roads to bypass congestion on US Highway 50. These trucks often become stuck and/or slide off the roadway and require large tow vehicles to remove them. These trucks can block the road for considerable periods disrupting traffic flow, snow removal operations and emergency response.

The purpose of these proposed restrictions is to facilitate the orderly movement of traffic during snowy and icy conditions, improve snow removal operations and prevent large commercial vehicles from avoiding the agricultural check station and/or chain control checkpoints.

The proposed resolution will exempt the following vehicles.

- Vehicles making deliveries of any kind; provided the vehicles take the most direct route to complete the delivery.
- Any vehicle operated by the County, or a private contractor under contract with the County, while engaged in snow removal, road maintenance, construction, or related activities.
- Any vehicle operated by the County, or a private operator under contract with the County, as part of its transit system.
- Any vehicle owned by a public utility, or under contract to a public utility, while in use in the construction, installation, or repair of any public utility facility.
- Emergency vehicles
- School buses under the jurisdiction of the Lake Tahoe Unified School District.

Listed below are four possible alternatives.

Alternative One

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on Lake Tahoe Boulevard from the South Lake Tahoe City Limit to North Upper Truckee Road.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on North Upper Truckee Road.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on Sawmill Road.

Alternative Two

No changes to current State of California weight limits on Lake Tahoe Boulevard from the South Lake Tahoe City Limits to Industrial Avenue.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on Lake Tahoe Boulevard from its intersection with Industrial Avenue to North Upper Truckee Road.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on North Upper Truckee Road.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on Sawmill Road.

Alternative Three

No changes to current State of California weight limits on Lake Tahoe Boulevard from the South Lake Tahoe City Limits to Sawmill Road.

No changes to current State of California weight limits on Sawmill Road.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on Lake Tahoe Boulevard from its intersection with Sawmill Road to North Upper Truckee Road.

14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on North Upper Truckee Road.

Alternative Four

No changes to current State of California weight limits on Lake Tahoe Boulevard, North Upper Truckee Road, and Sawmill Road.

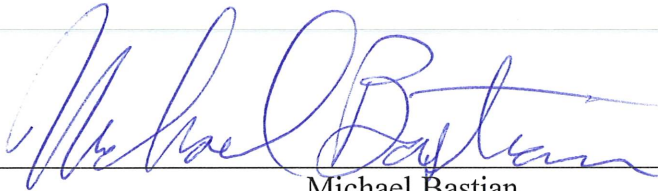
RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the findings of this survey it is recommended that the Traffic Advisory Committee approve Alternative Three, as listed in the "Findings and Conclusions:" section.

If Alternative Three is approved, the following actions will take place.

1. The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors will be requested to adopt a Resolution to sanction the following weight restrictions:
 - a. 14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on Lake Tahoe Boulevard from its intersection with Sawmill Road to North Upper Truckee Road.
 - b. 14,000-pound (7 TON) commercial vehicle weight limit on North Upper Truckee Road.
2. That the El Dorado County Department of Transportation place "WEIGHT LIMIT 7 TONS" (R12-1) signs on the above listed portion of Lake Tahoe Boulevard and North Upper Truckee Road.
3. That the El Dorado County Department of Transportation place advanced signage, that warns of the weight restrictions on Lake Tahoe Boulevard and North Upper Truckee Road.
4. That the California Highway Patrol enforce these weight limits.

Prepared by: _____



Michael Bastian
Senior Engineering Technician

APPROVED BY: _____



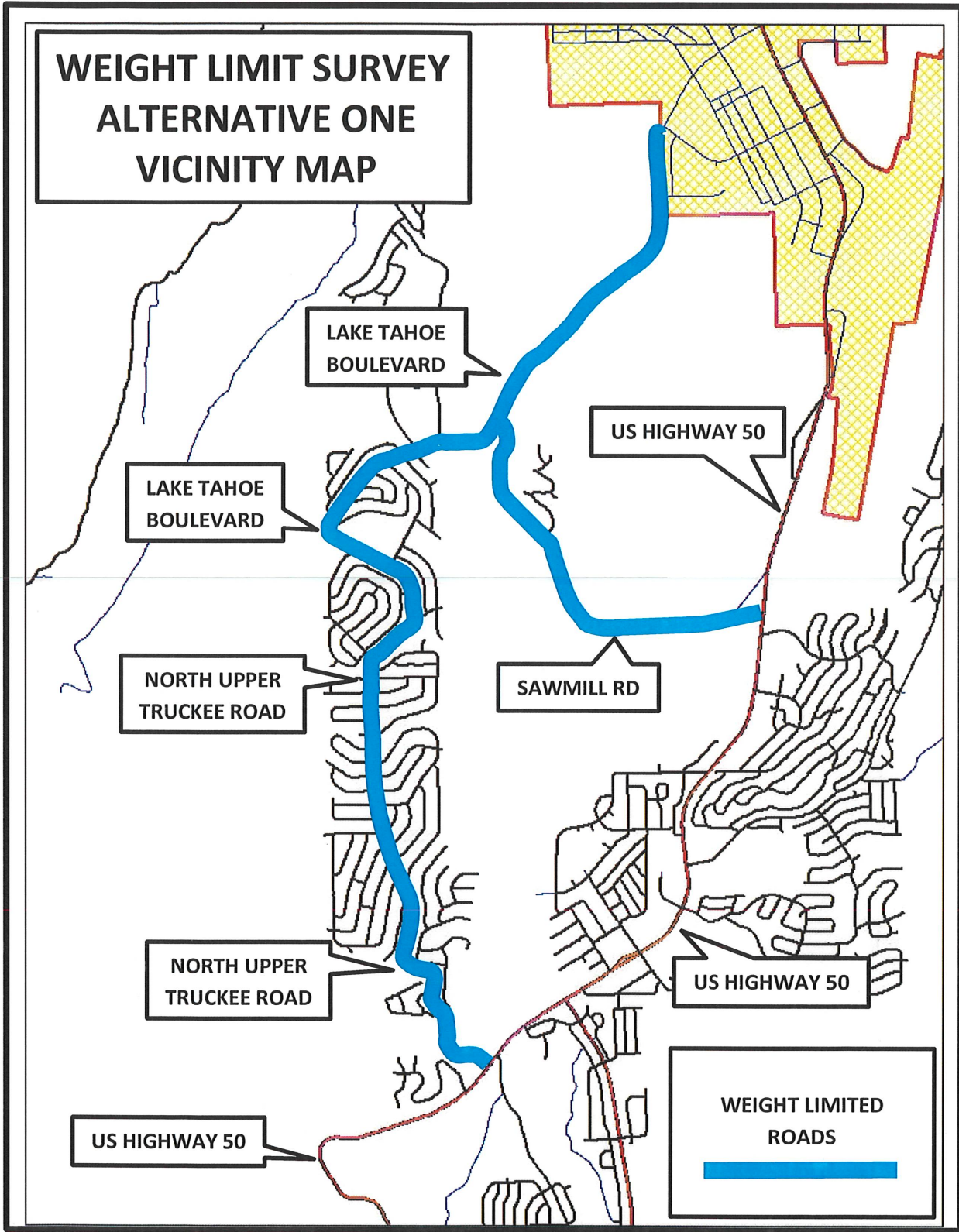
Rafael Martinez, TE, Director
El Dorado County Department of Transportation

on _____

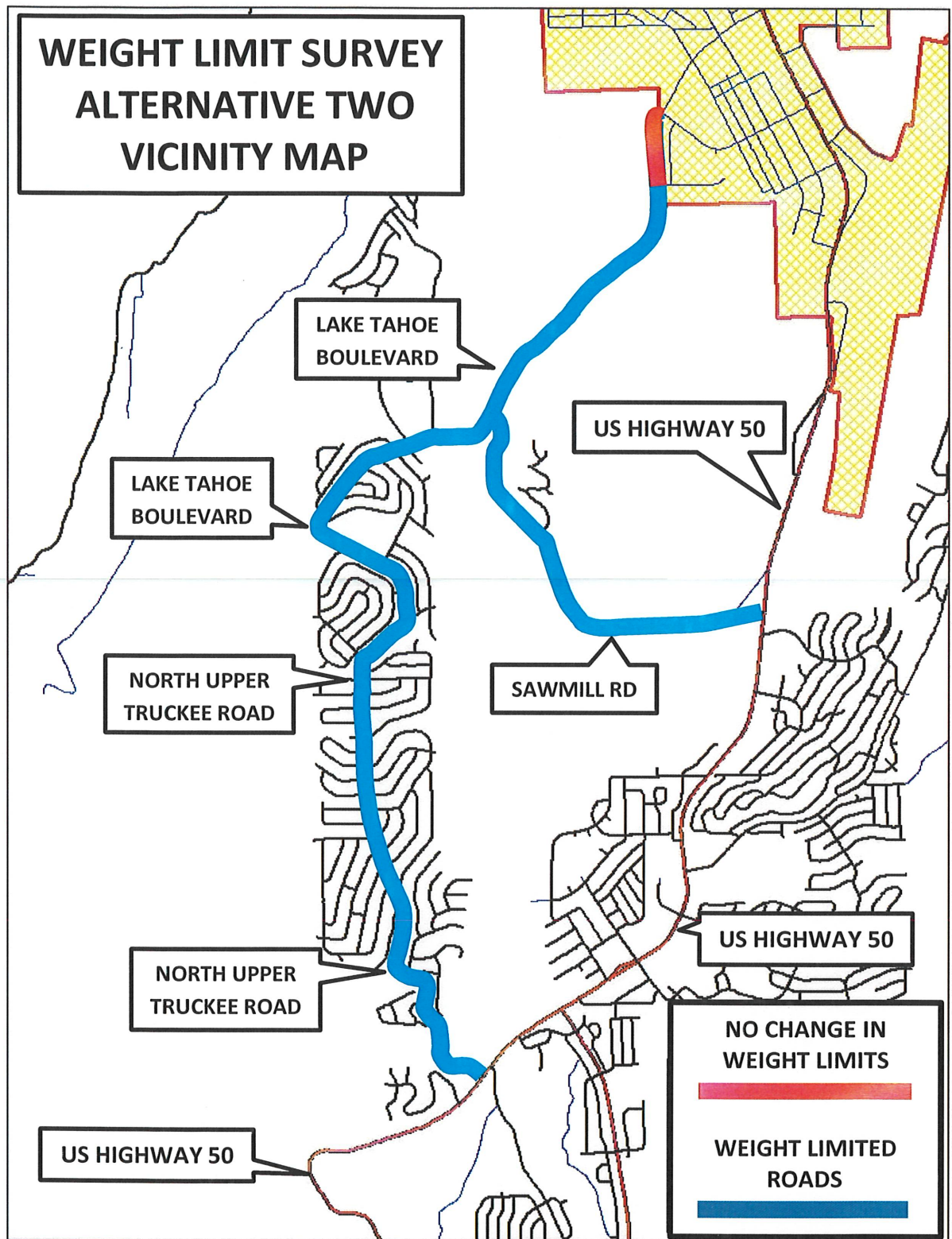
7/28/25
Date

Attachments:

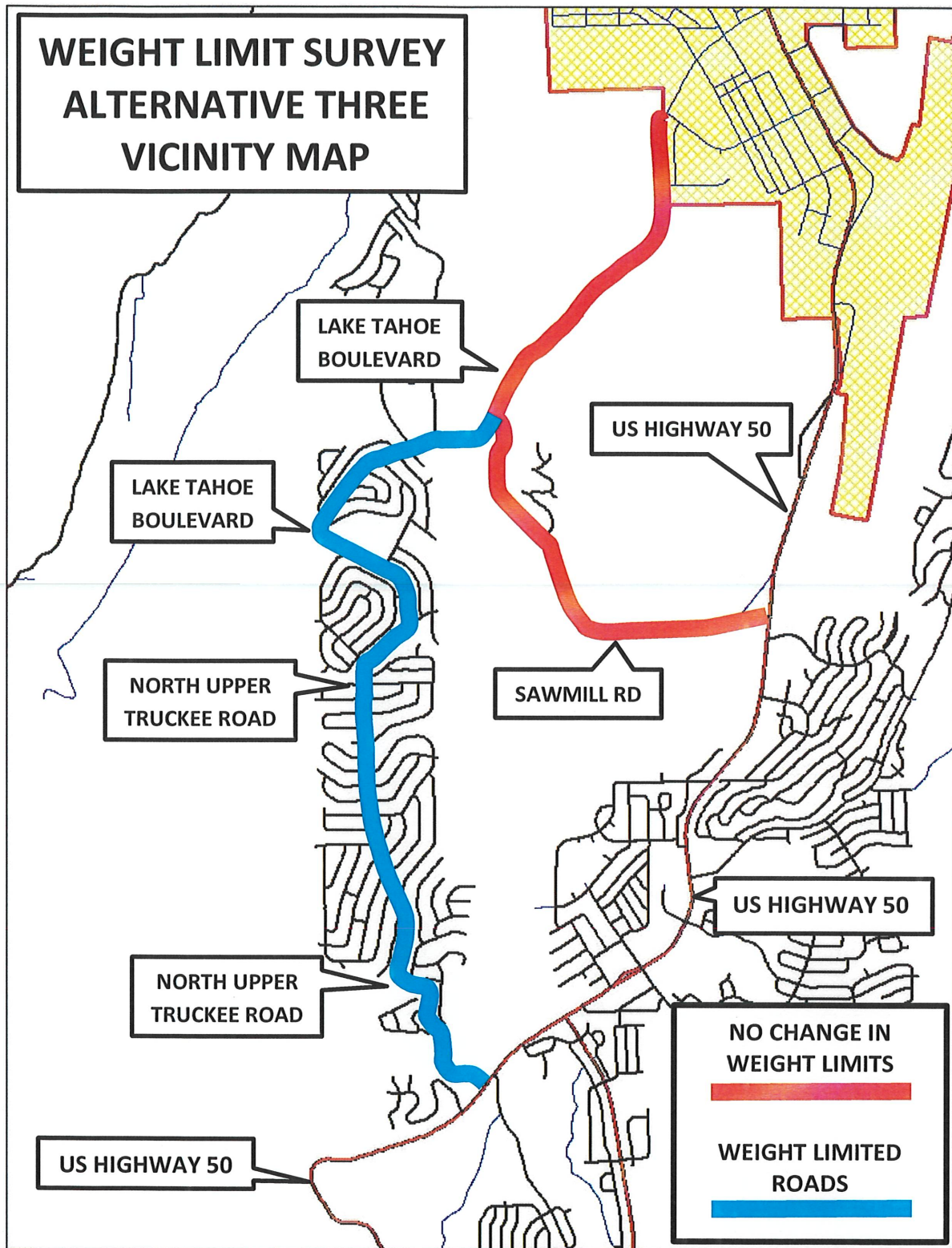
- Vicinity Map (1 page)
- Maps of Each Alternative (4)



WEIGHT LIMIT SURVEY ALTERNATIVE TWO VICINITY MAP



WEIGHT LIMIT SURVEY ALTERNATIVE THREE VICINITY MAP



**WEIGHT LIMIT SURVEY
ALTERNATIVE FOUR
VICINITY MAP
NO CHANGES**

