



## **Trash Ordinance and Trash Service Continued and Questions Answered:**

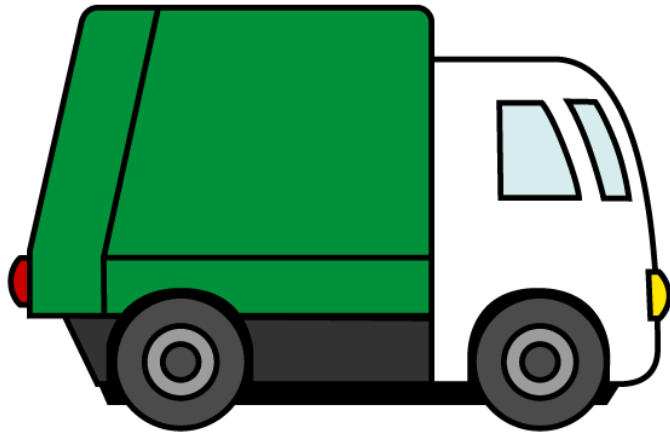
1. Wear and tear on city streets from garbage trucks
2. Cost of street maintenance resulting from garbage trucks
3. Cost of code enforcement for trash related violations/remediation
4. How many of these trash violations are on rental properties?
5. Pros/Cons of open vs. organized trash/recycling collection systems

# How is wear and tear on a street calculated?

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has a formula based on Equivalent Single Axle Load (ESAL)
- An ESAL calculates weight based on how many passenger cars trips equal a heavy truck trip
  - In the case of garbage trucks to cars this is a ratio of 1,279:1
    - This means that for every pass a garbage truck makes on a street it is the equivalent of 1,279 passes with the average sized passenger car
- Calculations vary depending on if a garbage truck is a single axle or tandem axle rear end.
  - Tandem axle trucks are heavier but distribute their weight over an extra axle
  - Single axle trucks are more maneuverable and lighter but have a higher ESAL than tandem trucks

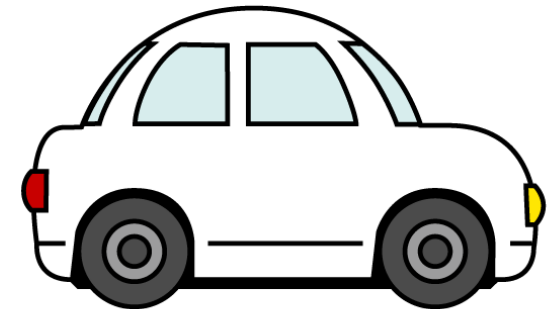
# How much more does a garbage truck wear on a city street?

1



=

1,279



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*\*R3 Consulting report for Ft Collins, CO (2008)*

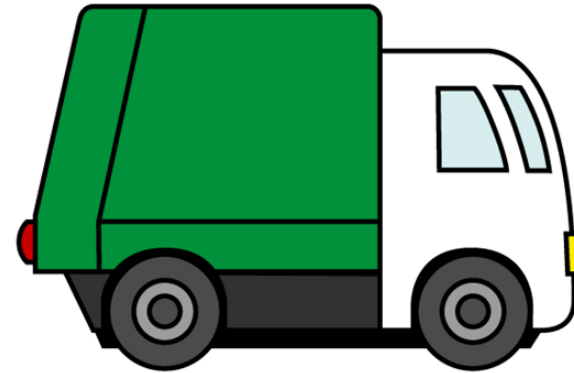
# Vehicle Weight Comparison



= 3800 – 5000lbs



= 29,000 lbs



= 33,000 empty  
= 51,000 lbs loaded



= 26,000 lbs

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# Garbage Trucks and Street Deterioration

- R3 Consulting – Study for Ft. Collins, CO (2008)
  - While roads will deteriorate if simply left unused, most deterioration is associated with use; and the damage caused by vehicles goes up much more than proportionately with size and weight. Hence, costs associated with maintenance are greater for trips made by heavy vehicles.
  - Trash trucks are typically the heaviest vehicles regularly operating on residential (local) streets and are a major contributor to wear and tear on those streets.
  - The most significant step the City can take to minimize trash truck street maintenance impacts is to reduce the number of trash truck miles traveled on the City's streets.
  - In general, all other factors the same, moving from an open competition collection system to an organized collection system (or a City-wide contract for services) would be expected to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled with a corresponding decrease in the associated street maintenance impacts.

# Cost of street wear resulting from garbage trucks

- \$20 - \$40 per household for an open trash collection system (2009 dollars)
- When adjusted for inflation (2019 dollars) this comes to \$24 - \$48 per household
- 6,052 households in Owosso – 2010 census
- \$145,248 (24/household) - \$290,496 (48/household) annually in street maintenance resulting from an open system garbage collection system in Owosso.
  - Total Street Maintenance line items for Major and Local Street funds for FY 2019 = \$635,000
  - Garbage truck wear on streets according to MPCA study adjusted for inflation could be 22.8% to 45.7% of combined Major and Local Street maintenance line items in FY 2019 budget.

# Cost of code enforcement for trash related violations and complaints

- Most of the cost savings from eliminating some trash violations would be in legal fees. However, the city attorney's statements do not specify what type of code issue that he works on.
- For the code officer and building official, I would estimate a time reallocation of 10-20%.
  - Cost savings for these positions isn't possible because we have a set annual contract amount with Safebuilt and we have Mac working a certain amount hours each week. If they aren't spending their time on trash issues, they are doing something else.
- Main point is that all cost savings will come from attorney fees and it is unclear how much that would be based on the level of detail in our legal fee statements from Attorney Gould.

# Rentals and Trash Violations

- From Jan 2013 to July 31, 2019...
  - There were 1,914 trash related code violations
  - 892 of those violations were on rental properties
- 47% of trash violations are from rental properties



# Advantages of an open trash collection system

- Residents can select the hauler that provides the level of service most compatible with their individual needs and can shop among the price options that are available.
- Since Owosso already has an open system, residents would not be inconvenienced by change.
- Administrative cost is minimized for the City.
- Small haulers will face no additional competitive challenges beyond what they face now within the industry

# Disadvantages of an open trash collection system

- Although choice is available, “inertia may be a compelling force” for a resident to stay with the hauler he/she has citing the GBB report.<sup>16</sup> Residents must take the time and trouble to shop around for a better rate – which can be temporary and come with strings, long term contracts, and cancellation penalties – or just give in and go along with higher prices or unsatisfactory service.
- Under an open system, costs must be spread over smaller and more uncertain customer base, so fees must be sufficiently high to cover fixed costs. In other words, we pay more.
- Operational cost savings of adding to the customer base are more likely to go to higher profits than to lowered prices for customers.
- It is impossible to determine if residents are utilizing a trash collection business or not.
- Garbage trucks are heavy and have a demonstrated impact on street longevity.
- City streets and alleys will continue to be subject to the impact of additional truck traffic.
- Another consequence of overlapping routes and more trucks is more air pollution and more noise.
- Residents do not have a choice about where their refuse goes. If they choose a hauler on the basis of where the hauler says the trash goes, there is no assurance that (a) the information is correct and (b) the hauler will not change practices in the future.
- Major decisions that affect quality of life in Owosso and the future of our environment will be driven by corporate priorities, not local interests.

*\*Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC: Analysis of Waste Collection Service Agreements (June 2009)*

# Advantages of an organized trash collection system

- Lower consumer prices: Cities which have adopted organized collection have been able to negotiate lower rates for their residents.
- With a city contract, operational cost efficiencies can come back to residents in lower prices.
- Garbage truck wear and tear does make a difference to our streets and roads.
- We can make our infrastructure last longer if we can reduce the number of trucks.
- Rate increases will be structured and predictable for the duration of the contract.
- Residents would have a clear, one-stop menu of services and costs and will not have to try to compare apples to oranges. Busy residents will save time and energy not having to shop around.
- A contract can specify where our refuse goes, whether to a landfill or for fuel processing.
- We can ensure this decision serves local interests and local environmental goals, not corporate priorities.
- Fewer trucks mean less noise and air pollution in our neighborhoods.
- Rates can be better structured to encourage reduction of waste, including the ability to offer pay-as-you-throw options for residents who produce a very low volume of trash.
- With a contract, the City could control the size and quality of trucks used, specifying lower pollution, better loading and weight bearing technology.

# Disadvantages of an organized trash collection system

Added to Agenda  
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- Although customers would have a choice of service levels, they would lose the choice of service provider.
- A major public education effort would be required to make everyone aware of the changes, and the transition would be more difficult for people who are uncomfortable with change.
- Some residents may experience an increase in price over the artificially low rates offered by haulers campaigning against organized collection.
- Residents will have to choose their services from the standard set offered. This may not include some services they receive now.
- There would be an increased administrative burden associated with getting a new system set up and running, including developing the RFP, evaluating proposals, developing a contract agreement.
- The City would have to monitor and enforce the terms of the contract.
- Residents opposed to organized collection are usually far more vocal than residents who support organized collection. Staff and elected officials are likely to experience negative feedback from those individuals. In other cities, this has been temporary.
- Decreased business opportunities for haulers.