

Safe truck parking impacts the safety of all motorists. However, finding safe parking is a critical challenge for truck drivers. The shortage of truck parking may force them to park on shoulders and ramps, jeopardizing the safety of all motorists and damaging the road infrastructure.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has a plan to bring solutions to America's big rig drivers. It includes TxDOT-led initiatives as well as resources to empower communities to develop their own solutions. Collaboration between municipalities, private industry, and elected officials is key to achieving lasting improvements for truck driver safety and road conditions.



## Safety

Recently, there have been over 36,000 commercial vehicle crashes per year across the state. On average, parked trucks are involved in over 700 crashes causing 232 injuries and 26 fatalities each year.



## Time and Money

Due to the lack of parking, truck drivers lost:

- 9,300 revenue-earning miles per year
- \$4,600 in pay per year

*\* National Average*

## Truck Parking Needs



### Staging

Factories, distribution centers, ports, and other facilities typically assign drivers a time for pickup and dropoff. Most places do not provide staging areas, which leads to drivers parking and waiting on frontage roads and local streets.



### Emergency

Commercial truck drivers need safe places to park when they encounter road closures or severe congestion due to natural disasters or emergencies.



### Time Off

Cities, counties, and neighborhood associations have rules prohibiting or limiting truck parking in residential neighborhoods. This leaves independent owners/drivers without a place to park during time off.



### Sleep and Rest Breaks

Federal regulations dictate the amount of time drivers are allowed to drive and the length of required breaks. The lack of parking facilities means drivers often park in unauthorized and unsafe locations.

## TxDOT recommendations:



Reduce crashes involving parked trucks through new and expanded truck parking facilities.



Improve the safety of parking facilities.



Improve resiliency by considering emergency truck parking needs during major incidents.



Reduce damage to road infrastructure caused by unauthorized parking on shoulders and ramps.



Address truck parking staging needs in/near freight-intensive areas.



Consider parking needs for off-duty owner-operators.



Identify opportunities to address freight impacts on overburdened communities.



Support private-sector truck parking development and innovation.



Leverage existing technology to solve truck parking challenges.



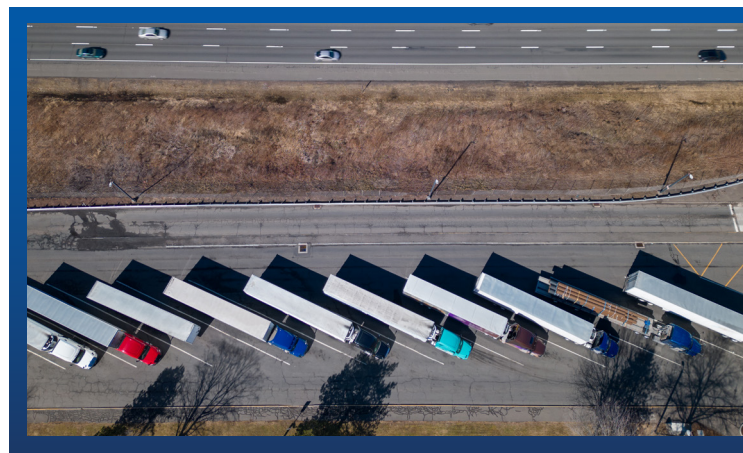
Accommodate emerging technology, including diversified fuels and autonomous trucks.

The recommendations provided in the Regional TxDOT Truck Parking Action Plans build off TxDOT's 2020 Truck Parking Study. The action plan includes a strategy for raising public awareness, and for engaging key partners - such as agencies, municipalities, private industry, and elected officials - to help bring about awareness, and solutions. TxDOT alone cannot solve the truck parking problem.

## Resources

TxDOT has developed a toolkit with a number of resources to help support local communities and industry partners communicate the importance of safe truck parking.

The toolkit provides "ready to go" resources, such as truck parking logos, images, clipart, maps with data, social media graphics, PowerPoint slides, informational videos, and more. TxDOT invites you to be a partner in raising awareness and putting solutions in place for safe, secure, and reliable truck parking.



To learn more, scan the QR code or go to <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/freight-planning/truck-parking.html>