

Better Integrating Freight Transport into Highway Capacity Planning and Decisions

New practitioner's guide offers blueprint for effectively considering freight in planning and decision making for new highway capacity

Freight transport continues to use a growing portion of highway capacity. In fact, freight demand for new highway capacity is growing substantially faster than all travel demand, and many new freight shipping bottlenecks will likely develop around the nation in the next two to three decades. Until recently, however, freight considerations for effective highway planning had not been fully researched or understood, nor have the appropriate stakeholders typically been involved in highway planning processes.

Recent research from the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) has identified **new insights, processes, and a decision making framework to help effectively integrate market-driven freight considerations into transportation planning.**

Freight Planning Guide

The Solution

Calling on new research from the past five years, the new *Freight Planning Guide* provides guidance to public transportation agencies, decision makers, and stakeholders, including guidance on:

- ▶ Where to start in considering freight needs as part of the highway capacity planning process;
- ▶ How to get the right freight stakeholders with the right information involved at the right time—delineating key decision points in the planning process for freight considerations;
- ▶ How to ensure that all types of freight movement, from international to local deliveries, are considered in highway capacity planning—particularly because local deliveries tend to be “invisible” in the planning process yet represent a significant portion of local transportation system demand; and,
- ▶ Appropriate consideration of freight that will serve economic development—ensuring that passenger and freight capacity improvements can be mutually beneficial.

New guide distills better methods of incorporating freight issues into highway capacity decision making

FOCUS AREA:
Capacity (C15)

Comprehensive A-to-Z guide, case studies, and examples identify strategies for incorporating freight considerations into highway capacity decision making.

Save Lives

- More effective capacity planning to address continued freight growth will enhance safety for highway users.



Save Money

- More sophisticated understanding of freight consideration supports better capacity planning decisions—saving money from potential rework of planning and implementation.



Save Time

- Delineated planning processes, including key decision points and appropriate freight consideration saves time.



The guidance will include case studies and examples of successful practice. These will also be incorporated into www.transportationforcommunities.com, the online decision guide for highway planning.

The Benefits

The *Freight Planning Guide* helps the planning and engineering communities better understand freight economics so they can make transportation capacity decisions that are beneficial to goods movement and balance other capacity considerations. That in turn helps public agencies plan for and provide highway capacity that serves economic development by meeting local community capacity needs while meeting national shipping and market supply needs. Effective freight considerations that address projected freight growth can also address the potential for delays and safety concerns associated with unanticipated freight movement bottlenecks.

How can you learn more?

Implementation for this product is expected in 2014.

The *Freight Planning Guide* will be available online and from the TRB Bookstore at <http://www.trb.org/StrategicHighwayResearchProgram2SHRP2/PublicationsSHRP2.aspx>. It will also be integrated into www.transportationforcommunities.com, the online decision guide for highway planning.

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About SHRP2 Implementation

The second Strategic Highway Research Program is a national partnership of key transportation organizations: the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Transportation Research Board. Together, these partners conduct research and deploy products that will help the transportation community enhance the productivity, boost the efficiency, increase the safety, and improve the reliability of the Nation's highway system.

Strategic Highway Research Program

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