

Guidebook for Understanding Urban Goods Movement

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The efficient flow of goods is essential for the economic well-being of U.S. urbanized areas. The performance of the freight system also affects the productivity of the nation, the costs of goods and services, and the global competitiveness of industries.

Local land use regulations and zoning decisions determine in part the location of the origin or destination of goods and the access, times, and routes for pickups and deliveries. These local regulations and decisions, however, often are framed without full understanding or consideration of the effects on commercial motor vehicles and urban goods movements. As a consequence, planners and local leaders unknowingly may affect the logistical needs and practices of businesses and consumers, overlook opportunities for economic development, and allow freight movements to detract from quality of life by contributing to congestion and emissions.

To assist planners and decision makers, the National Cooperative Freight Research Program developed and published NCFRP Report 14, *Guidebook for Understanding Urban Goods Movement*. The comprehensive guide concisely explains the importance of freight movements to the economic health of local communities, the impact of local regulations



Poster from a campaign by New York City DOT to address bridge strikes by trucks. One of the case studies in NCFRP Report 14, the campaign included enforcement of truck routes, education and outreach, reflective signing of low bridges, and the use of technology to monitor vulnerable bridges.

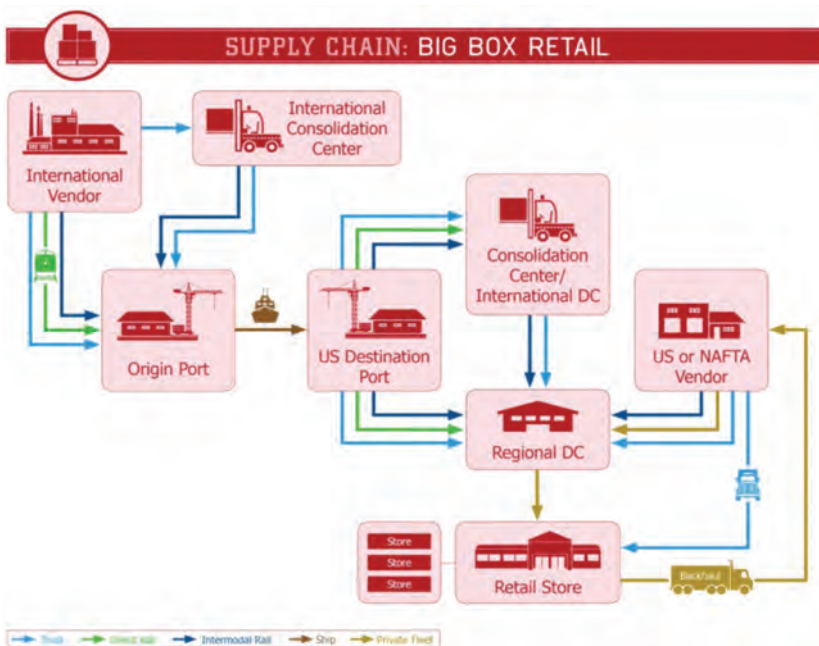
on efficient freight movement, and ways to accommodate and expedite urban goods movement while minimizing environmental impacts and adverse consequences for the community.

The guidebook identifies local land use and zoning policies and practices that can affect the movement of trucks inside urban areas, focusing on transportation infrastructure and operations; land use and site design; and laws, regulations, and ordinances. Information and suggestions are presented for integrating freight movement analysis into the urban planning process and for modifying regulations and improving public decisions that affect the movement of urban commercial motor vehicles for goods delivery.

Case studies of nine urban areas and 12 supply chains explore how goods are moved and reveal the connections to the urban economy, infrastructure, and land use patterns. The case studies also illustrate the impacts that land use codes and regulations can have on metropolitan goods movement and on private-sector freight providers. Planning strategies are offered for improving mobility and access for goods movements in urban areas.

Accompanying the guidebook are an eight-page overview for local officials and a CD-ROM that includes a self-assessment matrix, reference materials, and two PowerPoint presentations with speaker notes. Transportation planners can use these resources to educate staff and local decision makers about the importance of goods movement and about ways to improve mobility and access for goods movements in their area.

NCFRP Report 14, *Guidebook for Understanding Urban Goods Movement*, is available electronically at www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/166828.aspx or from the TRB Bookstore, <http://books.trbbookstore.org/fc014.aspx>.



Example of the urban supply chain diagrams explained in NCFRP Report 14.