

# Planning for Urban freight Mobility

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# How does freight impact livability?

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- Freight makes livability possible in urban areas
- Freight allows society to experience goods that wouldn't normally be available in certain climates or locations
- Today's relatively inexpensive, reliable freight transportation system allows Americans to enjoy many luxuries that previous generations could not.
- While some may be concerned about the community impacts of trucks on noise, congestion, safety, etc., we actually want the same things.

# **How does goods movement fit into an urban transportation system also serving motorists, transit, cyclists, and pedestrians?**

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- **Flow will make or break any urban area.**
- **Movement completes the urban circuit. Urban areas must weave all aspects of transportation seamlessly .**
- **This comes down to planning infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate the types of trucks that will be serving those businesses. This includes loading zones.**

# Why should freight be included in urban plans and small area plans?

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- 4-wheelers versus 18-wheelers create a huge issue the closer you get to an urban area.
- Trucks need more easily accessible routes, wider turns, longer lights, safe loading/unloading zones, etc
- Trucks are responsible for almost all deliveries in urban areas and are therefore essential.
- Failing to account for trucks in roadway design can produce safety and congestion problems.
- Restricting truck access can impact delivery costs or limit the ability of employers to locate in communities.
- Failing to provide trucks with direct access routes means trucks must add miles to their delivery routes, increasing congestion, emissions and crash exposure.
- Failing to provide adequate loading zones means trucks are forced to block traffic lanes, creating safety and congestion problems.

# What stakeholders should be involved?

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- **City planners, transportation authorities**
- **Carriers, state trucking associations and shippers.**
- **Planners need to recognize that carrier executives and truck drivers have limited time to participate in planning meetings and are not planning experts.**
- **Planners should proactively reach out to the trucking community and accommodate their schedules with short, infrequent, productive meetings.**
- **Recommend establishing a freight stakeholder group within every state and local planning agency.**

# How do we frame the discussion for residents and elected officials?

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- Ask simply what's important...
- Ask how do they buy the goods they use daily...
- They need to understand that trucking companies have very little control over where or when pick-ups and deliveries are made.
- Trucks use the most efficient legal routes available to them and operate on a schedule established by customers.
- Communities are best served by making a truck driver's job easier, not more difficult. Therefore, it's important for the public and elected officials to sit at the table with carriers, drivers and shippers to figure out mutually beneficial approaches.