

FREIGHT TRENDS AND URBAN IMPLICATIONS

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WORKSHOP: INNOVATION IN URBAN FREIGHT JOSEPH BRYAN, PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF SEATTLE WA, FEBRUARY 2012

US Freight Market Volumes

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- Volume mainly recovered by mid-2010
 - -Below 2007 peak
 - But caught up with prior years

• Flat since

 Pacific Region (West Coast) above national trend



Supply Chain Trend: Shale Oil



- Ubiquitous supply chain
- Major sourcing change
- Limited urban effect

 Feed goes to refineries
 Some bulks in transit



Supply Chain: Big Box Retail



Supply Chain Trend: Nearshore Sourcing

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Sources: Economist Intelligence Unit; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; selected company data; BCG analys

Source: BCG

- Low landed cost favoring Mexico
 - Not all products
 - -Alix Partners analysis

- Chinese wage advantage narrowing
 - Plus other costs and risks



Nearshoring Effects

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Urban effects: gateway and modal substitution, directional volume, local production

- 42% of manufacturers surveyed engaged in nearshoring
- Of these, 63% favor Mexico, 19% US
 - Alix Partners 2011
 Survey
- Decision factors: time to market, delivered cost, labor content, risk
 - Tompkins Associates analysis

Supply Chain Topology: Panama Canal Expansion





- Reduced transportation costs small relative to product value
 - Import TEU value of contents:\$100,000
 - Transportation cost reduction:\$200
 - Reduction of product value: 0.2%
 - Induced consumption increase: zero

➡Result: little volume effect from expansion

Zero sum game

Expansion Effects: Coastal Shifts – Shipping Costs

- A variety of cost factors are likely to affect potential coastal shifts
 - Maximum per TEU cost reduction to the US East Coast
 \$410
 (13,000 TEU vessel rather than a 5,000 TEU Panamax vessel)
 - -Cost reductions must be *realized by shippers* to affect shifts
 - Carriers, ports and the Panama Canal will likely retain a portion of East Coast cost reduction savings
 - Net savings passed on to shippers could be:
 \$125

Cost reductions are *relative* to those on the West Coast where pass through savings could be \$55 per TEU, leaving a relative per TEU cost reduction of:
 \$70

Expansion Effects

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East and Gulf Coast Share of NE Asia Container Tonnage by Product Value



- Result: some coastal shift
 - -Some long underway
 - -Midwest competitive zone
- No tsunamis likely, to or from
 - Transshipment could develop
- ➡Urban effects:
 - -Gateway and modal substitution, directional volume

Supply Chain Topology: Network Design Fuel, Carbon, Congestion



Source: Energy Information Administration



Source: JB Hunt

- Supply chain network models minimize cost, based on:
 - Where customers are
 - Modal portfolio and transport costs
 - Facility operating costs: leasing, labor and skills, utilities, etc.
- Tend to add DCs when fuel costs climb
 - Carbon would have same effect, if monetized
- Beginning to consider congestion
 - Adds 3rd element to standard tradeoff: time vs.
 distance vs. conditions
- ➡Urban effects: location, proximity, mode

Intermodal Rail Shifts





- Domestic growth, shorter hauls
 - Motor carrier fuel cost, asset utilization, transloading
 - Opportunity cost in revenue per foot
 - East vs. West
- Wide span cranes
 - Sorting efficiency
 - Lanes in play
 - Terminal capacity potential
- Urban effects: modal options, terminal viability & location, traffic concentration

Supply Chain Velocity & Responsiveness



- Technology: RFID tags
 - Common as today's barcodes in 30 years and just as transformational
- Technology: 12 atom nanochip
 Information revolution isn't over
- Process: cross-dock proliferation
 - More, closer facilities
 - Goods in motion
- Urban effects: proximity, mode, performance sensitivity, risk & Wolfe's Paradox









Growth in Markets & Risk

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Source: NASA



- Massive metro-market growth
 - Metro areas grow fastest
 - Urban % population continues to rise
 - De facto economic units
- Emerging economic units riddled with congestion
 - Not unique to any city, or to US
- Opportunity paired with risk
 - Regions will compete on performance
- Urban effects: risk management, economic competition

Network Performance

- Supply chains run end-to-end, integrated all the way to market
 - National network is a linehaul system
 - Depends on pickup, delivery, & transfer: largely urban
 - P&D is high cost, high risk part of operations
 - Urban networks are key to delivered performance
- No one is in charge of end-to-end public network performance
 - Like a supply chain without an organizing company
 - Tends to be managed for capacity not product
- Implication: effective freight strategy is integrated end-to-end, rooted in metropolitan components



Source: FHWA



Thank You!

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