



CHALLENGES OF DATA AND MODELLING



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Innovation in Urban Freight, Feb 6-7, 2012



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AND

PERSPECTIVES ON THIS WORKSHOP

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Framing the Challenges

- Gaps in the knowledge (Erica, Nicholas)
 - Tradeoffs b/w freight & people (land, roads, parking)
- Practical infrastructure questions (Barbara, Deborah)
 - Define, preserve and enhance freight corridors
 - Prioritizing infrastructure when funds limited
- Issues for a Port City (John)
 - Maintaining capacity to the port
 - Developing Port of Seattle as a Green Gateway
 - Safe, appropriate sharing of street space
- From the Mayor
 - City and port growth are consistent with environmental goals
 - Recognition that street space is shared... How best to make them functional, safe and vibrant?

Studies from academics

- From Rome (Agostino and Antonio)
 - Bold implementation of city logistics
 - Before/after surveys...usually we don't emphasize the after
- From Toronto (Glareh)
 - Detailed truck emissions tools being developed
 - Never perfect, labour intensive, but worthwhile investment
- From Norway (Tomas)
 - Technology can provide info to trucking industry and to regulators, allowing efficient pricing of freight activities
- From Taiwan (Cheng-Chang)
 - Methods for optimizing waste management considering joint roles of private and public sector
- From Dalian (Xiaoling)
 - Different operations of a Chinese port

Input from industry

- From the trucking industry
 - Truckers are operating quite efficiently within their own set of constraints
 - Need the basics: signage, appropriate truck routes.
 - Need good information at right time to make good operational decisions (emissions, time, fuel)
- From rail
 - Underestimated value of freight and industrial land to the prosperity of cities
 - Access challenges to rail yard
 - Business success, even through the economic downturn

Challenges for Academia, Public Sector, Industry

- Academia –
 - Basic knowledge, detailed tools, publishing
 - Not enough input from industry/ gov't on salient questions
 - Not enough emphasis on bringing research to market
- Public sector –
 - Complex challenges now, major growth in the future
 - Need evidence-based infrastructure decisions
 - Not always getting the right “evidence” at the right time
 - Political often trumps the “best laid plans”
- Industry –
 - To be competitive, need practical, low risk innovations
 - Efficiency goals often aligned with environmental goals
 - Untapped knowledge, but little time or willingness to share
 - Tendency for freight to be poorly understood



For discussion

- How can academia, private, public sector better interact toward urban freight innovation?
- Best ways to transfer lessons learned between very different jurisdictions, political settings, cultures
- Role of detailed modeling, data collection, and basic knowledge
- How to better align research with the most important questions?
- Other ways to move forward