

PacTrans Presents

Freight Transportation Policy and Planning in the Fight Against Climate Change: The Role of New Technologies, Land-Use, and Other Tools Nobody Talks About

With Dr. José Holguín-Veras



**MON
10.21**

**HUB 145 (UW)
9:30 - 10:30AM PT**

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Abstract

The obvious changes in the climate—exemplified by former “hundred-year weather events” taking place every other year—are adding tremendous urgency to efforts to reduce the emissions produced by mobile sources. In this context, reducing the freight transportation’s environmental footprint is an essential, though extremely hard to achieve, component of sustainability efforts. This is largely a result of the pervasive nature of freight activity where even the simplest human activities have the potential to require supplies of one kind or another and produce cargo that needs to be transported elsewhere. The profound interconnections between freight activity and the economy—after all freight activity is a physical manifestation of the economy—creates a situation where the sustainability of freight activity is intrinsically linked to the sustainability of the economy.

In this talk, Professor Holguín-Veras will provide a brief overview of the: freight transportation research conducted at Rensselaer relevant to the fight against climate change; economic and behavioral interconnections between the participants in supply chains; wide range of potential public sector initiatives that could be used to foster sustainability; role of novel technologies, such as electric trucks, and best ways to avoid the trap identified by the Efficiency Paradox; role of land use policy and planning, and other potential public sector interventions such as efforts aimed at changing the very nature of freight demand, including freight mode choice. In the final section, Professor Holguín-Veras will illustrate the potential benefits of selected initiatives.

Meet the Speaker

Dr. José Holguín-Veras is the William H. Hart Professor and Director of the Center of Excellence for Sustainable Urban Freight Systems at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2013 White House’s Transportation Champion of Change Award, and the 1996 Milton Pikarsky Memorial Award. His research group works on freight transportation modeling and planning, and disaster response logistics. In these areas, he and his group are among the most published and cited scholars in the world. His research has led to major changes in transportation policy to improve urban freight systems. His work on disaster response has played an influential role in disaster response procedures, and has led to deeper insight into how best to respond to large disasters and catastrophic events. He is in numerous leadership positions at professional organizations, public sector agencies, and leading journals. He received his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin in 1996; a M.Sc. from the Universidad Central de Venezuela in 1984; and a B.Sc. from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo in 1982.



PacTrans Regional Transportation Seminar

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