

PLANNING FOR URBAN FREIGHT: PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Researchers at The University of North Carolina Department of City & Regional Planning are studying how increased small package delivery has impacted transportation and land use planning. These studies have demonstrated the potential and need for stronger consideration of freight concerns in economic development and land use planning activities. This infographic summarizes the key findings.



Freight-related injuries and fatalities are rising

Crashes involving freight vehicles are rising more rapidly than crashes overall, and are increasingly occurring on local urban roads and arterials during weekday peak delivery hours. The location and timing of these crashes are particularly hazardous for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Existing loading zones provide insufficient space

Urban areas have limited space zoned for freight loading, leading to increased illegal parking behaviors that impact safety and congestion. Varying zoning requirements for new builds and fragmented change processes for curb space allocation make it difficult to increase availability.



Parking is a primary challenge for delivery drivers

Drivers would prefer not to use unauthorized parking, but this is often necessary in urban areas in order to complete deliveries on time, safely, and without conflict. Curb management policies and freight providers' practices alike will need to adapt in the face of rising e-commerce demands.

Substantial policy and infrastructure solutions are needed

As urban goods movement continues to grow, cities have an opportunity to set the stage for an improved future of the last mile of the urban delivery system. Demand management strategies such as Urban Consolidation Centers, curb management tools such as reservation systems, and safety initiatives such as freight vehicle design changes offer promise, but are yet to be implemented on a large scale. This research demonstrates the need to leverage and build upon existing freight solutions when planning in an urban context.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
City and Regional Planning

Evan Iacobucci, evaniaco@unc.edu
Emma Vinella-Brusher, evb@unc.edu
Noreen McDonald, noreen@unc.edu

Funded by



Collaborative Sciences Center for
ROAD SAFETY

&

STRIDE

Southeastern Transportation Research,
Innovation, Development and Education Center