Freight Movement and Sustainability

- Changing Lifestyles
- Evolving Challenges
- Building A Foundation for Solutions
Major Themes

- New Urbanism as the Norm
- Implications for goods movement
- Defining the challenges
- The role of railways
- Summary
New Urbanism

- Star Tribune, June 29th
- The new trend downtown: Married, with children
- Infants and toddlers are a fast-rising population group in downtown Minneapolis.

- A hot new hangout is being built in downtown Minneapolis this summer. The eagerly anticipated, $400,000-plus venue is not a restaurant, theater or nightclub.
- It's a children's playground at 4th Avenue N. and West River Parkway.
New Urbanism

- Advertising Age, May 31st
- Is Digital Revolution Driving Decline in U.S. Car Culture?
- Shift Toward Fewer Young Drivers Could Have Repercussions for All Marketers

Federal Highway Administration's National Household Travel Survey: VMT’s for drivers aged 21–30
- 1995 20.8%
- 2001 18.3%
- 2009 13.7%
New Urbanism

- Discount retailer Target is looking to grab customers from rivals by playing up its low prices for fresh food.
Implications for Urban Goods Movement
Smaller Shipment Sizes
Growth of Direct Delivery Volumes
Emphasis on Fresh and Local Consumables
Reduced scale of vehicle and shipment sizes
Key Challenge:

- Preserving efficient movement of goods while addressing changing consumer preferences.
- Smaller volumes, more often, to more receiving points.
Unlocking the Solutions

- Passenger and Goods Mobility Infrastructure addressed **together**
  - Freight doesn’t vote
  - Corridor resources are scarce
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- **Explore use of transit corridors**
  - Complementary patterns of use
  - Low GHG and other environmental impacts
  - Direct access to high-density centers
Lever interest in High Speed Rail
Fund Pilots to test and refine new technologies and approaches

- Institutional resistance – freight and passenger interests
- Private sector engagement on standards
- Some protocols and standardization may be required – packaging, containerization, time of delivery, etc.
Optimize interface between old and new worlds

- Big Box Stores, old patterns are not simply going to “melt away”
- Scalability of shipments is critical
Railway Role in new Freight Markets

- Develop new business models for shorter-haul, high-volume corridors
  - Challenge of competing business models
  - Public sector role definitions
Railway Role in new Freight Markets

- Explore synergies between passenger rail corridor development and rail penetration of higher-value freight markets
Railway Role in new Freight Markets

- Lever investment in new train control architecture to deliver business benefits
The Elephant in the Room
Livability/Sustainability

- Mobility Planning does not equal data trend analysis/extrapolation.
- AASHTO’s “Unlocking Freight” reflects traditional approaches; massive highway investment; trucking growth outstripping rail.
- Political leadership and clear policy direction is required for a change in direction
- Cause and effect relationships must be acknowledged.
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- Freight and passenger mobility needs must be considered together
- Rail freight can play a broader role but must be supported by significant policy adjustments
- “Stovepipe” planning regimes are obsolete
Thank You!