

FREIGHT STUDIES AND RESEARCH AT TRB

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THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
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Evolution of Freight Issues

- Effect of truck loads on pavements, bridges, and geometrics
- Regulation of truck sizes, weights, and configurations
- Freight transportation as a user of the highway system (planning focus)
- Freight capacity as an economic driver (policy focus)

Effect of Trucks on Pavements, Bridges, and Roadway Geometry

- AASHO Road Test (1958-1962)
- Long-term Pavement Performance Test (SHRP/FHWA, 1987-present)
- Truck Characteristics as a Factor in Roadway Design (NCHRP 505, 2005)

Regulation of Truck Sizes, Weights, and Configurations

- Twin Trailer Trucks (SR 211, 1986)
- Truck Weight Limits (SR 225, 1990)
- New Trucks for Greater Productivity and Less Road Wear (SR 227, 1990)

Freight As a User of the Highway System: NCHRP Reports

- Application of Statewide Freight Demand Forecasting Techniques (NCHRP 260, 1983)
- Forecasting Statewide Freight Toolkit (NCHRP 606, 2008)
- Integrating Freight into Transportation Planning and Project Selection Processes (NCHRP 594, 2007)

Freight As a User of the Highway System: NCFRP Reports

- Review/ Analysis of Freight Transportation Markets and Relationships (pub pending)
- Generation and Attraction of Freight by Land Use Characteristics (ongoing)
- Framework/Tools for Estimating Benefits of Specific Freight Network Investments (under way)

Freight and Economic Development

- Landside Access to U.S. Ports (SR 238, 1993)
- Freight Capacity for the 21st Century (SR 271, 2003)
- Economic Changes Driving Future Freight Transportation (new NCHRP project)
- Funding Options for Freight Transportation Projects (SR 297, 2009)

Freight and Economic Development (continued)

- The Marine Transportation System and the Federal Role (SR 279, 2004)

Funding Options for Freight Transportation Projects

- “Projects of national significance”
- Federal involvement—only when a necessary condition; facilitative and incremental
- New discretionary assistance program for freight projects
- More accessible federal credit assistance
- Promote project-specific revenue sources

Summary/Concluding Comments

- Freight issues have evolved and expanded in scope
- International trade has helped drive this evolution
- No cohesive national freight policy exists
- Significant data and information gaps impede the development of more effective policy