



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

**Office of Operations**

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# United States (US)-European Commission (EC) Urban Freight Twinning Initiative

AT025 Urban Freight Committee Session  
2019 TRB Annual Meeting

January 2019



# US-EC Urban Freight Twinning Initiative

- A joint initiative between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the European Commission (EC)
- **Purpose:** To exchange notable practices and experiences and support knowledge transfer of innovative city logistics measures
  - Improve basic understanding of freight distribution and service trips in urban areas
  - Assess innovative policies and solutions
- Several joint efforts including events, publications, webinars, and knowledge-sharing activities



# Urban Freight Twinning Activities to Date

- In total, Twinning activities have included:
  - Joint events, presentations, and appearances in nearly **12 conferences and workshops** across the globe
  - Events have engaged over **200 participants** representing more than **15 countries**



US and EC delegates at the CIVITAS event in Portugal, September 2017



# TRB Urban Freight Research Workshops

- Beginning in 2018, in coordination with AT025
- Goal: convene freight practitioners from across the globe to:
  - Articulate research needs
  - Catalyze further collaboration
  - Exchange info learned in the past year

## FHWA - EC TWINNING INITIATIVE on URBAN FREIGHT



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### Summary of Recommended Urban Freight Research Topics

Generated at the Transportation Research Board 2018 Annual Meeting Urban Freight Workshop

#### 1. Purpose

This document summarizes priority research topics/statements generated by participants of an Urban Freight Workshop that was held on January 7, 2018, during the 2018 TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. It is intended to share ideas that will support U.S. and international freight practitioners, planners, and researchers to collaborate more effectively to advance the urban freight state of the practice. The workshop was co-hosted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and European Commission (EC), and co-sponsored by the TRB Committees on Urban Freight Transportation, Freight Transportation Planning & Logistics, and International Cooperation.

FHWA will track how many of the research topics listed here are implemented over time. If you engage in research on any of the listed topics, please email [urbanfreightresearch@dot.gov](mailto:urbanfreightresearch@dot.gov) with your name, topic, and how you plan to investigate the issue.

FHWA can assist to link you to key partners and suggest potential funding avenues or other resources.

#### 2. Background

As the United States' population and economy continue to grow, freight movements across all modes are also expected to increase by roughly 40 percent over the next 20 years. While critical to overall economic development and our quality of life, increased freight demand will also reveal new and more complex challenges in areas ranging from safety and infrastructure to resiliency, supply chain efficiency, and others. These challenges may be particularly acute in urban areas, where most of the Nation's population currently lives and most population growth in the coming decades is anticipated to occur. Furthermore, most goods movement across the Nation either starts or ends in urban areas.

Metropolitan areas across the globe experience many of the same freight mobility challenges. To identify the highest-priority challenges and advance effective solutions to them, freight practitioners, planners, and researchers need to work collaboratively with U.S. and international partners as well as with the private sector. Collaboration is expected to lead to several benefits that include:

- **Reducing duplication:** Minimizing potentially identical efforts.
- **Leveraging resources:** Channeling scarce research dollars into the highest-priority topics.
- **Building consensus:** Creating a more cohesive voice within the urban freight community of practice to identify and advance pressing research needs.





# Joint Presence at Conferences and Events

- TRB Annual Meetings in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019
- Hosted International Urban Freight Peer Exchange in Baltimore, MD (September 2018)
- Joint I-NUF session on urban applications of freight data (October 2017)
- Joint presentation at CIVITAS conference (September 2017)
- Visit of EC project sites by US delegation (September 2016)



Tamiko Burnell (FHWA) chats with AT025 Committee Chair Bill Eisele at I-NUF 2017  
Image source: I-NUF 2017 Public Flickr account.



# US-EC Urban Freight Compendia

- 2018-19 *Compendium of Urban Freight Projects*
  - Forthcoming
  - Anticipated 40+ project profiles
  - 6 countries
- 2017 *Compendium of Urban Freight Projects*\* (published [here](#))
  - 34 project profiles
  - 6 countries

\*Direct link to 2017 *Compendium of Urban Freight Projects*:  
<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop17029/fhwahop17029.pdf>



# 2018 International Urban Freight Peer Exchange-Baltimore, Maryland, USA

- Jointly hosted by FHWA and EC
- 2-day peer exchange highlighting key accomplishments of the Twinning Initiative
- 81 attendees
- Event included panel presentations, tabletop exhibits, networking sessions, and site visits



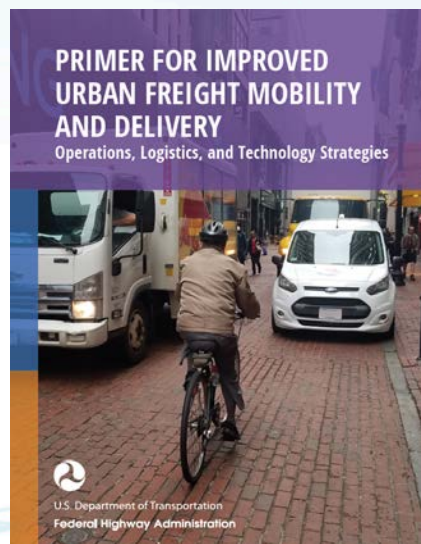
Participants at the 2018 International Peer Exchange at a presentation during the event.  
Image source: DJ Mason, U.S. DOT Volpe Center.





# Publications on Topics of FHWA-EC Mutual Interest

- Series on Noteworthy Practices in Freight
- Freight Primers:
  - Operations, Logistics, and Technology Strategies (OLT)
  - Inform, Collaborate, and Partner Strategies (ICP)
- 2017 Public Roads Article: *Delivering the Goods*



**TRUCK SIDE GUARD MODELS**

**Autotech Defender Side Guard**  
The Autotech Defender Side Guard is a 6-foot-tall, 4-inch-thick, 100-pound impact-resistant polyethylene plastic guard that is bolted to the vehicle's frame. It is designed to protect the driver and passengers from the side of an oncoming vehicle.

**Steel for Aluminum Rail Side Guard**  
The Steel for Aluminum Rail Side Guard is a 6-foot-tall, 4-inch-thick, 100-pound impact-resistant steel guard that is bolted to the vehicle's frame. It is designed to protect the driver and passengers from the side of an oncoming vehicle.

**Steel Mesh Side Guard**  
The Steel Mesh Side Guard is a 6-foot-tall, 4-inch-thick, 100-pound impact-resistant steel guard that is bolted to the vehicle's frame. It is designed to protect the driver and passengers from the side of an oncoming vehicle.

through a truck side guard inspection on that potential location before you expect. Check the video: <https://www.kia.com/usa/vehicles/2017/2017-02-23>

Since the ordinance went into effect in May 2013, the city has had numerous contracts and educational efforts with commercial truckers and other stakeholders. From no enforcing restrictions before passing them to the city council. To help spread the word about this new ordinance, the city has issued free and the value of a side guard inspection with several large fleet trucking organizations, conducted mass mailings to fleet owners, and followed up with the primary point of contact for each fleet.

As for next steps, the city's new best practices include continuing to reach out and educate. In the longer run, the city plans to focus on stronger enforcement to increase compliance.

**Lessons Learned and Recommendations**  
City of Ames staff realized throughout the process that it is a challenge to implement this type of policy at the local level. City government has limited resources and needs operating within the city other than enforcement through local contracts. The mayor is currently working with state legislators to establish truck side guard requirements throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Contact

**Local Contacts**  
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Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics  
Innovative Center (Boston.gov) | 617-553-2275

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**Focus on Freight: Article 3**

**Delivering the Goods**

By Sarah Farrell, Amanda Landolt, and Alexander Hoffman

**ENR and its partners are working to improve the movement of freight in growing urban areas across the country.**

Four out of five Americans live in metropolitan areas. The nation's growth is concentrated in these areas, and it is a major challenge for the transportation infrastructure that supports them. In 2015, the U.S. economy is expected to increase by about 10 percent, and the nation's population is projected to increase by more than 20 percent in about 50 years.

To support the projected growth in population and economic output, freight traffic across all modes is expected to increase by roughly 50 percent by the year 2040, or more.

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# US-EC Webinar Series on Topics of Mutual FHWA-EC Interest

- US and EC presenters collaborated to hold three webinars that included US and international participants:
  - *Public-Private Sector Collaboration in Freight Planning* (May 2017)
  - *Electrification of Urban Freight Fleets* (November 2017)
  - *Turning Freight Data into Planning Insights* (March 2018)



A bus passes a truck unloading along a Philadelphia street.  
Source: DVRPC.



# Looking Ahead: International Urban Freight Twinning Efforts

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