## Delmarva Freight Summit: Summer 2017 Trucking's Final Mile

By M. Lee Derrickson

#### **Delaware Motor Transport Association, Inc.**





## D.M.T.A.

- Is one of the federation of 50 affiliated state trucking associations along with industry-related conferences and councils that form the American Trucking Associations (ATA)
- Total D.M.T.A. Membership 88
- Membership by category
  - Motor Carriers 54
    - Private carriers 17
    - For-hire carriers 37
  - Allied Members (non-carriers) 34
    - Parts, service, supplies, etc. 25
    - Manufacturers, dealers, leasing companies 9

## **Member Concerns**

- Congestion
  - Traffic volumes are at record levels
  - 2015 costs to trucks operating in Delaware was \$161 million\*
    - Total congestion costs to trucking nationwide was \$855 million\*
  - 88% of the problem concentrated on 17% of highway mileage\*
- Infrastructure
  - Want to see adequate, long-term, stable and sustainable funding for federalaid highways
  - NO TOLLS
  - Delaware Transportation Fund being used for non-highway projects
- Federal tax reform
- Regulatory reform based on credible data and evidence
- High cost of providing health care to employees

- Efficiency is goal of route selection
  - Tractor-trailer operating costs (2014 data)
    - \$1.70 per mile or
    - \$67.00 per hour
- Factors to consider
  - Vehicle size limitations
    - Truck height, weight, and length
  - Reliability of route
    - Can we use it every time?
    - Are alternates available?

- 20<sup>th</sup> century route planning was manual while 21<sup>st</sup> century route planning is often automated
- Carriers using 21<sup>st</sup> century methods
  - Local carriers (short haul, local delivery)
  - LTL carriers (less-than-truckload lots of freight, short and intermediate haul)
- Carriers still using 20<sup>th</sup> century methods or less reliable automated methods
  - Small carriers (under 20 trucks)
  - Truckload carriers (long-haul)

- Final mile destination is collector or local highway
  - Final mile defined as highway segment that is the first/last link to a truck generating facility
- Long haul driver wants shortest route from arterial to final mile facility
  - May not be familiar with area
  - Needs adequate road signs to help driver navigate
- Likely to use GPS for route selection
  - Let's hope driver is using a GPS designed for trucks

#### **GPS** Failure





- A Your axle weights
- \* Hazardous materials you are transporting

Follow the route recommended by the navigation system.



Not all GPS systems automatically update maps - be sure to update your maps often so that you are following the most current route planning information.

www.fmcsa.dot.gov

FMCSA-ADO-13-007

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

- To maximize efficiency local and LTL carriers likely using automation because
  - Can change routes on the fly according to traffic conditions and customer demand
  - Can select best route for size and weight of vehicle
  - Provides the driver with turn-by-turn directions with in-cab technology
- Route selection automation is part of a system that provides carriers with a wide variety of services
  - Vehicle tracking
  - Driver performance monitoring
  - Much more

### **Final Mile**

- Final mile defined as
  - Road segment that is the first/last link to a truck generating facility
- Trucks need access to final mile facilities
  - Big trucks
    - Trucks of maximum legal weight and size that may be restricted on collectors/local highways
  - Smaller trucks
    - Trucks that can legally navigate collectors/local highways

# **Final Mile Delivery Issues**

- Traffic patterns have changed
  - Final mile facility no longer located in low-density traffic area
- Land use patterns have changed
  - Final mile facility no longer isolated from residential areas
- Difficult access to final mile destination
  - Traffic impediments
  - Lacking signage or confusing signage
  - Final mile highway (or access to it) in poor condition
  - Resulting in trucks using roads not designed for truck traffic
- Final mile facility may be in area where some trucks are restricted

## **Final Mile Priorities**

- Ensure that trucks have access to final mile facilities
- Identify final mile facilities
  - Identify best routes to/from facility
- Quantify traffic volumes to/from final mile facilities
- Prioritize improvements based on
  - Ability to handle large trucks
  - Current condition of roadways
  - Traffic volumes

#### **Final Mile Issues**

- Difficult access to final mile facilities can impact delivery costs
  - Size/weight limits to access routes could mean some carriers cannot make pickups/deliveries
    - Limits competition for freight
  - Poor condition of highways increase operating costs (potholes cost Americans \$6.4 billion per year\*)
  - Traffic delays increase operating costs
  - Cause problems for everyone when trucks wander onto roads that cannot handle trucks
- Trucking needs good infrastructure for peak performance
- America needs good infrastructure to operate well

## D.M.T.A.

- Would like to see national and state highway improvement
  - Our nation's future depends on it
- We realize planning and prioritization is needed
- We realize resources are limited
  - Ours are too

•Questions?

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