

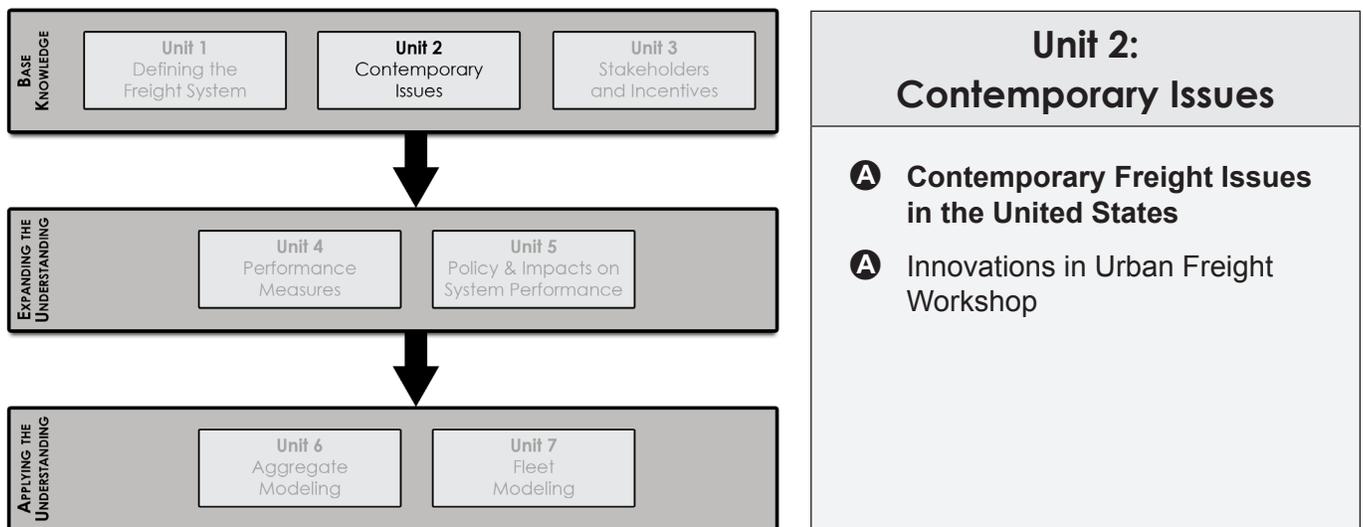
BEFORE CLASS

Connection	Activity Overview	Required Resources	Agenda & Instructor Notes
Review to see how this activity fits as part of the course and Unit 1.	Read to learn more about the content of the activity.	Review to make sure you have the materials you need for this activity.	Read to prepare for what you will do in class during the activity.

CONNECTION

Activity #3 is one of two assignments within Unit 2: Contemporary Issues. Additionally, this theme is addressed further within the course. This activity introduces students to the current freight transportation issues in the United States and serves as a starting point for a discussion of these issues. The information provided in Unit 1 is the building block for a greater understanding of freight transportation within the larger transportation system.

In Activity #3, students gain a better understanding of the current issues associated with freight transportation in the US and how those issues impact the community.



Once students have an understanding of the contemporary issues within goods movement they will be better prepared to engage in subsequent activities and the remainder of the course.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Activity #3 is an in-class activity that serves to stimulate discussion on contemporary freight issues. In the activity students form small groups and identify all articles within a provided newspaper which reference freight or freight transportation. Each group should have different newspaper, preferably covering different geographical areas.

As students work in groups and then share with the class, a list of current issues will be developed. These issues will serve as a starting point for an in-class discussion of freight transportation issues. If specific contemporary issues are not mentioned by the students, they should also be addressed in the discussion. See the **Discussion Notes/Ideas** section for suggestions for facilitating the discussion.

The **learning objectives** for Activity #3 include:

- To be able to describe common current issues regarding freight transportation.
- To understand how freight and freight issues impact our society and communities.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

You will need the following material for this activity:

- Activity #3 text
- Several different newspapers (one for every two or three students)

DURING CLASS			
Agenda	Instructor Notes	Common Questions	Discussion Notes and Ideas
Review with the students to show them what tasks will be completed during class and the approximate time for each task.	Use this to remind you of the information that you need to remember and the sequence that you will follow during class.	Keep these in mind! They are what students have asked about this activity in the past.	Keep these in mind for possible use during class or to update the activity in the future

AGENDA

- Have students gather in groups of two to three and give each group a newspaper (each group will have a different newspaper, preferably covering different geographical areas; this can be a hardcopy of the paper or an online version).
- Within their groups, students should identify all of the articles within the paper which relate to freight and freight transportation.
- For each article, students should (1) indicate if the article relates to freight and how it impacts society, or relates to how society impacts freight, (2) categorize that impact (e.g., economic), and (3) provide a one to two sentence summary of the freight issue in the article.
- Taking turns, groups will be asked to identify and describe a freight issue they found and describe their freight issue to the rest of the class.
- A list of issues (and categories) will be developed on the board.
- The activity will conclude with an instructor-led discussion of the issues (see **Discussion Notes/Ideas**).

INSTRUCTOR NOTES

The instructor is to facilitate the activity by helping the students arrange themselves in groups and assigning newspapers. The instructor should observe groups working and intercede as necessary. Additionally the instructor should take questions from the groups.

COMMON QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

This activity can also be modified to allow students to work individually, outside of class. In this case, students should be asked to find two articles related to freight transport from an online news source and

then complete the assignment on their own. The disadvantage to this approach is that if students look for articles that are specifically related to freight, they may not find articles related to another issue which also impact freight.

DISCUSSION NOTES/IDEAS

For the discussion:

- Do freight issues only fall under one category?
- What is the distinction between “freight impacting society” and “society impacting freight”?
- Are there issues that are consistently mentioned by all papers? Are some issues regional? What are they?
- From the list of freight issues that we have developed, which issue do you think is the most interesting (and why)? Which do you think is the most important?
- Are there any freight issues that you can think of which were not identified in the newspapers we’ve looked at?
- (TO BE ASKED OF A SPECIFIC ISSUE) Can you identify the stakeholders of the issue?
- (TO BE ASKED OF A SPECIFIC ISSUE) To what level of government does this issue relate?
- (TO BE ASKED OF A SPECIFIC ISSUE) By what means do you think this issue could be fixed: policy, construction/engineering, education, something else?

AFTER CLASS

Answers and Notes	Activity Assessment	Next Steps
Use the information here to help you evaluate student performance.	Use this space to take notes regarding the implementation and facilitation of the activity which can be used to make any necessary adjustments to the activity.	This is a reminder of what comes next, including any homework or preparation that students need to complete for the next class or activity.

ANSWERS AND NOTES

These issue categories listed below are those considered to be most relevant within freight transportation but this list is not necessarily exclusive. The specific issues which follow are examples taken from previous student deliverables.

Categories:

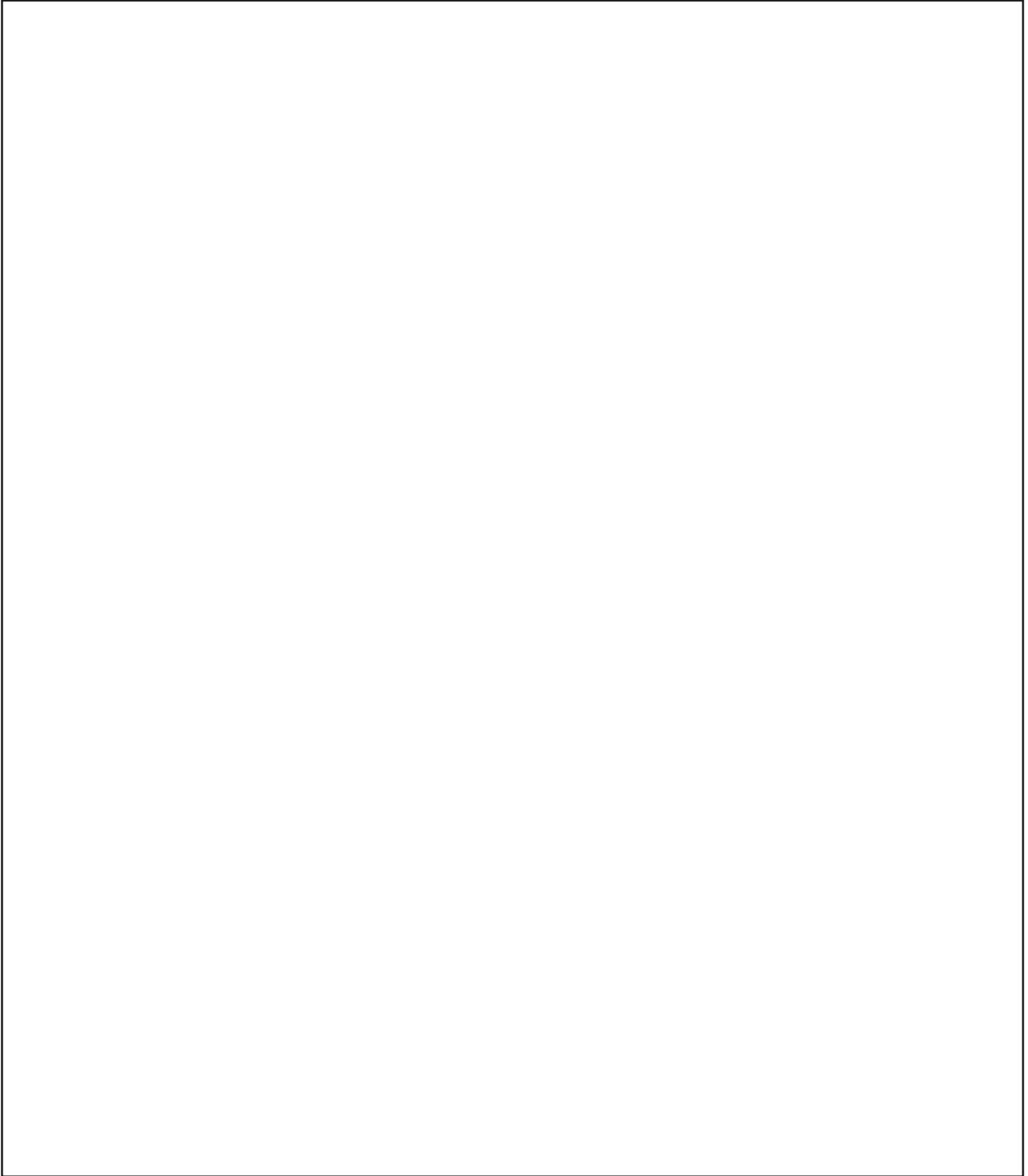
Economic	Built environment	Environmental
Health/Safety	Societal	Political
		Energy

Issues addressed:

- A tenant resigns a 25-year lease, impacts the society and the economy by keeping business in the region. The length of the lease should also be noted and could stem a discussion regarding what makes a port attractive to a tenant and why are long leases common.
- A port considers plans to redevelop portions of the waterfront, including providing cruise ship facilities, to promote tourism. This issue can start discussion regarding how increased tourist activities might impact other port activities.

- International shipment of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is increasing and is forecasted to continue to increase over the next decade. As a result, shipbuilders are building more of the specialized ships to meet the growing demand and existing ships that can transport LNG are able to charge a higher price for transport. Natural gas is a clean source of energy and increased use of natural gas is environmentally sustainable.
- Increasing use of Mediterranean ports in a deliberate attempt to reduce fuel costs is causing a decreased use of Northern European ports. Additional rail/truck transportation infrastructure is needed to adequately support a large increase in the use of Mediterranean ports and transport freight from the Mediterranean to Northern Europe. These modes generate more GHG emissions than maritime shipping. This issue can also relate back to previous discussions on intermodalism.
- The appeals panel of the World Trade Organization ruled that China must dismantle its system of export taxes and quotas for nine widely used industrial materials. This alters the distribution of freight by altering the prices of the product to be shipped, and therefore the feasibility of different modes such as air or sea, as well as altering the destinations of the materials, since they are being sent to distribution centers rather than production facilities. This issue illustrates how an overseas policy change can impact freight operations in the United States (and elsewhere).
- The closure of a customs post at a port will mean more truck traffic in the local area, and increased costs for shippers. This will result in port revenue changes, infrastructure impacts, and increased congestion.
- In addition to a situation in which society (government) impacts freight through the closure of a customs post, the more interesting discussion comes when the impacts on society that the resulting shift in freight patterns will cause are identified. Increased truck traffic to take the goods to an alternate customs post will increase road wear, traffic, pollution, and prices of the goods.
- A train derailed after hitting semi-truck. The train was carrying a variety of goods including hazardous materials and perishable goods. Issues include safety concerns (truck driver was taken to the hospital), environmental concerns (hazardous goods), and delayed delivery.
- A new roundabout was designed and installed with a turning radius based on forcing traffic to slow down enough to avoid trucks tipping. The locals in this community are concerned that this design will cause more traffic jams and increased crash rates. This issue highlights how roadway design affects freight traffic.
- A new toll is proposed for I-70 to fund reconstruction of the road for a 200 mile stretch. Freight traffic would pay up to 45 cents per mile, which is \$90 on a 200 mile trip. Impacts would be felt economically, environmentally, through traffic and congestion, and infrastructure quality. Large fees could affect goods pricing, freight traffic reroutes onto local streets not designed for heavy traffic could damage street facilities, and congestion on non-tolled regional facilities could create additional delay for users.

ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT

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NEXT STEPS

This activity leads into the final activity within this unit, the Innovations in Urban Freight Workshop.