Trucks and Federal Policy

RFF Workshop
Energy Use and Policy in the Trucking Sector
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Trucks are part of a freight system....
With multiple elements, diverse actors

- Vehicles and infrastructure;
- Capital goods suppliers;
- Operators and customers;
- Public and private;
- Federal, State, and Local Governments;
- Large firms and individual owner-operators;
- Multiple forms of regulation.
U.S. Freight Shipments by Mode, 1980 - 2009
(Million Ton-Miles)

Source: USDOT/BTS, NTS Table 1-50
Freight ton-miles have grown more slowly than U.S. economy, truck ton-miles more rapidly...

**Annual Growth Rates in U.S. Freight Ton-Miles by Mode, 1980-2009**

- Total: -4%
- Air: -3%
- Truck: -2%
- Rail: -1%
- Domestic Marine: 0%
- Pipeline: 1%

**Modal Share of Freight Ton-Miles, 2009**

- Truck: 31%
- Rail: 37%
- Domestic Marine: 11%
- Pipeline: 21%
- Air: 0%

Source: DOT/BTS, NTS Table 1-50
The Role of Trucks

- Trucks account for 71 percent of the value of freight shipments ($8.3 trillion) in 2007 (2007 CFS).
- Trucks dominate some markets, compete in others, play minor or temporary role in yet others.
  - Intercity
  - Local delivery
  - “Vocational”
  - Bulk commodities

- Dynamic and rapidly evolving economy favors trucks—stable economy favors optimization.
Trucks are premium transportation: fast, convenient, expensive, fuel intensive

**Freight Revenue per Ton-Mile by Mode, 2007**

- **Air**: 89.46 (Cents per Ton-Mile)
- **Truck**: 16.54
- **Rail**: 2.99
- **Barge (2004)**: 1.83
- **Oil Pipeline**: 1.61

**Estimated National Average Freight Energy Consumption per Ton-Mile by Mode, 2009**

- **Truck**: 3,572 Btu Per Ton-Mile
- **Rail**: 289 Btu Per Ton-Mile
- **Ship**: 217 Btu Per Ton-Mile

Source: DOT/BTS, NTS, Table 3-21

Source: DOT/BTS, NTS, Tables 2-7, 2-15.
Transportation Policy Issues

• Features of the New Transportation Bill
  – National Freight Policy and Freight Corridors;
  – Performance Metrics for Highway Systems
  – Emphasis on “State of Good Repair”

• Long-Term Developments
  – Evolution of domestic containerization;
  – Evolution of transportation customers (agriculture, energy, containers)
  – Infrastructure maintenance;
  – Infrastructure development;
  – Infrastructure financing methods;

• Hardy Perennials
  – Truck size and weight limits
  – Double trailers
  – Truck idling;
  – Alternative fuels infrastructure
Thank-you for your attention!

Questions?