

The Evolution of Transportation

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As the industry in which goods are transported continues to grow, there is an inevitable question looming that must be answered: "How will the transportation of goods evolve over the next ten years"? To assess the various answers to such a question, one must first identify the causes and effects that have led to the current progress and development of the industry. Thus, identifying the issues that are affecting the efficiency of day to day transportation. Such as the high volumes of traffic in areas where goods are received and transported. Therefore, the trucks carrying those goods cannot get where they need to go in a timely manner and are then contributing to the frustrating gridlock on the roads. This problem is caused by higher volumes of population in conjunction with higher volumes of transportation. This growing issue then causes larger problems overall, specifically concerning the environment. With increasing truck traffic, there is increased emissions from the trucks that cause congestion and pollution. Although the transportation industry we know and trust today is able to get the job done, there are consequences. After great consideration, a solution can be developed that would spare time, money, and more detriment to the environment; all while boosting productivity and efficiency within the ports and the transportation companies.

Many consumers don't give the goods they desire and consume a second thought. They do not wonder where they came from or who's services were used and what amount of efforts it took to get this good in their hands. However, when the process of the transportation of goods is broken down, flaws in the process are easy to detect. For example, there are such high volumes of cargo coming into the ports every business day it is a challenge to keep up with it. Keeping enough trucks on the road full of this cargo to keep the circulation of these goods going smoothly is not an easy task. Which brings to the surface a potential solution to this problem: Port redistribution centers. If there were local and regional "hubs" where trains could go directly to the ships at the port and load the cargo, then the trains would continue directly to the hubs where the cargo could be unloaded and redistributed from there. This solution would help the transportation industry to evolve in many beneficial ways. For instance, it would free up space at the ports for more and more goods to be shipped in as more and more goods would be transported out of the ports and to these redistribution centers. From there, the hubs could serve different companies and would be able to fill various quotas. Large box stores, such as Walmart, Costco, The Home Depot, etc. could be served by these hubs as it is easier to distribute from a local hub. Local and Regional hubs could service a vast amount of companies ranging from 50-100 miles for local businesses and even as far as 1,000 miles for non-local cargo. These redistribution hubs could be placed in a slightly rural area of land to remove even more traffic and population from the immediate cities where the ports are located.

An additional benefit gained from this evolution of transportation would be the cost. These redistribution hubs would result in a cheaper alternative to the masses of trucks that are used for transportation currently. Trains carrying cargo can get more "ton miles" than on a truck. Therefore, this method of transportation would be exercising the age-old phrase "time is money" in its most true form. A double-stack train could handle roughly 250-300 containers of cargo on a full train, versus the 250-300 trucks it would take to move the same amount of cargo. The evolution from trucks to trains would move an extremely increased volume of cargo out of the

ports in an extremely short amount of time compared to the trucks. This way companies would be paying less for the trains than they do for the trucks because trains can transport more goods while minimizing the amount of time and resources used. The transportation industry as a whole would be saving two precious assets with the implementation of this evolutionary idea, money and time.

Finally, it is not simply the financial situations of the transportation companies that would benefit from this change to the industry, the environmental situation of the world around us would benefit as well. Without so many trucks sitting and idling in the ports waiting to be loaded up with the cargo from the ships, there would be less nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide emitted into the air we breathe. Such impurities from these trucks contribute to smog, pollution and poor air quality which can cause a myriad of health complications for those who breathe this kind of air. The environment and the transportation industry would benefit greatly from the upgrade to cargo trains for the transportation of goods. The trains would pull directly up to the ship unloading docks, immediately unload the cargo from the ship decks to the train cars and then continue on the tracks to the redistribution hubs. Then the idling and waiting of the trucks and the congesting and polluting of our air would be significantly reduced.

To conclude, evolution within an industry is inevitable. However, to anticipate these incoming changes and prepare for their impact is how an industry can survive through the changes of the times. By implementing "Relocation Distribution Centers" transportation could be drastically updated and improved for the better. These local and regional redistribution hubs would save on the cost of transportation and the cost of land. In addition, they would increase the efficiency within the transportation industry. These hubs would ideally be fast paced as they would be going directly to and from the ports taking cargo directly from the ships and bringing it to the non-congestion areas of these centers. Near which they would also be closer to the markets of their companies. The redistribution centers would additionally be contributing to the well-being of the environment by using modes of transport that are much less harmful to the planet. The transportation industry would be not only supporting their companies, customers, buyers, sellers and employees, but their environment as well. This industry can have the intentions to not only benefit the world with their services but to benefit the world with their efforts of preservation as well. In the next ten years, there is no doubt that the transportation industry will evolve. With ideas such as this, the industry could improve their current practices through efficiency, productivity, cost-effectiveness and environmental consciousness. All with the hopes to continue to reach the ultimate goal of serving the world with the business that is transportation.