News Release

New Freight Consolidation Study - Results Released

Transport & Travel Research (TTR), in association with TRL, are pleased to announce the publication this month of a study commissioned by the Department for Transport into the costs and benefits of Freight Consolidation Centres for the retail and construction industries.

Freight Consolidation Centres (FCCs) are distribution warehouses, situated close to town centre, shopping or construction site, at which part loads are consolidated and delivered to the target area resulting in fewer lorry journeys.

The study provides an empirical analysis of the benefits that Freight Consolidation Centres (FCCs) can bring to the retail and construction sectors, revealing a range of operational variables, how they can impact on the costs and profits of operation, as well as the wider social benefits of such schemes.

This study builds upon previous studies of consolidation centre implementations by assessing the costs and benefits in a wider range of scenarios.

The study identifies that the benefits to businesses of FCCs include:

- Maximising retail space and deployment of store staff (Up to 20% space expansion)
- Reducing the delivery cost of ‘the final mile’
- Increasing the delivery window, generating opportunity for efficiencies in the distribution chain
- Meeting corporate social responsibility targets
- For construction, helping to manage site congestion

The social benefits can include:

- Significant reduction in emissions affecting air quality
- Reduction in CO_2 emissions (by up to 55%)
- Reduction in Traffic congestion (up to £2m per FCC modelled in social benefit gains over 5 years)
- Reduction in conflict between road users

The report concludes: *"...there clearly can be potential benefits to the retail sector, the construction industry, local authorities and wider society from the appropriate use of Freight Consolidation Centres. This report should help to inform key decision makers both in industry and in local Government interested in exploring the scope for benefits to their area."*

As TTR Director Alan Lewis commented *"freight consolidation offers significant benefits to industry and the public at large. This report provides guidance to local authorities, developers and the retail industry who are considering consolidation centres as part of their delivery strategies"*.

DfT and TTR encourage local authorities, logistics companies, retailers and property developers to download the Report or the Executive Summary from www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/research/freightreport/

For more information on the Freight Consolidation Centre Study contact: alan.lewis@ttr-ltd.com

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

TTR is a consultancy company specializing in the field of transport policy research, working closely with clients to understand the impact of innovative transport policies and measures on travel behaviour and attitudes, on energy consumption and the environment and on social issues. Most of TTR's projects concern the links between transport and sustainable development or between transport and social inclusion.
Key areas of work include travel plans & awareness; air quality & environment; freight transport policy; market and social research; transport, energy & environment; traveller information systems; demand management & road pricing; accessibility & equality and European transport research and demonstration projects. www.ttr-ltd.com

TRL is an internationally recognised centre of excellence, providing research, consultancy, advice and testing services to both public and private sector clients across a broad range of transport issues. Based in Berkshire in a purpose-built facility, TRL is able to offer clients a range of facilities including driving simulators, impact testing, materials testing, pavement test facility and test track.

Key areas of work include traffic management, planning and control including TRL Software; intelligent transport systems; road, network and vehicle safety; product testing and certification; investigations and risk management; infrastructure capabilities in pavements, structures and

geotechnics; environmental consultancy and assessment, covering climate change, carbon reduction and financing, sustainability and air and noise monitoring. www.trl.co.uk