

A Brief Tour of City Logistics

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Abstract:

City Logistics is an innovative concept where freight transportation within dense and sensitive urban areas is considered from a systemic point of view as an integrated “logistics” system, with the goal of simultaneously reducing the footprint of freight transportation on the city (congestion, pollution, etc.) and providing an efficient transportation system sustaining its economic development. Cooperation among stakeholders, consolidation of loads of different stakeholders within the same vehicles, and the optimization of the integrated system are the main pillars of this field. A number of projects and system deployments have been undertaken around the world, and the pace of development of methods to evaluate and plan such systems is quickening. Many significant challenges still remain, however. We will first recall the main City Logistics ideas, concepts, and developments. We will then discuss a number of challenging issues in planning City Logistics systems, corresponding recent developments, and research perspectives.