



Growth Potential for Rail Freight in Short Distance Markets

Harrod, Steven; Schett, Matthias

Publication date:
2015

Document Version
Peer reviewed version

[Link back to DTU Orbit](#)

Citation (APA):
Harrod, S. (Author), & Schett, M. (Author). (2015). Growth Potential for Rail Freight in Short Distance Markets. Sound/Visual production (digital)

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

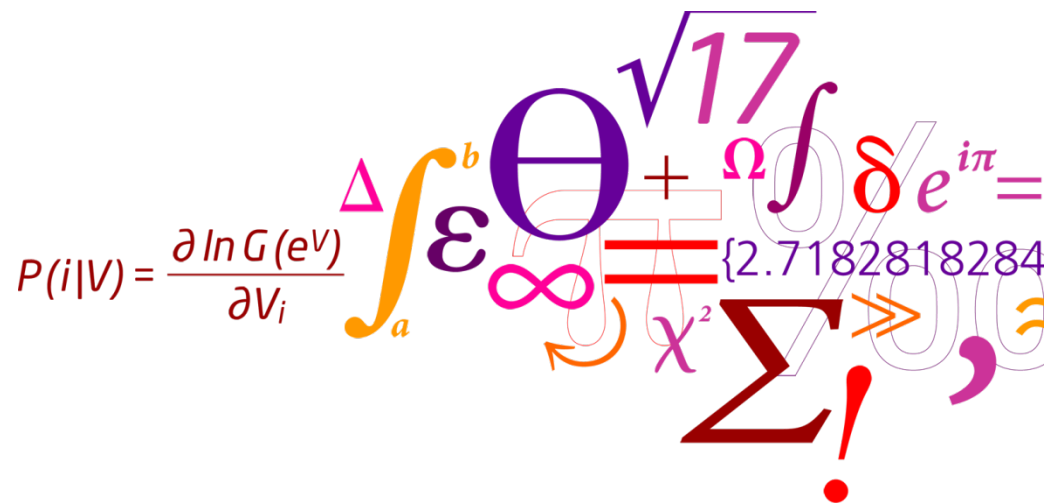
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Growth Potential for Rail Freight in Short Distance Markets

INFORMS 2015, Philadelphia

Dr. Steven Harrod

Matthias Schett



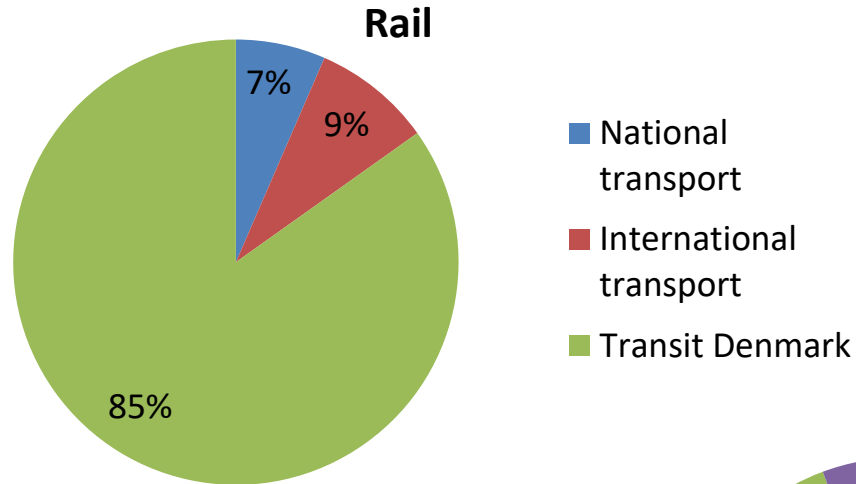
Short Haul Rail Freight

- Defined
- Cost Structure
- Functioning Routes Today
- Success Factors
- Further Research

Short Haul

- Small Flows Over Short Distances
 - SFSD
 - Less than 500 km, Bärthel & Woenius, 2004
- Dominant Mode: Road
- 46% of EU Transport
- Aarhus to Copenhagen, 307 km (land)
- Hamburg to Copenhagen, 472 km (land)

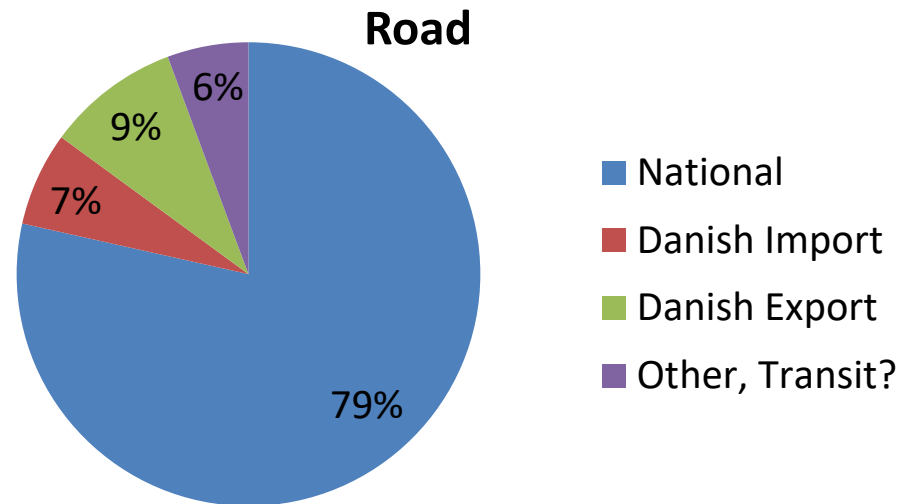
Rail Freight in Denmark



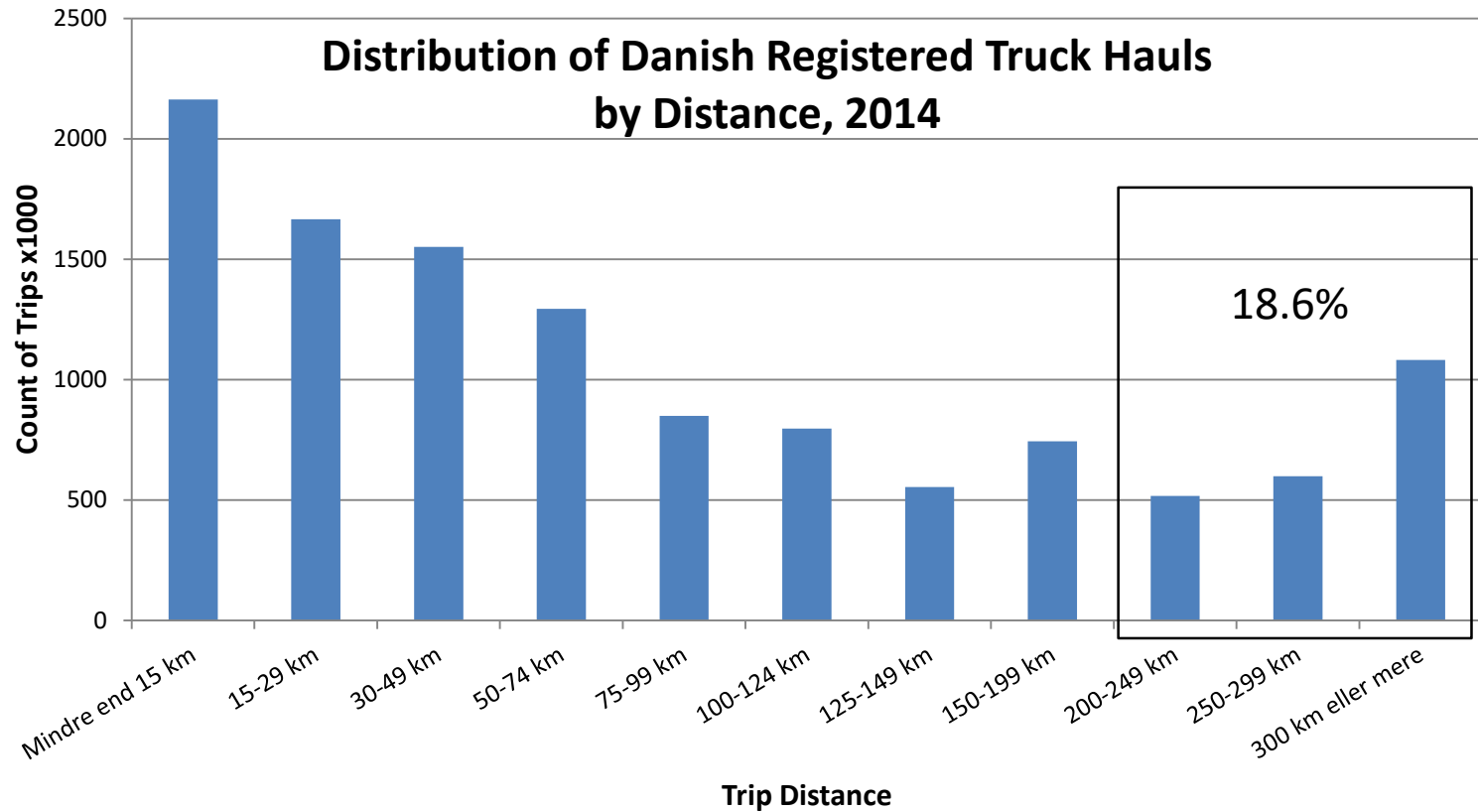
Unknown:

What is the distance distribution of the national traffic?

How much of "national" traffic is international connection?



Average statistics 2013 Q1 – 2015 Q2
 Danmarks Statistik, ton kilometers



*We do not have similar data for foreign trucks operating in Denmark

Short Haul Rail Modes

- Carload Freight (Enkeltvogn)



- Intermodal

- Trailer on Flatcar (TOFC)



- Container on Flatcar (COFC)

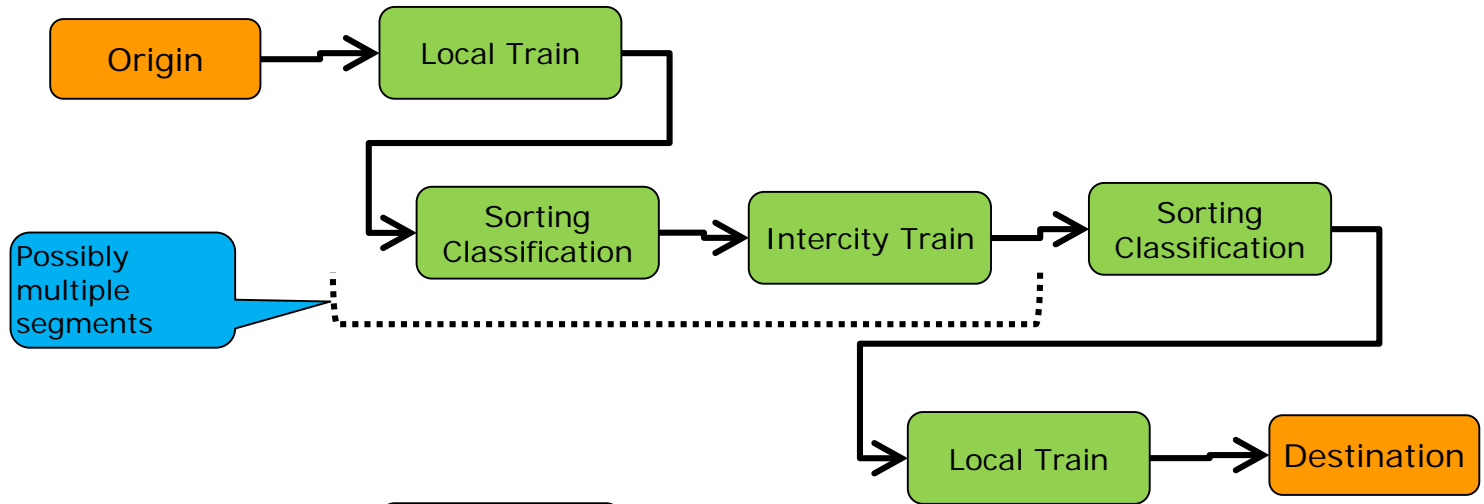


Popular Assumptions

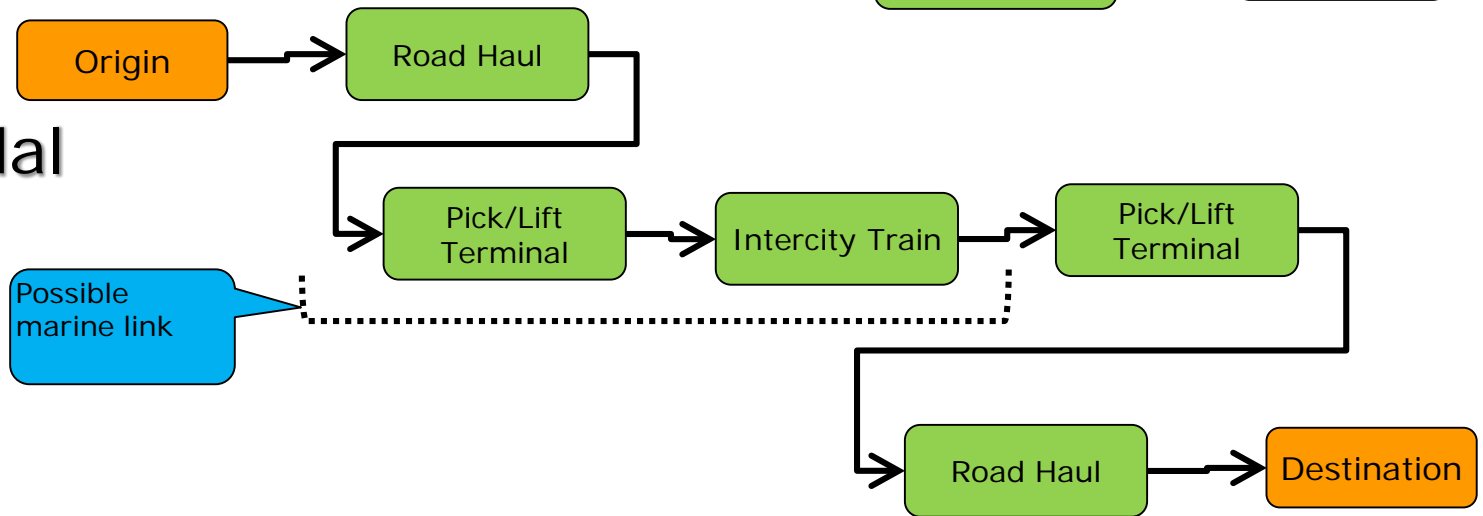
- Intermodal is
 - less expensive
 - less complicated
- Modern, successful services are pure intermodal
- Modern supply chain has no use for rail freight
- All of this is "proven"

Cost Structure of Modes

Carload



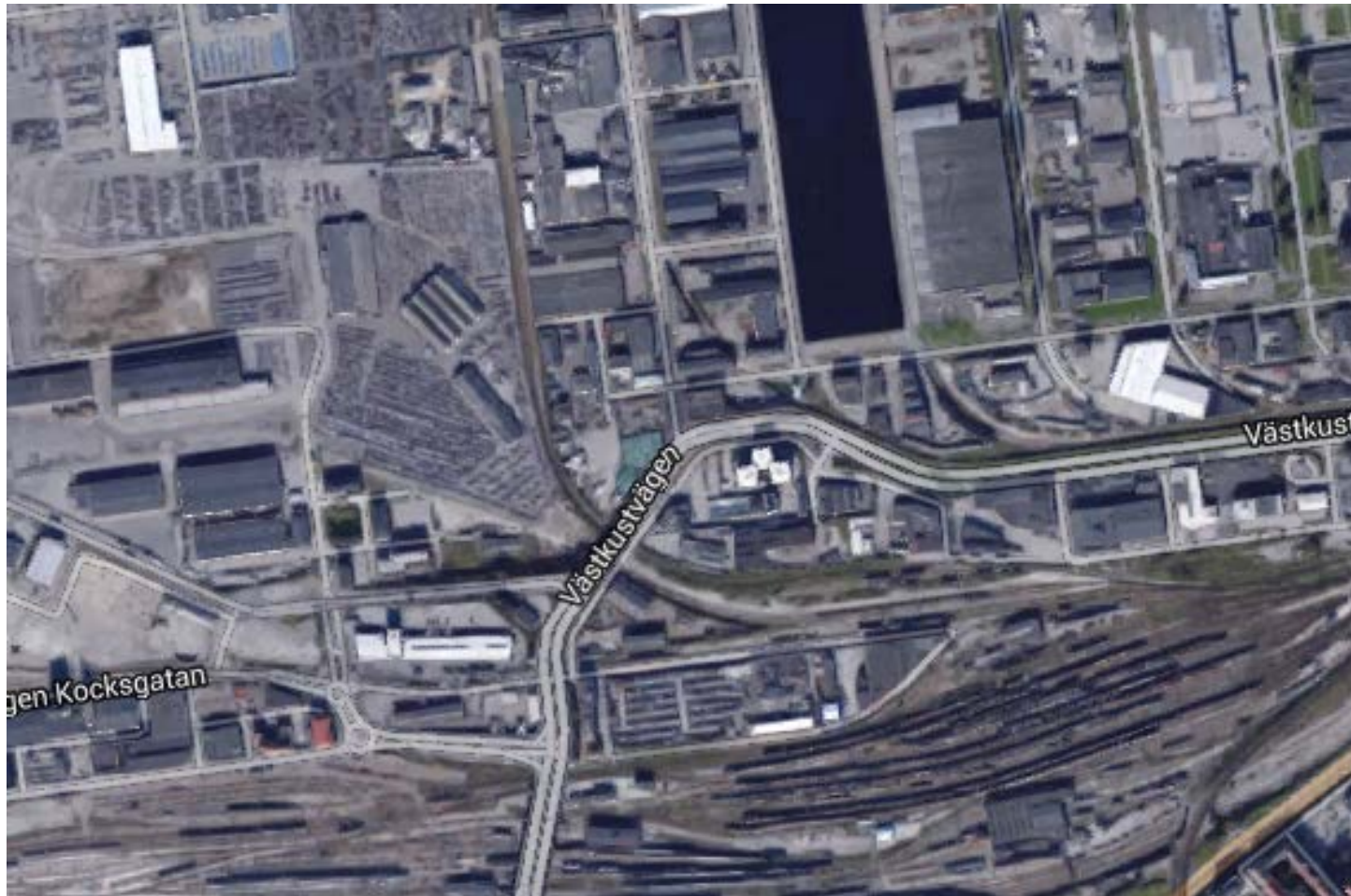
Intermodal



A Few Words on Carload

- Intermodal DOES NOT reduce the handling of freight
- Unknown: What is the equivalent cost traffic level between intermodal and carload?
- Greatly ignored in Denmark
 - A victim of bad service
 - Nearly all private freight sidings in Denmark are out of service
 - Needs to be evaluated separately
- Carload still represents 50% of volume in European Union (EU 27)*

How Do You Explain This?



And This,



And This?



The Road Competition

- Driving hours a significant factor
- EU regulations allow 9-10 hours of driving per day
 - A roundtrip Aalborg to Malmö (2x 343 km, ferry)
 - A roundtrip Aalborg to Hamburg (2x 447 km)
 - NOT Hirtshals to Hamburg (2x 513 km)
 - NOT Malmö to Stockholm (2x 613 km)
- Rail becomes time competitive when journeys require driver rest

Pricing in Denmark

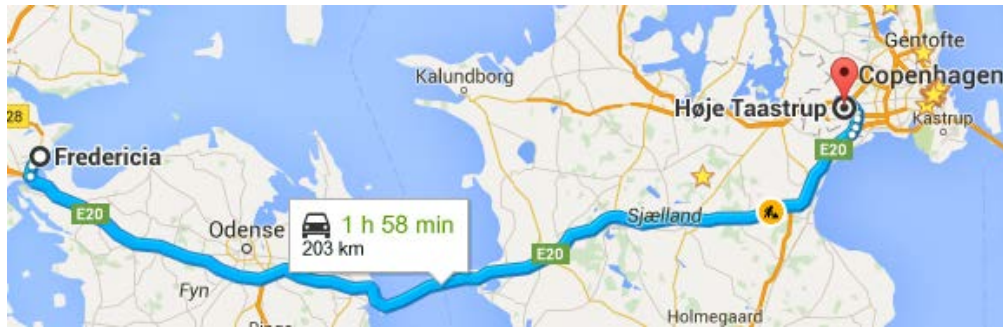
- Road haul, 7 DKK/km (foreign driver)
- Rail haul, 3,5-4,5 DKK/km
- "Lift" trailer, 300 DKK
- Local trailer haul, approx. 800 DKK
 - 25 km (Høje Taastrup to Amager, Lyngby)
 - 35 km, Høje Taastrup to Nordhavn
 - 48 km, Høje Taastrup to Hillerød
 - 32 DKK/km (Danish driver)
 - Includes significant idle time
- Total terminal costs, 2200 DKK
 - About 700 km break even
 - Often more than the rail haul cost

Some Short Haul Rail Systems

- Port of Gothenburg
 - On dock rail loading
 - Traffic less than 500 km
 - 121 trains per week (daily service)
- Carlsberg Beer Train
 - Fredericia to Høje Taastrup
 - 203 kilometers, 10 trains per week, 300 trailers
 - Saves 800 DKK toll* each direction
 - *Carlsberg owns Fredericia "terminal"*
- Florida East Coast
 - Jacksonville to Miami, Florida
 - 556 kilometers (short by American standards)
 - Most traffic continues long distance by road

*estimated discount

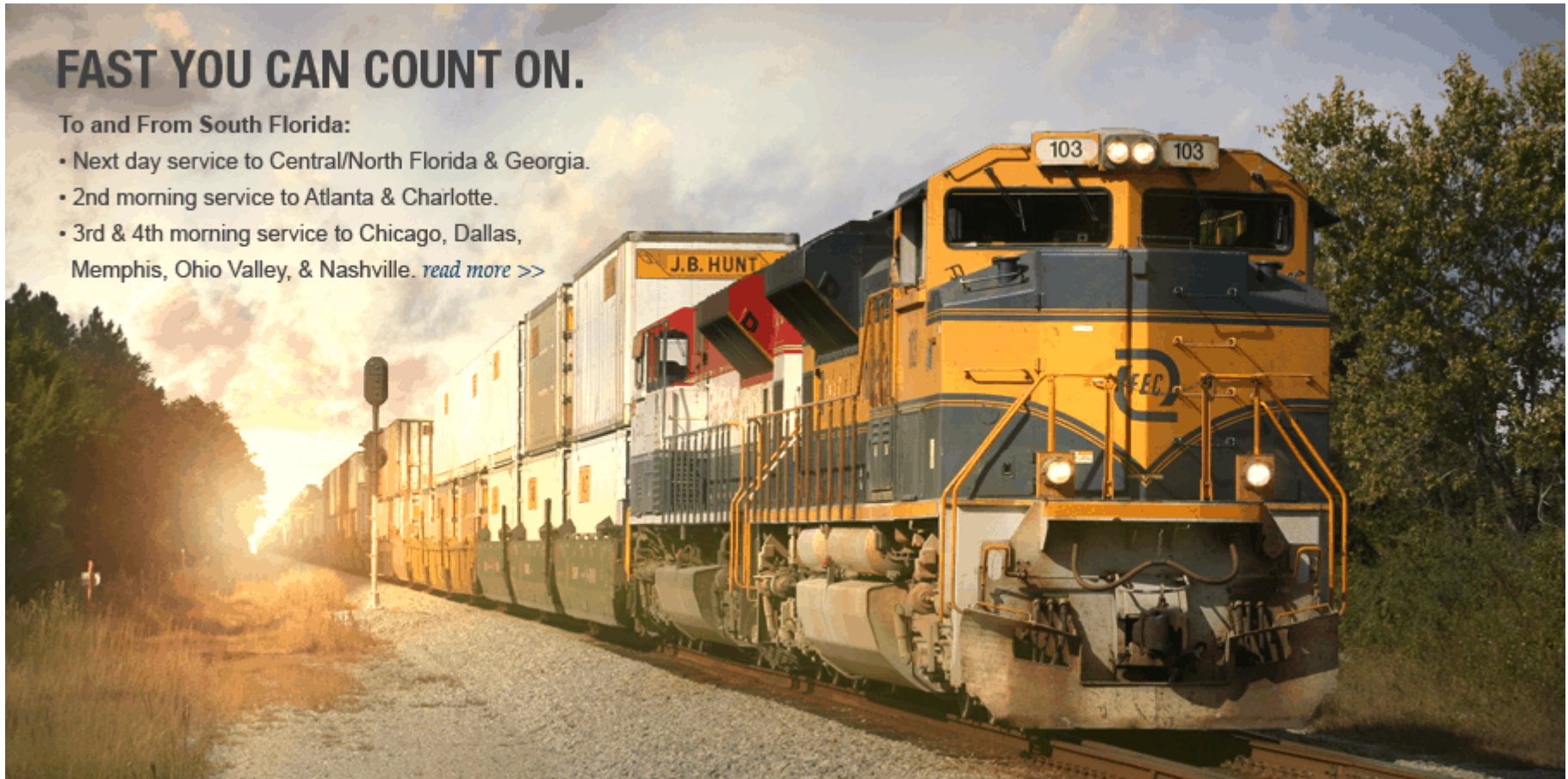
The Routes



FAST YOU CAN COUNT ON.

To and From South Florida:

- Next day service to Central/North Florida & Georgia.
- 2nd morning service to Atlanta & Charlotte.
- 3rd & 4th morning service to Chicago, Dallas, Memphis, Ohio Valley, & Nashville. [read more >>](#)



The American standard, not feasible in Europe due to electrification catenary.



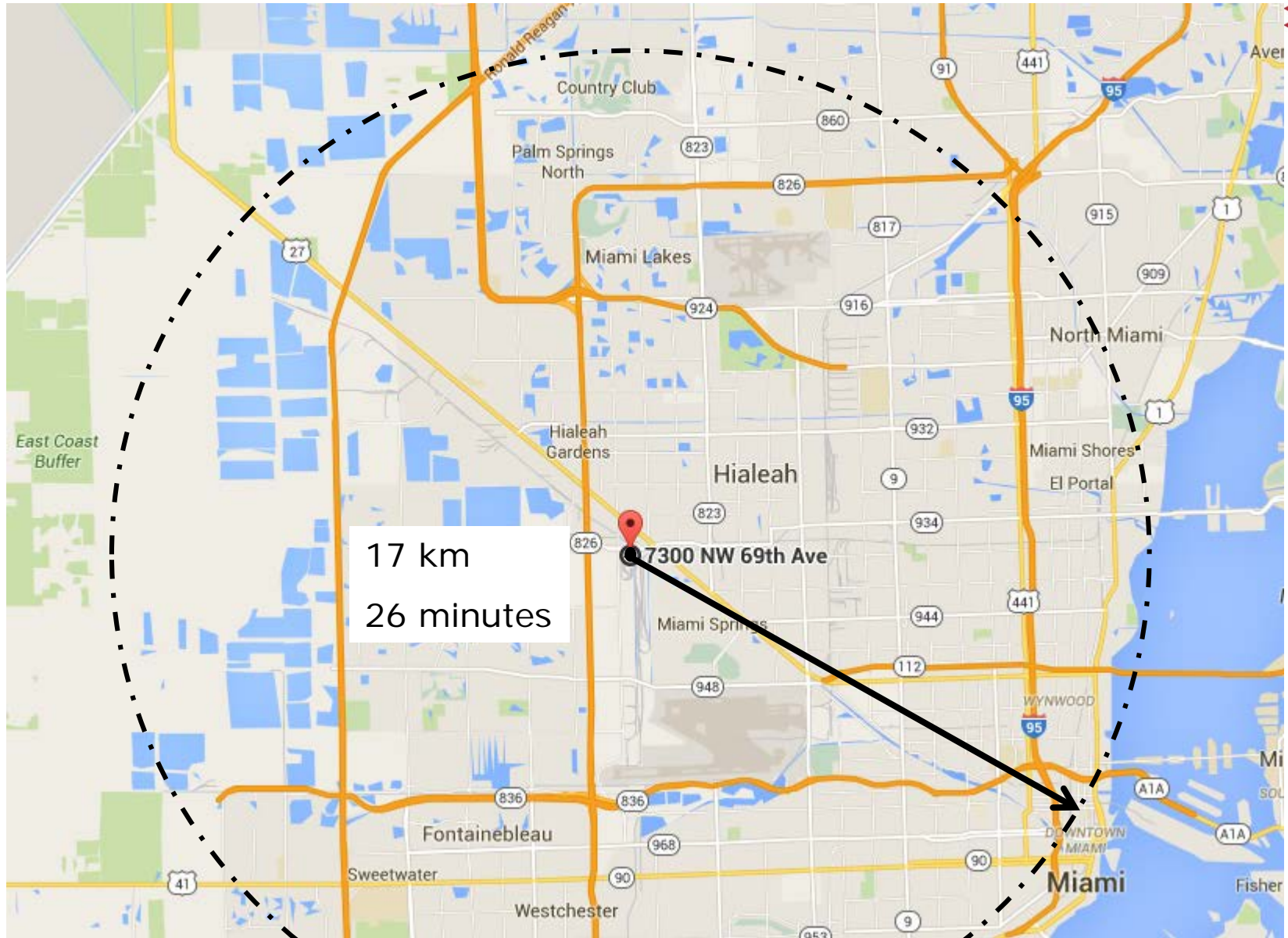
Note

- Length of tracks
- Active loading as well as storage
- Proximity to city



Terminals Drive Success

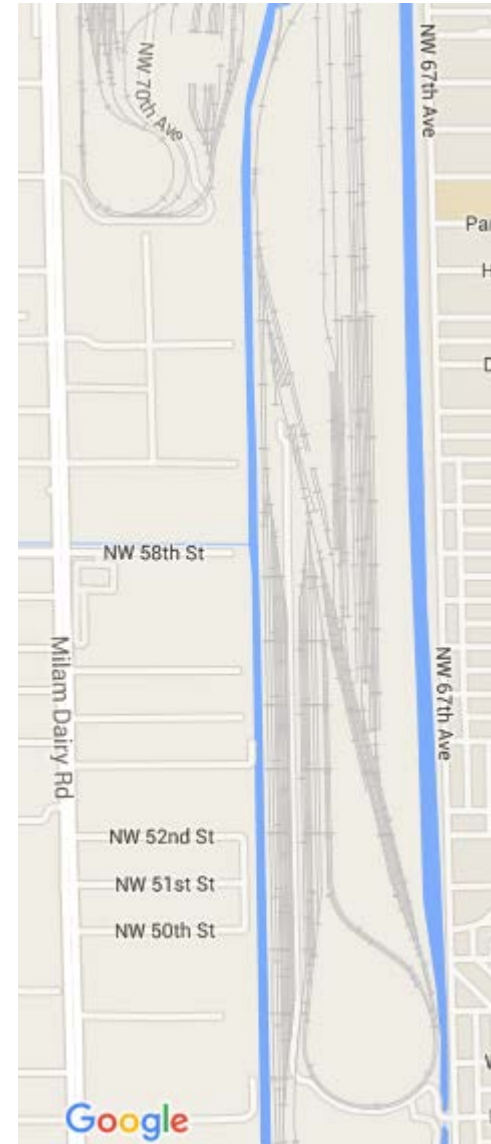
- More than half of the cost
- Placement in network flow critical
 - Close to origin/destination – or –
 - As part of optimal road haul route plan
- Efficient “lift” necessary
 - Fully utilized facility, lower unit cost
 - Regular, evenly distributed traffic
- Low cost local road haulage
 - Minimize haulage distance
 - Plan trips to minimize non-revenue distance
 - Fully utilize vehicle fleet



Terminal Design for Low Cost



DB Schenker
 Høje Taastrup
 (København)
 BAD



Florida
 East
 Coast
 GOOD

Terminal Efficiencies

- Better utilization of terminal
 - Higher volume, higher utilization
 - Lower unit cost
- More efficient local haul
 - Scheduling of routes
 - No waiting delivery
 - Coordinate separate delivery and pickup trips
- Significant economies of scale
- Eliminate the terminal
 - Carload freight
 - Direct shunting of container to customer

Gothenburg



Sådan!

- This is not intermodal
- At Frederica, this is carload freight
- If this is the success story...
 - More private sidings should be encouraged
 - Intermodal should be re-defined



Lessons

- Success in short distance rail freight frequently means some components of carload freight
- Origin or destination is a private siding
 - No road haulage
 - No terminal transaction or agent fees
 - Port of Gothenburg, on dock rail
 - Carlsberg, origin is customer siding
- Specifics of intermodal advocacy should be adjusted

Research Ideas

- Optimal Location of Terminals
 - Minimize local haul
 - Optimal transport network
- Optimal Intermodal Service Design
 - Consider freight flows
 - Consider driving hours regulations
- Terminal Management
 - Optimal local haul planning
 - Optimal flow and process time
- Economies of Scale
 - Estimate and forecast cost reductions from volume increases, new business

Unknowns, Research Ideas?

- What is the distance distribution of the national traffic?
 - How much is viable for short distance rail?
- Can we forecast viable rail services from economic and freight flow data?
 - Can we identify opportunities?
 - Can we influence policy?

Summary

- Short haul rail freight succeeds with elements of traditional service
- Too much policy is based on
 - Subjective opinion
 - Inaccurate perception of service structure
- Opportunities for
 - Applied research
 - Consulting
 - Education programs in supply chain
- Active topics of interest at DTU Transport

Thank You

