



**Project Number**

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# Florida Department of Transportation Research

## Evaluation of Logistics Led Economic Development

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### Current Situation

Florida is full of freight – estimated at over 100 million tons a year – carried by ship, plane, train, and truck throughout the state and beyond. The infrastructure and jobs that freight requires, as well as the goods themselves, have a significant impact on the state's economy. The highly intermodal nature of Florida freight creates challenges as freight must be moved from one mode to another, with many empty vehicles moving through the system, returning to a loading point, creating inefficiencies. The challenges of complex freight systems can be met by logistics activity centers (LACs), facilities that create focal points for delivery and transfer activities and support services. LACs may become self-supporting, but they are often established by public-private partnerships. Government must consider many issues, such as siting and transportation planning, cost-benefit analysis, and planning for success.

### Research Objectives

In this project, University of South Florida researchers examined factors that affected the success of logistic activity centers.

### Project Activities

In an extensive literature review, the researchers studied the work that has been done on Florida's freight industries, logistics, and trade plans. They extended these studies to cover several other states, including Georgia, New Jersey, Texas, and Washington. They examined the literature for logistics performance measures and factors that influence the success of logistics investments. They also conducted a survey of state departments of transportation concerning their logistics investments. Based on a thorough study of the literature, the researchers derived a list of factors that promoted the success of LACs.

Case studies were then conducted to validate and further examine the list of success factors that had been derived from the literature. Researchers visited selected logistic activity centers at Fort Worth, TX, Joliet/Elwood, IL, Kansas City, MO, New York, NY, Rochelle, IL, and Savannah, GA. Interviews were conducted by the research team with staff at all sites. Discussions were recorded and later transcribed and analyzed. Success factors found in the case studies closely matched those found in the literature review; however, some additional factors were identified by interviewees.

### Project Benefits

With careful planning that incorporates the success factors found in this project, LACs can be self-supporting facilities that provide increased efficiencies and economies to the freight industry as well as economic benefits to areas that host LACs.

*For more information, please see [dot.state.fl.us/research-center](http://dot.state.fl.us/research-center)*



*Trucks on Florida highways are a visual reminder of the amount of freight being moved in the state.*