

Planning for efficient and sustainable urban freight

Breakout session at the VREF conference 19 October 2016

Summary

The session was initiated by the NORSULP project, which is a research project developing guidelines for sustainable urban logistics plans in Norwegian cities. Through prepared presentations, the City of Stockholm, the City of Copenhagen and the Norwegian Public Road Administration provided insight to current urban freight planning practices with linkages to mobility- and national transport planning in the Scandinavian countries. Some of the challenges that have been experienced were also highlighted, these relate to terminals and land use, involvement, interaction between planning levels, and regulations and technology. In the discussion that followed, it was stated that in many countries, urban freight has gradually obtained increased interest and is now to some degree on the political agenda. There is thus an interest for freight-related issues and a need to account for such in governmental planning.

One conclusion from the session was that an increased dialogue between local, regional and national authorities, between city planners in different countries and among supply chain stakeholders is needed. Hence, involving stakeholder views in freight planning can reduce potential hindrance for urban freight deliveries and increase the support for measures. Early involvement of stakeholders like logistics service providers may also contribute to ensuring consistent practices and regulations between cities, which is of value to companies operating in multiple cities. It has been observed that in some cases, also the industry sees a need for regulations. Furthermore, awareness among politicians might be a prerequisite for implementing such collaboration and integrating logistics in mobility plans.

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