



16th International NECTAR Conference
Toronto, Canada, 20 - 22 July 2022

Call for papers for the thematic session of *Urban Freight and Logistics*:

Delivering Equity: Intersections between Urban Delivery, Transportation and Environmental Justice

Following growing cries for racial and environmental justice around the world, research is required to examine potential inequities within our urban delivery systems. While home deliveries of food and needed goods were a critical lifeline for many under COVID-19 shutdowns, the benefits appear to fall disproportionately on certain communities. Researchers in cities from Gothenburg (Sweden) to Portland (U.S.A) note how COVID-19 exacerbated exclusion from home-based access to goods for some marginalized groups, such as low-income, racial minority, elderly, or disabled populations. These groups also disproportionately bear the weight of COVID-19 related health risks and economic impacts. Meanwhile, online shopping among wealthier consumers continues to accelerate unabated. Online retailers, carriers, and on-demand delivery providers are expanding urban distribution infrastructure and delivery fleets to sate this appetite for quick and convenient home deliveries. These trends point to an increase in urban freight traffic as well as the number of warehouses, which are disproportionately located in the backyards of low-income communities of color. As urban freight traffic grows, research must give further attention to the impacts on marginalized populations, who are disproportionately exposed to transport-related, life-threatening air pollutants and experience increasingly fatal traffic collisions.

Experts have introduced and tested many innovative urban freight solutions that promise to decarbonize last-mile emissions, improve road safety, and reduce congestion. However, research connecting these outcomes to transportation and environmental justice appears under-researched. Therefore, we invite papers that bridge this knowledge gap and explores the following topics of interest:

- Measuring urban freight traffic and warehousing location impact on road safety, air quality, and racial/class justice
- Equity analyses of emerging last-mile logistics and policy solutions. For example:
 - Parcel lockers
 - Micro-hubs and electric cargo bicycle delivery
 - Dynamic curbside and loading zone management
 - Low/Zero Emission Delivery Zones
 - Off-hour deliveries

- o Advanced urban delivery vehicle and digital technology (e.g., connected and automated vehicles and drones)
- Exploring barriers, solutions, and metrics to measure and improve home-based accessibility (HBA) for vulnerable populations, e.g., low-income populations, seniors, women, and people with disabilities and illnesses.
- Integrated planning between sustainable passenger and urban freight systems.
- The political-economy of online retail and last-mile delivery sector, including gig-based delivery models, analyzing implications for economic development and labor.

Deadline for abstract submission: February 28, 2022. Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the form available on the conference website and following the instructions found there:

<https://nectar2022.artsci.utoronto.ca>

A copy of the abstract should also be sent to **Cathy Macharis** (Cathy.Macharis@vub.be) and **Travis Fried** (tfried3@uw.edu)

Criteria for acceptance

Criteria for acceptance are scope, scientific quality, NECTAR membership and the possibility to fit the presentation in a coherent conference session. We allow one paper presentation per participant. The number of participants of this thematic cluster session will be limited to 8. Abstracts out of scope for the thematic session can be transferred to a general sessions of the conference.

Venue

The NECTAR conference will be organized by the University of Toronto and hosted on its downtown St. George campus. Founded by royal charter in 1827, the University of Toronto is Canada's largest and top-ranked university, located in a growing global city with direct air connections to over 60 countries.

Participation and NECTAR membership

Registration, meals, and accommodation for one night will be offered to NECTAR members, for only one author per paper. One night of hotel accommodation will be offered to participants who have confirmed their participation before May 31, 2022. One night of hotel accommodation might be charged in case of late cancellations. All practical details will be communicated through the conference website. In order to participate in the conference, a consecutive and current two-year NECTAR membership is necessary (2021-2022). Non-members can find details of how to join the association on the "Membership" page of NECTAR's website: www.nectar-eu.eu/membership

COVID-19 considerations

For most travelers, entry into Canada requires proof of full vaccination. In addition, the University of Toronto requires proof of full vaccination for many activities that occur on campus. Please refer to the NECTAR 2022 conference website for up-to-date COVID-19 related requirements.

Important dates:

Abstract submission: February 28, 2022.

Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2022

Confirmation of attendance: May 31, 2022

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

Cluster 3 organizers:

**Cathy Macharis, Travis Fried, Anne
Goodschild, Sandra Melo**

NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society from an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>.