



Delivering Just Sustainabilities: Green and Equitable Transitions in Last-Mile Logistics

**Call for abstracts for a NECTAR Cluster 3 (Logistics and Freight) workshop
Madrid, Spain, 20-22 September 2023**

The planet faces twin crises in ecological and climatic deterioration as well as a widening gulf of global, socio-economic inequality. Urban freight systems must, therefore, contend not only with low- and zero-carbon transitions, but ensure transitions do not perpetuate entrenched social and environmental inequities. More broadly, “just sustainability” has seen considerable political attention, from the European Union’s \$19.5 billion Just Transition Fund that seeks to mitigate the “socio-economic impact” of a low- and zero-carbon energy transition to the U.S. Justice40 initiative that sets “40% of the benefits from federal investments to disadvantaged communities.”

Last-mile logistics plays a unique role in delivering just sustainability. On one hand, the efficient movement of goods, construction materials, and waste is an essential ingredient to the liveability of our cities. City logistics critically facilitates the stocking of food shelves and medical supplies, keeps restaurants and cafes running, equips building and public works sites, and generates indispensable economic livelihoods. On the other hand, scholars have long measured unequal exposure to freight’s environmental burdens among low-income and/or ethnically marginalized populations, such as truck-based diesel exhaust, hazardous material spills, noise pollution, and traffic collisions. Moreover, there is greater need for the recognition of oft overlooked human actors in the logistics space who are subject to increasingly deregulated labor conditions: truck, van and gig drivers, warehouse and dock workers.

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

- Urban freight transportation social and environmental equity and justice
- Zero emission fleets, including downstream and life-cycle environmental analyses

- Network and operations dynamics with changing urban freight fleet
- Non-motorized and micro deliveries: walking and cyclelogistics
- Community driven and participatory urban freight planning and elicitation
- Integrated planning for people and goods, including:
 - “Complete Streets” and “15-minute city” implications for urban freight
 - Urban freight and Vision Zero road safety goals
 - Digital innovation, data governance, open data and data sharing
 - Curb operations and allocation between modes
 - Low/zero emission zones
 - Home-based accessibility and access to goods
- Political-economy of emerging urban freight trends (e.g., warehouse and port automation and digitization, gig economy) and workforce implications
- Green tech innovations and applications
- Crowd logistics, competition and liability

We seek an open discussion about each presentation. Young researchers and students are encouraged to submit.

Submitting an Abstract

Researchers interested in presenting a paper are kindly invited to send a long abstract of maximum 700 words by email to: **Andres Monzon** (andres.monzon@upm.es), **Emma Olmedo** (emma.olmedo@upm.es), **Nicolas Brusselaers** (Nicolas.Brusselaers@vub.be) **Travis Fried** (tfried3@uw.edu), and **Marcia Mkansi** (mkansm@unisa.ac.za) by **31 May 2023**. Please, also indicate, title, author(s), affiliations, corresponding contact, and three keywords. A maximum of three bibliographic references is allowed.

Venue

The workshop is hosted by **Polytechnic University of Madrid** and will be held at La Residencia Lucas Olazábal, located near Guadarrama National Park an hour outside of Madrid, Spain: <https://goo.gl/maps/T8CpWuXPx8quan5k8>

The venue includes lodging and the organizers will send details regarding transport. For more information on the venue, visit the website: <https://residencialucasolazabal.es/>

Participation and NECTAR membership

Up to 30 NECTAR Members are invited to present a paper. The participation of one author per paper is free and includes two night’s accommodation, lunch and coffee breaks. NECTAR membership for the year 2023 (€70 or, for those under the age of 30, €40) is required in order to attend the meeting. Non-members can find details on how to join the association on the ‘Membership’ page of NECTAR’s website: <https://www.nectar-eu.eu/membership/>

Important dates:

Call for abstracts: March 1, 2023

Abstract submission: 31 May 2023.

Notification of acceptance: June 19, 2023

Confirmation of attendance: July 15th, 2023

We look forward to seeing you in Madrid!

Organising Committee

Andres Monzon, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain
Emma Olmedo, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain
Travis Fried, University of Washington, Seattle, United States,
Nicolas Brusselaers, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
Marcia Mkansi, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
Aaron Nsakanda, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

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>.