

## Session: How to plan for sustainable and efficient urban logistics systems?

26 May 2023, 09:00-10:30 | [Session outline](#)

This session, which complemented the core Summit session "[Transport enhancing economic growth: Local and regional perspectives](#)", highlighted the main challenges for authorities seeking to promote more sustainable urban freight transport and logistic systems.

Policy governance and building trust are the first main challenges, as Karolina Isaksson (VTI) highlighted. More sustainable transport logistics policies depend on governments to lead strategic long-term planning. Dr. Isaksson presented work on the governance process that led six public Swedish agencies to build a joint transport policy roadmap. This was a clear example of authorities building processes and institutions to drive radical change towards more sustainable transport futures. It was built on trust, the capacity to exchange expertise across various sectors, and to reach agreements on elements in transport systems that need changing.

Andres Alcala and Ignasi Ragas sought to address the policy implementation and capacity-building challenge. They presented work by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) on supporting authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean region to a) raise awareness of the relevance of urban freight transport; b) provide a conceptual framework for policy formulation; c) provide knowledge and technical skills for authorities to implement and monitor policies; and d) develop roadmaps to identify and prioritise actions. CAF's LOGUS programme has allowed authorities to set up urban logistics pilots across the region.

César Becerra and Daniel Prato (LOGYCA-LIC) highlighted the potential of freight vehicle and operation innovations to increase the sustainability of last-mile logistics. They shared results from three projects implemented in Bogotá, Colombia, with various companies to electrify part of their fleet and replace trucks with cargo bikes. Such actions, and the operational changes that they entail, proved to avoid more than five tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while increasing deliveries and reducing operational costs. The highest cost reductions were achieved by sharing assets among logistics operators, showcasing the importance of collaboration to achieve sustainability goals.

Finally, Jun Kitada presented, on behalf of colleagues from Japan's Tourism and Transport Research Institute (JTTRI), their experiences in assessing the main challenges for the logistics sector in Japan. Low productivity is the most important issue in Japanese logistics. To increase productivity, the research explored and proposed alternatives such as furthering the use of digital technologies for efficiencies' improvements and asset sharing. In both cases, collaboration across sectors was seen as the way forward.

Towards the end of the session, experts and researchers exchanged with the audience on the challenges of escalating pilots for urban-wide logistics impact. Experts from LOGYCA-ILC emphasised the importance of using pilots to find corporate leaders to serve as examples for others. CAF colleagues highlighted the importance of building a common language across stakeholders. Dr. Isaksson emphasised building trust among stakeholders as the basis of decision-making processes that increase sustainability in logistics. Finally, experiences from JTTRI showed the importance of building on trust by using both hard and soft measures, such as regulations and economic incentives, to upscale relevant logistics initiatives.