

Supply Chain INFORMATION HIGHWAY



Overview

The Port of Long Beach is creating the Supply Chain Information Highway, a digital solution designed to maximize visibility and efficiency in cargo movement by enabling shippers to track their cargo through the supply chain. This digital infrastructure will share data across supply chain nodes and organizations responsible for the movement of containers by ship, rail and truck. The goal is to offer access to data that will result in increased cargo delivery visibility for authorized supply chain partners nationwide.

Purpose

The Supply Chain Information Highway supports our goods movement partners by providing access to data aimed at helping them to better plan, schedule and track cargo movement.

- Authorized users can customize data to their own needs, offering optimal flexibility.

- Transportation providers could improve operations with access to an aggregated data pool designed to meet the complex nuances of container movement and flow.
- The data infrastructure can be used by participants throughout the national supply chain.
- Reduced costs could be realized through the consolidation and simplification of data endpoints.

Background

Despite recent software advancements, supply chain participants continue to face hurdles with sharing data across nodes to optimize delivery.

- The Supply Chain Information Highway provides a digital community resource to retrieve information that has been translated into a normalized format that is easily consumable.
- Users will be vetted and provided with the authority to access data that is appropriate to their level of involvement in the supply chain.

- The system is free and open only to authorized users.
- Proprietary and sensitive data are stripped from transactions that are focused on container movement.

Data Profile

The Port is working with beneficial cargo owners, ocean carriers, marine terminal operators, railroads, trucking companies, labor and other key stakeholders to gather event data to aggregate. The Port is focused on aggregating container movement data to include data that is not generally communicated as an event (schedules, appointments, etc.) to enhance transportation partners' ability to predict and prepare for container movements.

Next Steps

With the project now in Phase 2, developers are focusing on enhancing the system's interoperability, especially among other seaports, including fellow California seaports.

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In this phase, the system will add more participants and stakeholders as developers work to fine-tune data security and test the system's scalability, for example, the capacity of the system to expand. Core to this concept is building "fit-for-purposes" environments for each port that do not commingle data from other ports. A common Application Programming Interface, or API, connecting the ports will provide a one-stop shop for beneficial cargo owners to access data on all container movements across the participating ports.

Partners

The Port of Long Beach in 2021 partnered with a leading tech firm, St. Louis-based UNCOMM, to create the Supply Chain Information Highway. UNCOMM is collaborating with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to provide cloud services and cloud-hosting for the data.

Meanwhile the Port of Oakland, the Northwest Seaport Alliance, the Utah Inland Port Authority, PortMiami, the South Carolina Ports Authority, the Port of New York and New Jersey, and the Port of Hueneme have agreed to collaborate with the Port of Long Beach and participate in the project. Additional seaports are expected to join the Supply Chain Information Highway.

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