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## Freight demands weigh heavy on PA infrastructure

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More goods—and more expensive goods—are shipped through Pennsylvania than almost anywhere else in the U.S., and [a new report](#) by the transportation research nonprofit [TRIP](#) shows its taking a toll on local infrastructure.

According to the report, Pennsylvania ranked fifth in the nation in both the value of freight delivered by trucks and the number of fatalities related to freight delivery.

TRIP research and policy director Rocky Moretti tells *The Confluence's* [Megan Harris](#) that online retail is driving a lot the demand, but existing systems are overtaxed by a lack of capacity, inadequate funding and a shortage of drivers.

"Reliance is increasing," he says. "It's partly due to consumers. We want things faster. We want them quicker. ... You look at Amazon or large grocers. They're all very reliant on fast and efficient movement of goods, but we're also starting to recognize that our infrastructure isn't really adequate to support it."

Moretti says automation and vehicle platooning between urban centers could one day improve efficiency, but for now, he says it's up to Congress to provide funding to help states like Pennsylvania address its bottlenecks, deteriorating bridges and roads.

