

Freight snapshot in Minneapolis

FREIGHT: A LONG JOURNEY

Have you ever wondered how coffee makes its way to your mug? Coffee, and most other goods in your home and office, were transported via freight. Figure 17 shows a supply chain of how coffee moves through the international freight system before it gets to you.

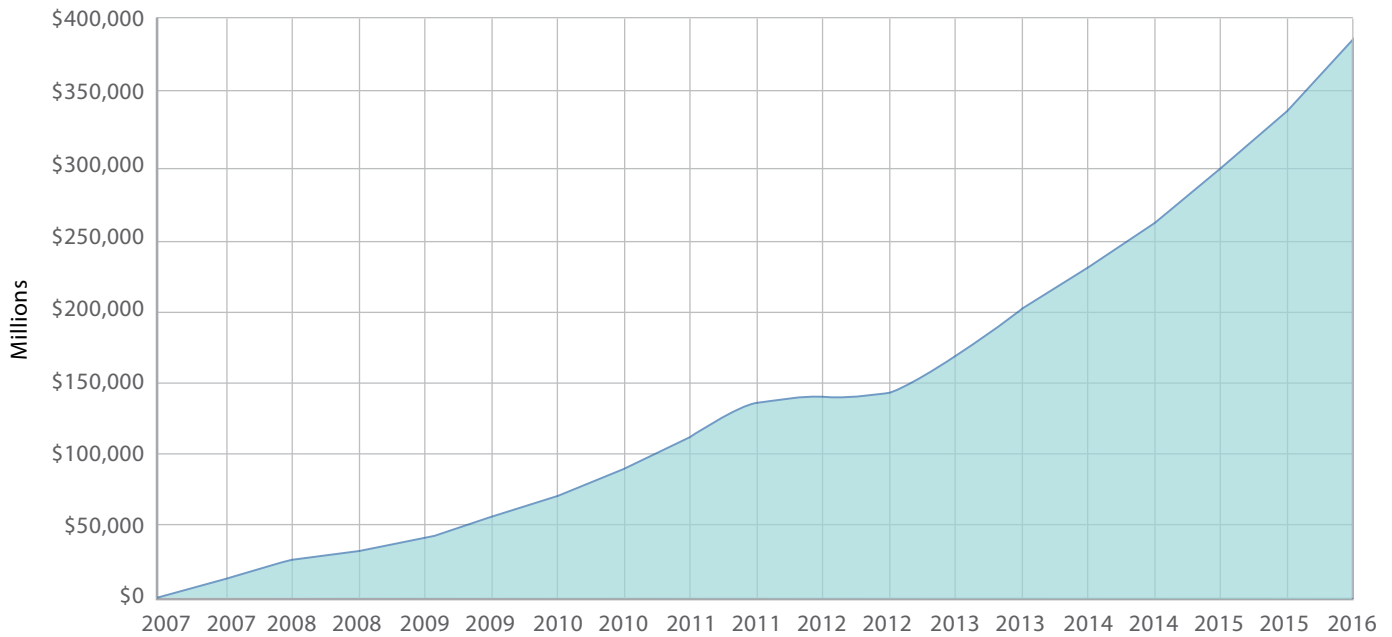
Figure 17: From bean to cup



E-COMMERCE IS ON THE RISE

People are doing an increasing proportion of their shopping online. E-commerce, defined as the sale or purchase of goods or services through the internet, has grown rapidly throughout the United States in recent years. In 2016, e-commerce accounted for 8% of national retail sales, a percentage which has been growing steadily since 2010.¹⁵ With this growing use of online shopping and growing customer demand for fast deliveries, delivery vehicles are using residential streets more often. We need to plan for this consumer demand for convenience delivery and understand its impact on our streets and the ability to incentivize smaller scale delivery vehicles like electric cargo bikes.

Figure 18: Growth of e-commerce in the U.S.



Estimated Annual U.S. Trade Retail Sales - Total and E-Commerce: 1998-2016. U.S. Census Bureau

EXISTING FREIGHT NETWORK IN MINNEAPOLIS

The safe, efficient and reliable movement of freight is vital to a healthy local and regional economy. All industries, especially manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, rely on a multimodal freight system to transport goods. The existing truck route network and long-established freight railway network are closely tied to these types of land uses. As land uses and freight needs change, we need to ensure our truck routes are in the right place and that locations where our streets intersect with the freight railway are redesigned and mitigated for a people first approach in accordance with our Complete Streets Policy.

¹⁵ [Estimated Annual U.S. Trade Retail Sales - Total and E-Commerce: 1998-2016. U.S. Census Bureau](#)

Figure 19: Freight and land use map

