



MIT Center for
Transportation & Logistics

MIT FreightLab Summit 2020: Freight Debate

MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics, 1 Amherst Street,
Building E40 - 3rd Floor, Cambridge, MA
March 17-18, 2020

Tuesday, March 17

12:00 *Registration and lunch*

1:00 *Welcome and Introductions* – Dr. Chris Caplice & Dr. David Correll

We will lay out the format of the four main sessions where panelists of opposing views will debate the issue at hand and all participants will weigh in using both anonymous polling and open discussion.

1:45 ***Debate I: Electronic Logging Device (ELD) Mandate was a Bureaucratic Overreach***

Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) are now required in essentially all trucks. In this session we will debate the effectiveness of the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate in terms of increased safety, reduction of accidents, improved operations, etc. Was the effort worth the cost and time required? Are there hidden or long-range benefits in digital collection of these data?

3:15 *Break*

3:45 ***Debate II: The Driver Shortage is a Myth***

The driver shortage has been a hot-button issue ever since trucks first appeared in the early 20th century. In this session we will debate the existence and magnitude of the driver shortage. Is it real or a misleading myth? How does poor driver utilization, hours of service rules, and other factors impact the driver shortage?

5:15 *Wrap-up Day 1*

5:30 *Adjournment followed immediately by an informal reception at Champions Restaurant*

Wednesday, March 18

8:00 *Continental breakfast*

8:30 *Recap of Day 1 and Intro to Day 2*

8:45 ***Debate III: Annual Procurement Events are neither Efficient nor Effective***

Shippers have been running annual bids or procurement events since deregulation in the 1980s. Recent research has shown that, in fact, over half of contract rates secured within an annual bid do not last more than 6 months. Are there better ways for shippers to secure capacity? Should annual contracts be replaced by on-demand guarantees or is it the best option in an imperfect world?

10:00 *Break*

10:30 ***Debate IV: The Freight Brokerage Industry is Shrinking***

While technology has enabled shippers and carriers to communicate with each other easier than ever before, there is still a lot of reliance on third parties. Will the number of freight brokers (whether they are digital or analog) continue to fall and end with just a few mega-brokers? Will platforms replace brokers?

11:30 *Wrap-up and Next Steps*

12:00 *Adjournment immediately followed by lunch*
