

# Navigating the Road to Trucking Decarbonization

Micah Borrero and Danika MacDonell

MIT Climate and Sustainability Consortium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA



# Introduction

### **Driving Factors**

- Road freight transportation accounts for over 7% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Transitioning the industry to alternative carriers will require significant investment and infrastructure build-out.

## Our Proposal

- Develop a geospatial mapping tool that enables the regional identification and assessment of fleet decarbonization opportunities.
- Leveraging this mapping tool, implement a methodology to rigorously compare a range of factors that can impact fleet decarbonization decisions at the corridor level.

# **Methods**

- Literature Review: Understand existing methods that 1. identify and quantify fleet transition assessment factors.
- Data Gathering: Collect relevant publicly available data. 2.
- **Model Development:** Synthesize data and leverage path 3. planning algorithms to identify corridors of interest.
- Visualization: Represent the resulting corridors geospatially. 4.



Fig 1, U.S. Road Network from FAF5

Fig 2. Corridor Identification Proof of Concept



There are many ways to decarbonize trucking, how do we choose the 'best' one?

# Impact

- Developed a methodology to systematically identify corridors of interest based upon freight flow and distance.
- Our methodology is applied to geospatial datasets to enable quantitative corridor comparison.





Fig 3. CO2 Emission Rates (lb/MWh)

Fig 4. U.S. BET Lifecycle Costs/Mile (\$/mi)

- We spotlight three corridors: one in the Western US, one in the Southeast US, and a Transcontinental route.
- Corridor end-points are defined according to Combined Statistical Areas.
- "Values of interest" have been averaged along corridors.

# **Findings & Future Work**

Abstract:

## Findings

- Based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, corridors in the Southeastern/ Midwestern US are ideal for fleet electrification.
- Vehicle lifecycle cost (for BETs) is higher in the Western/Southwestern US.

## **Future work**

- Continue to expand the the range of data sources that input to the model for corridor level comparisons.
- Further refine how geospatial data along identified corridors is quantified to assess fleet transition opportunities.

#### References

FAF5: Hwang, Ho-Ling, et al. "Freight Analysis Framework Version 5 (FAF5) Base Year 2017 Data Development Technical Report." 2021.

eGRID: US EPA, "Emissions & generation resource integrated database (eGRID)." Green Trucking Analysis: Sader, K. M. "Battery Electric Long-Haul Trucking in the United States: A Comprehensive Costing and Emissions Analysis." ChemRxiv. 2023.

