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Monthly Review on All Things Market, Economy and Transportation





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- FLORIDA DRIVER BOYCOTT
- NATURAL GAS DRILLING DECLINE
- PENNSYLVANIA PARKING
- **OUTDATED FREIGHT HANDBOOK RECCOMENDATIONS**
- ALLIGATOR BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION SET FOR 2025
- EV BATTERY-SWAPPING COMEBACK





Warm weather and summer are finally here, as we look back at the month of May. The US natural gas sector is removing rigs due to oversupply and falling prices, leading to reduced production, and drilling, while the Alligator River Bridge in North Carolina is being converted to a fixed span saving truckers costs and eliminating long detour. Truckers also plan to boycott freight transportation to Florida, opposing the state's law on migrants that invalidates out-of-state driver's licenses and mandates work authorization verification.

Additionally, truck drivers in PA face a severe shortage of safe parking spaces, making it one of the most challenging states for finding reliable parking. A new battery swapping company has quietly deployed quick-charging swap stations in the Bay Area, offering a cost-effective alternative for ride sharing and delivery fleets without home charging capabilities. As May comes to a close, this dynamic industry continues to experience daily progress and ongoing advancements.

TRUCKERS THREATEN TO BOYCOTT FLORIDA OVER MIGRANT CRACKDOWN

Truck drivers plan to boycott transporting freight to Florida to oppose the state's new law which requires employers to verify US work authorization and invalidates out-of-state driver's licenses held by undocumented individuals. The drivers expressed their solidarity, emphasizing the need to stand united as a community in defense against discrimination, supporting fellow Latin American individuals.

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LACK OF TRUCK PARKING ALARMS PENNSYLVANIA DRIVERS

The shortage of safe parking spaces for truck drivers to rest has been an ongoing issue, and recently has become particularly pronounced in Pennsylvania. PA was one of the five states truckers voted the most difficult to find safe, reliable parking. Drivers resort to parking their trucks on turnpike shoulders or exit ramps.

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NORTH CAROLINA TO REPLACE KEY ALLIGATOR RIVER BRIDGE

Progress is being made on the design work for the conversion of the aging Alligator River Bridge in North Carolina, transforming it from a two-lane swing bridge to a fixed span bridge. The elimination of the swing span would save truck drivers nearly \$32 per hour, considering diesel costs and avoiding a nearly 100-mile detour vehicles take when bridge is unavailable.

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U.S. NATURAL GAS DRILLING COLLAPSES AT FASTEST PACE SINCE 2016

Due to oversupply conditions and collapsing prices, the US natural gas sector is rapidly pulling drilling rigs according to a report from Baker Hughes Co. Dropping at the fastest pace since 2016, companies are limiting production growth, reducing drilling activities, and shutting down wells as a result. Tighter credit conditions make it challenging for drillers to access credit lines, exacerbating the situation.

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GAO TELLS DOT TO UPDATE FREIGHT HANDBOOK

The US Government Accountability Office recommends that DOT updates its Freight and Land Use Handbook, developing timelines to improve real-time decisions. The GAO suggested communicating handbook updates to stakeholders who use inland intermodal freight facilities to improve supply chain mobility.

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EV BATTERY-SWAPPING COULD HELP SOLVE CHARGING PROBLEMS

Battery swapping company, Ample Inc., has quietly deployed more than a dozen swap stations in the Bay Area. These stations are said to switch drained batteries to full charges in 5 minutes, half the time of current stations. The company targets ride-sharing and delivery fleets that need quick EV charging to minimize downtime.

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