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Monthly Review on All Things Market,  
Economy and Transportation.





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## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- PARKING CRISIS, INDIANA
- TRACK CARGO AT THE PORT
- RIVIAN FACTORY OPPORTUNITIES
- TRUCK EMISSIONS REGULATIONS
- WOMEN IN MOTION: TRUCKING





## OCTOBER 2023

October saw many events take place to prepare the industry for long-term success as colder weather and winter approaches. Indiana adds 200 truck parking spaces at Kankakee Welcome Center to address shortages and create a safer environment. At the ports, port authorities are exploring real-time cargo tracking, with privacy concerns raised. American electric vehicle manufacturer, Rivian, plans to open Atlanta space to showcase its brand and confirms a \$5 billion Georgia factory for R2 crossover production. These many advancements are encouraging for the transportation industry!

Additionally, Trucking fleets face complexities due to evolving emissions regulations in California and the need for zero-emission technology. UPS highlights renewable natural gas as a solution. CARB's ACT rule may limit diesel truck availability, and congestion added significant costs in 2021. This congestion problem, cost the industry an enormous \$94.6 billion. On a much more positive note, The Women in Motion group is expanding its memberships and resources to support female independent contractors. As the darkness roles in earlier, and we reflect on October, we are excited for what's to come in the industry.



## **INDIANA ADDS 225 TRUCK PARKING SPOTS AT I-65 REST AREAS**

Truckers in Indiana gained over 200 new parking spaces at the revamped Kankakee Welcome Center, located 50 miles south of Gary. Indiana's Governor Eric Holcomb emphasized their commitment to top-rated infrastructure and a safe, interactive experience for travelers on I-65. The project aims to address the critical truck parking shortage and is part of a statewide plan to increase the state's truck parking spaces by 80%.

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## **RIVIAN OPENS SHOWROOM IN GEORGIA, PLAN FACTORY**

Rivian has opened a new Atlanta space at Ponce City Market to showcase its vehicles and brand while confirming plans to build a \$5 billion factory in Georgia. The factory near Rutledge will start production of the R2 crossover in 2026 and employ 7,500 workers eventually. The Atlanta space is not for sales but aims to introduce customers to the Rivian brand, allowing test drives and showcasing outdoor accessories and merchandise.

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## **CONGESTION COST TRUCKING A RECORD \$94.6 BILLION IN 2021**

Traffic congestion cost the trucking industry \$94.6 billion in 2021, up from \$74.5 billion in 2016. The increase was attributed to a strong post-COVID economic recovery, resulting in 1.27 billion hours of lost productivity. Congestion led to the wastage of over 6.7 billion gallons of diesel fuel, causing an extra \$22.3 billion in fuel costs and emitting approximately 69 million metric tons of excess carbon dioxide. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is seen as vital for addressing these issues.

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## **PORTS CONSIDER DIGITIZATION STRATEGIES TO TRACK CARGO**

Ports and shippers are exploring real-time cargo tracking systems, but collaboration is needed among stakeholders. The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) President, Cary Davis, expressed concerns about a one-size-fits-all approach due to privacy issues. Port leaders are working on decarbonization efforts, focusing on realistic rates of change and cost considerations.

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## **'DRIVING IN A FOG': FLEETS FACE COMPLEX EQUIPMENT CHOICES**

Trucking fleets face complex decision due to evolving federal and California emissions regulations, leading to uncertainty in equipment choices. Truck manufacturers are investing in zero-emission technologies but cost and charging infrastructure remain challenges. CARB's ACT rule could limit diesel truck availability in California from 2024, adding complexity for fleets to ensure regulatory compliance. UPS highlights renewable natural gas as an effective emissions reduction solution amid changing regulations.

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## **WOMEN IN MOTION SETS PATH TO ADVOCATE FOR FEMALE TRUCKERS**

The Women in Motion advocacy group of the American Trucking Associations is expanding its membership program and creating a booklet focused on female independent contractors. The group aims to address issues women face in the workplace through a webinar series and plans to launch a Women's Call on Washington in 2024. Additionally, they will create a resource booklet and collaborate with Transport Topics for Cab Convos, featuring interviews with female CEOs in the trucking industry.

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