

# utah trucking

UTAH'S VOICE IN TRUCKING

## UPS BREAKS GROUND

ON DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
IN SALT LAKE CITY

2017 MANAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE & TRUCKING  
EXPO SCHEDULE

**SOLVE**  
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE ISSUES  
BEFORE THEY BECOME  
A PROBLEM

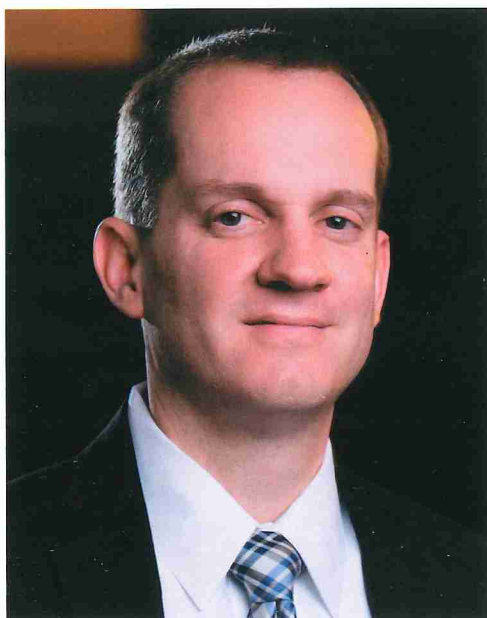
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# INNOVATION IN ROUTE PLANNING CAN REDUCE ACCIDENTS AND IMPROVE FUEL EFFICIENCY

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Many people reasonably assume that the most cost-effective method of delivering items is to take the shortest route. Surprisingly, this is not always the case. The world's largest package delivery company (UPS) has a policy of favoring right-turns unless a left-turn is unavoidable. This means that UPS trucks may follow a longer route than is necessary.

The result of UPS's routing policy is an estimated annual savings of 10 million gallons of fuel. This is because left-hand turns result



in more stopping, waiting, and idling. Not only does UPS's policy reduce its own fuel expenses, it also reduces the emission of carbon dioxide from delivery trucks. Avoiding left-turns also results in quicker route completion, which for UPS means delivering more packages (an estimated 350,000 more packages delivered per year). Another

benefit to avoiding unnecessary left-hand turns is improved safety. According to studies, the number of accidents involving left-turns vastly outnumber accidents involving right-turns.

To my surprise, UPS's policy is not new. It was introduced over 50 years ago. Mapping and routing technology has helped implement the concept in recent years. Obviously, there will be more progress in the future as people and companies continue to think about ways to be more efficient and improve safety. The key is to constantly consider potential improvements, and ask for help when it is necessary. This includes consulting with an attorney regarding the various legal issues your business faces.

For questions or comments about this article, please contact Nathan R. Skeen with the Transportation Practice Group with Snow Christensen & Martineau | Telephone: 801.322.9166 | Email: nrs@scmlaw.com | Website: www.scmlaw.com

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