

The Southern Automotive Corridor: Assessing the Contribution on Regional Economic Activities

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Over the past twenty plus years, the changing global motor vehicle industry enabled the development of a vibrant automotive industry in the U.S. Southeast.

The southern end of this corridor is differentiated from the northern part of the corridor by the prominence of foreign plants that tend to focus on cars rather than light trucks.

This evolution of the automotive industry has implications for the intermodal transportation system of the Southern states. The transportation infrastructure implication of this situation is that the region needs a highly efficient intermodal freight system to move goods quickly and cost effectively. Additionally, the southern states region needs to maintain global gateways to service the foreign-owned automotive firms that predominate in the Southern Auto Corridor. This requires the state departments of transportations and related public agencies to think regionally in order to meet the needs of the automotive industry.

The paper seeks to estimate the linkage between transportation activities in the Southern Automotive corridor to the associated transportation needs and infrastructure requirements. The study, using TREDIS, estimates the transportation needs, as well as the ongoing spatial relationship of the various plants to their domestic and global supply chains.