



## Warehouse Location Strategy

## The Impact on Overall Logistics Costs



Precision Distribution Consulting, Inc.

Presented by: Supply Chain Process Improvement, 112

### 'Hurricane' Preparedness





What must we do to prosper given our market and competition?

## Warehouse Location Strategy Defined

## Location Strategy is...

A strategic analysis that <u>defines the number</u>, <u>location</u>, <u>and function of network</u> <u>facilities (warehouses or cross docks)</u>, <u>equipment and resources</u> while maintaining delivery service levels



#### When to Use

- □ Acquisition
- □ Facility Relocation
- □ Facility Consolidation
- Territory Redesign
- □ Brand Integration



## Location, Location, Location

- □ Location drives performance
  - Driving miles; access to roads
  - Equipment utilization
  - Volume; Operational efficiency
  - Workforce
  - Other costs; taxes, utilities
- □ Advantage of fewer warehouses
  - Volume to Support Automation
  - Combined overhead
  - Less safety stock inventory
  - "Simpler" to manage





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"But what is the Best Location and what will our Route Costs be...?"

## **The Analysis Components**

- □ <u>Simultaneously decide</u>
  - Facilities; Number, Location, and Size
  - Facility Territories
  - Route Territories

- □ While Considering
  - Inbound costs
  - Facility costs
  - Outbound costs
  - Customer service requirements



Which customer to be served by which branch?

~21083

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SCDI Light Reis Process (. **Combined network optimization and routing typically by Truck Type** 

## What's So Complex About it?



# What To Look For

## Strategic Analysis v. Daily Routing

- Daily routing tools aren't built for <u>open/close analysis</u> and most strategic tools have difficulty modeling routes
- Look for transportation optimization tools that can effectively model multi-stop routes.

Cost Driver	Variables		
Miles	Per Mile Lease Costs, Fuel, Inbound Transport		
Routes	Driver, Per Unit Lease Costs, Trailer Capacity		

The ability to accurately model current operating costs and <u>constraints</u> in order to understand the impact and benefit of both demand and supply side changes



**Minimizing Routes for Available Equipment Minimizes Costs!** 

## **Typical Mistakes**

- **1.** Winging it!
- 2. Static spreadsheet models
- 3. Separate analysis for facility vs. inbound vs. routes
- 4. Using standard network optimization tools <u>built for full</u> <u>truck analysis</u> (LogicTools, etc..)
- 5. Approximate modeling of customers (grouping them before loading into modeling tool).







## **DSD Model – Route Utilization**

- Location consolidation, in particular, will add miles and challenge stem time rules of thumb
- Consolidation may provide the volume (and capital?) required to improve route efficiency at the warehouse





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## **DSD Modeling - Typical Project Sequence & Timing**



## **DSD Model - Typical Data Inputs**

- Current state data
  - Actual Delivery Costs
  - Current Route Count, Miles Driven
- Customer Data
  - Location Geo Code
  - Customer Name & Address
  - Case Demand & Frequency
  - Delivery Format, Current Warehouse

- □ Item / Facility (Whse/Cross dock)
  - Facility Location, Capacity, Fixed & Variable Costs, Real Estate Value
  - Product Suppliers, Locations, Inbound / Transfer Costs
  - Inventory Snapshots
- Delivery Data
  - Working Hours, Fixed & Variable Costs, Stop Times, Equipment Capacity



## **DSD Modeling: Fit to Capacity and Time**

- Demand volume and frequency is satisfied considering:
  - Equipment Costs & Capacity
  - Drive time
  - Stop time
  - Work time
  - Fleet capacity

Sansor# Park	Richland Hills Trinity Blvd
MV 21st St Vuccause	
183 River Oaks	
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General Options	Costs and Time Road S	ipeeds	Tolls	
	-Average Road Speeds State: FL	(MPH):-		
	Interstate Highways:	Rural 70	Urban 70	
	Divided Highways:	50	50	
	Primary Highways:	40	40	
	Secondary Roads:	45	45	
	Local Roads:	30	30	
	Ferries:	15	15	
	Update All Roa	d Speed	s	
	1	1	1	1

 Routes are not determined in advance of the modeling; tools utilize road data (e.g. PC Miler) to ensure accuracy of results

**Modeled with Operational-Like Detail** 



## **DSD Model - Typical Model Outputs**

- Multiple scenarios are run for each analysis:
  - Optimize current locations
  - Best single candidate
  - Forced candidate
  - Drop 2, add 1 from candidates



- □ Scenario outputs include:
  - Cases by location
  - Total Cost / Cost Per Case
    - -Route Costs
    - -Inbound costs
    - -Inventory carrying costs
    - -Labor Costs
    - -Warehouse Costs
  - Route Info
    - -Route count by trailer type
    - -Route Miles
    - -Average stem, travel and stop time
    - -Average MPH
    - -Territories
    - -Trailer Utilization



#### **Scenario Outputs Compared Against Baseline**

Warehouse Relocation Case Study

## **Background - Warehouse Relocation**

- Current warehouse operation was out of space and had inefficient layout for expanding brands and volume.
- Additional shared services operation couldn't fit on site and required additional leased property.
- Employee retention would be a big factor in any relocation decision.
- Questioned current use of cross docks in southern part of territory.



What are best of candidate locations for new combined warehouse & shared service yard?



## Location Strategy – Warehouse Relocation

- Analyze fifteen potential sites within 30 miles radius for delivery and shared services costs.
- Determine best site for investment based on operating cost factors along with taxes and other incentives.
- Provided initial center-of-gravity location; proved to be oversimplified by not accounting for dynamics of:
  - Frequency
  - Road speed
  - Cross docks
  - Truck capacity





**Two Locations Added After First Round; 10% More Effort to Include** 

### **Candidate Costs - Warehouse Relocation**





**Center-Of-Gravity Selection Closest to Option 7** 

### **Results – Warehouse Relocation**

**Background** Distributor volume and brand growth had exceeded the capacity of the current warehouse operation. New locations needed to be considered for a new warehouse and shared services location.

Warehouse Location Strategy

Analyze potential sites for total inbound, route and shared services costs. Determine best site for investment.

<u>Results</u>	<b>Previous</b>	Best Option
Number of Delivery Warehouses/Truck Yards	2	1
Number of Cross Docks	2	2
Annual Delivery Miles	Base	+2.7%
<b>Delivery Routes / Cross Dock Routes</b>	Base / Base	-2 / -2
Annual Logistics Costs Savings	-	2.7%

**Transportation Savings of 2¢ Per Case** 



## Integration / Consolidation Case Study

## **Background - Integration / Consolidation**

- Current west coast warehouse network included high value real estate that wasn't very efficient for current operations
- Additional brands had been acquired that included a more efficient leased warehouse and additional fleet – warehouse was being sought by adjacent tenant
- Interest to know impact of selling other smaller owned warehouse
- □ Traffic and toll costs were a location factor



How much would costs increase if high value real estate were sold and all brands were delivered on each route truck?



### Location Strategy – Integration / Consolidation

- Analyze eight potential sites for delivery and inbound costs.
   Determine best site for operating efficiency based on operating cost factors along with gain from real estate sale.
- Model integrated business baseline; rebalance territories
- Provide insight on sensitivity to number of warehouses
  - Drop 1
  - Add 1, Drop 1
  - Add 1, Drop 2
  - Etc...





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## **Analysis Results – Integration / Consolidation**

Background	<ul> <li>Minimize operating costs impact from closing and selling high value warehouse asset and consolidating DSD network into new or existing facilities</li> <li>Model current sites for integrated business baseline.</li> <li>Analyze eight potential sites for delivery and inbound costs.</li> <li>Determine best site for operating efficiency based on operating cost factors along with gain from real estate sale.</li> </ul>		
Warehouse Location Strategy			
<b>Results</b>	Previous Best Option		

Number of Delivery Warehouses	5	3
Annual Delivery Miles	Base	+0.6%
Delivery Routes	Base	-5
Annual Operating Costs Savings	-	3.8%



**Close Three, Open One with 4¢ per Case Transportation Savings!** 

## Acquisition / Consolidation Case Study

## **Background - Acquisition / Consolidation**

- Distributor had grown through acquisition but had not yet consolidated operations.
- Had new opportunity to add to current territory and wanted to understand cost effect of operations
  - Use current warehouses
  - Consolidate to candidate locations
- Questioned current use of cross docks.



Should we continue to use cross docks?





**Opportunity to Right-Size Warehouse & Consolidate Operations** 

## Location Strategy – Acquisition / Consolidation

- Analyze half dozen potential sites for delivery and inbound costs.
- Determine best site for investment based on operating cost factors along with taxes and other incentives.
- □ Acquisition model inputs vary
  - 1. Have customer address, case demand and delivery frequency
  - 2. Have total case demand and approximate county/zip code coverage





Weighted Population Data Used If No Customer Demand/Frequency

## **Results – Acquisition / Consolidation**

*Background* Wholesaler had grown through acquisition but had not yet consolidated operations. Had new opportunity to add to current territory and wanted to understand cost effect of operations; using current warehouses, and consolidating to several candidate locations.

Analyze both current and candidate sites to determine:

Warehouse Location Strategy

- (1) short term gains from territory adjustments within current locations
- (2) best consolidated location for current volume

(3) best consolidated location for current + acquisition volume

<u>Results</u>	<u>Previous</u>	<u>Consolidated</u> (2)	<u>Full Volume</u> (3)
Number of Delivery Warehouses	Base	-1	-1
Volume Increase	Base	n/c	+19.7%
Annual Delivery Miles	Base	+4.0%	+20.6%
Delivery Routes	Base	-3%	+13%
Annual Operating Costs Savings	-	2.5%	1.6%



# **Final Thoughts**

## Summary



- The complexity of operational improvements or location changes begs for thorough evaluation
  - Acquisition
  - Facility Relocation
  - Facility Consolidation
  - Territory Redesign
  - Brand Integration
- The tools exists to accurately analyze your costs
- Take the time and do it right; putting your operations in the right location will save you every day!





Thank You

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