

# Freight transport demand

## Level 1

With an increasing growth in industrial activity and lack of logistical planning, Level 1 sees a continuous rise in freight demand. Sectors such as tea, refining, pulp and paper, cement, fertilizer and textiles will contribute to significant growth in freight transport demand. Increasing cargo handled through waterways would also increase freight demand. All this would lead to an increase in the freight transport demand from present levels to about 101 BTKMs by 2050.

## Level 2

Level 2 assumes that as the demand for freight transportation grows, there is a slight moderation and optimization in the distances of cargo transportation, as economic activities get more organized through formation of logistics hubs and industrial clusters. Export oriented hubs would be developed nearer to points of transit. With this the freight transport demand is expected to be 9% lower than that of Level 1 in 2050, reaching 92 BTKMs by 2050.

Demand for freight transport depends on nature of economic activity in the state and its growth is linked to the growth of the overall GSDP, depending mainly on the agricultural, industrial, mining, manufacturing, and service sector growth. Measured in terms of ton-kilometers moved, the demand for freight transport has grown rapidly in the last decade, in line with the growth of the state domestic product. Given the growth potential of industries in Assam in the future, development of roads and rail, the demand for freight movement is set to significantly increase in the future from the current level of ~12.9 billion ton-kilometers in 2015. This lever generates scenarios of freight demand under different policy and economic growth conditions.

## Level 3

Level 3 envisages an improved scenario with organized logistics assisted by IT enabled solutions to optimize route planning and more efficient movement of goods. Industrial clusters would be planned at proximity to transit hubs and markets, along with optimized transport logistics serving commercial and industrial needs. These measures would result in total freight transport demand reaching 88 BTKMs by 2050, about 13% lower than the demand in Level 1.

## Level 4

Level 4 envisions a scenario with significantly improved logistic planning along with a movement towards local production and local consumption. Concentrated economic activity in the form of logistics parks, industrial clusters, and industrial centers would result in reduction in the average leads for freight transport on both rail and road. This would lead to total freight transport demand of 83 BTKMs, about 18% lower than the demand in Level 1.

