

Design Project #2: GE

Transportation

The second design project covers the most efficient way to move cargo from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh



Design Process:

- Identifying the problem: GE needs a new method of transporting cargo from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh
- Defining the problem: The method needs to be low cost, have low emissions, large capacity, and fast delivery
- Possible Solutions: Tier 4/Tier 3 Locomotive, by airplane, by truck, by same train but alternative fuels, or by maglev
- Evaluating the solutions: We used three different methods to rank the possible solution from best to worst
- Choosing the best solution: After the calculations, we determined that the most efficient method of transportation was implementing a Tier 4 Locomotive

Option	Cost	Emissions	Capacity	On time delivery
1. New Locomotive (Tier 4)	5	7	6	6
2. New Locomotive (Tier 3)	6	5	6	6
3. Alternate Fuels	3	6	6	4
4. Transport by airplane	2	4	8	8
5. Transport by truck	10	2	3	1
6. Maglev	1	10	6	8
Maximum ranking	10	10	8	8

Ranking Method

Option	Cost (min)	Emissions (min)	Capacity (max) (kg)	On-time delivery (max) (%)
New Locomotive (Tier 4)	0.42	0.0033	0.86	0.89
New Locomotive (Tier 3)	0.64	0.001	0.86	0.89
Alternate Fuels	0.04	0.00083	0.86	0.72
Transport by airplane	0.008	0.0005	1	1
Transport by truck	1	0.0005	0.14	0.56
Transport by maglev	0.0008	1	0.57	1

Scaling and Ideal Value Method