

Project Narrative

Last mile delivery facilities, like the one proposed in Westside Business Park, Valdosta, GA, power the last mile of the end-user's customer order process to drive convenient and efficient package delivery to the end-user's customers.

As denoted in the term "last mile", the delivery facility is the last stop that the package makes before arriving at the customer's doorstep. Delivery facilities operate 7 days a week pursuant to a designated daily operations clock. The operations start with the arrival of packages from the end-user's network of first- and middle-mile facilities. These packages are pre-labeled for customer delivery and arrive at the site via tractor trailers, mainly overnight. As the packages arrive, company employees receive the packages and use material handling equipment to sort the packages by delivery route, and then stage them for pick up by delivery partners.

Deliveries to the customer from this delivery facility will be supported by two types of delivery partners: 1) small-business owners that employ drivers who deliver packages in company branded vans ("Drivers"), 2) individuals who use their personal vehicles to deliver packages ("Partners"). Drivers will arrive on site early morning to pick up the packages for their designated delivery routes. Drivers park their personal vehicles in the dedicated van driver parking area, proceed to the van parking area to enter their assigned delivery van, and then drive to the dedicated package loading area. Partners will enter the site and proceed directly to the package loading area.

The load-out process, which is supported by company employees and Driver managers, is structured to minimize impact on the roadway during peak commuter hours. It is expected that approximately 85 delivery vans will be used to service this delivery station during normal operating months. Up to 50 additional vans could be hired during peak seasons. For optimal efficiency, the loading and dispatch operations occur in waves, with Drivers loading up and departing in approximate 20 to 30-minute intervals. Partners typically deliver to customers within a 45-minute drive time, and standard delivery routes run approximately 8-10 hours for Drivers and 3-6 hours for Partners. Once the last wave of Drivers has departed the station, company employees prepare the delivery facility for receipt of the next day's packages.

Partners do not return back to the delivery facility after completing their deliveries, unless they have undelivered packages. Drivers return to the station. After completing a checkout process, they exit the site in their personal vehicle or by public transport. The same 24-hour operations process is repeated daily.

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