



EVOLUTION OF TRANSPORTATION TECH

PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE



1890s

Horse-drawn carriages are slowly being replaced by motor vehicles powered by steam, internal combustion, or electricity.



1915–1920s

Modern trucks emerge with the invention of the semi-trailer. The 1st 5th wheel coupling is invented and pneumatic air-filled tires result in goods being transported further and faster.



1940s

In 1945, Al Gross invented the first CB radio, allowing drivers to communicate in real-time about road conditions and where to fuel up.



1950–1960s

Air conditioning, improvements in vehicle suspension, and power steering all helped make truck driving safer and more comfortable — opening up the trucking profession to a wider range of people.



1970–1980s

The Motor Carrier Act led to the creation of a more self-regulated trucking industry and an explosion in the number of transport companies. During this time, other breakthroughs were made enhancing safety and leading to the creation of semi-trucks we would recognize today.



1990s

During the 90's, transport technology was proliferating and diversifying faster than in any of the preceding decades. The use of sensors in trucks and the creation of the Electronic Control Unit (ECU) were major game changers in the world of transportation.



21st Century

Building on the rapid innovations from the 90's, the 2000's saw the mainstream use and adoption of GPS tracking technology — revolutionizing the industry. Electronic logging became the norm, and the use of integrated dashboard cameras were also popularized.



FUTURE

While no one knows precisely what the future of transport technology will look like, we can certainly count on more and more fleets incorporating electric or low-emission trucks into their inventory as well as the advancement and proliferation of self-driving truck technology.