



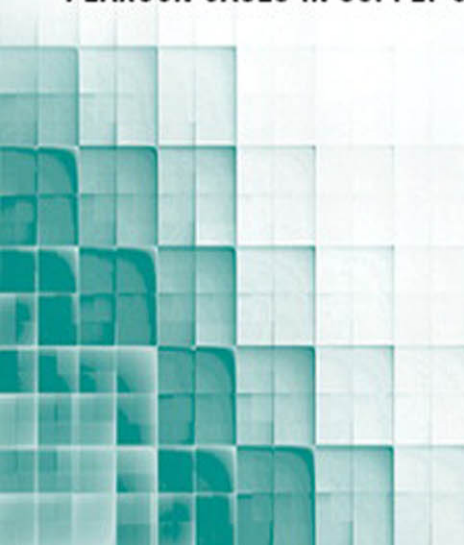
# Vehicle Routing at Otto's Discount Brigade

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Publishing as Pearson

Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

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ISBN-10: 0-13-382379-2

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-382379-0

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Reprinted from *The Applied Business Analytics Casebook: Applications in Supply Chain Management, Operations Management, and Operations Research* (ISBN: 9780133407365) by Matthew J. Drake, Ph.D., CFPIM

# Vehicle Routing at Otto's Discount Brigade

Matthew J. Drake, Duquesne University

## Introduction

Otto's Discount Brigade is a regional chain of discount stores mainly operating in southeast Ohio, with a few stores in West Virginia border towns. The firm operates a single distribution center in Cambridge, Ohio, located in close proximity to the intersection of Interstates 70 and 77. The distribution center has small refrigerated and frozen sections to accommodate the small number of stock-keeping units (SKUs) that require these special conditions.

## Otto's Distribution Network

Every Otto's store is only slightly larger than an average, stand-alone drugstore; thus, it is not practical for the stores to receive shipments directly from suppliers because the shipments would require expensive less-than-truckload (LTL) transportation, as well as dedicated receiving personnel to handle the steady stream of shipments each day. Instead, the Otto's distribution center receives full truckload shipments from all suppliers and builds mixed pallets of products