

# PHYSICAL INTERNET ENABLED HYPERCONNECTED CITY LOGISTICS

PROF. BENOIT MONTREUIL

COCA-COLA CHAIR IN MATERIAL HANDLING & DISTRIBUTION  
PHYSICAL INTERNET CENTER  
SUPPLY CHAIN & LOGISTICS INSTITUTE  
SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL & SYSTEMS ENGINEERING  
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**CREATING THE NEXT®**

# Internet Metaphor Guiding Transformation to Next-Generation Logistics

Building a Physical Internet dealing with physical objects  
Learning from the Digital Internet dealing with informational objects



## The information highway gets physical

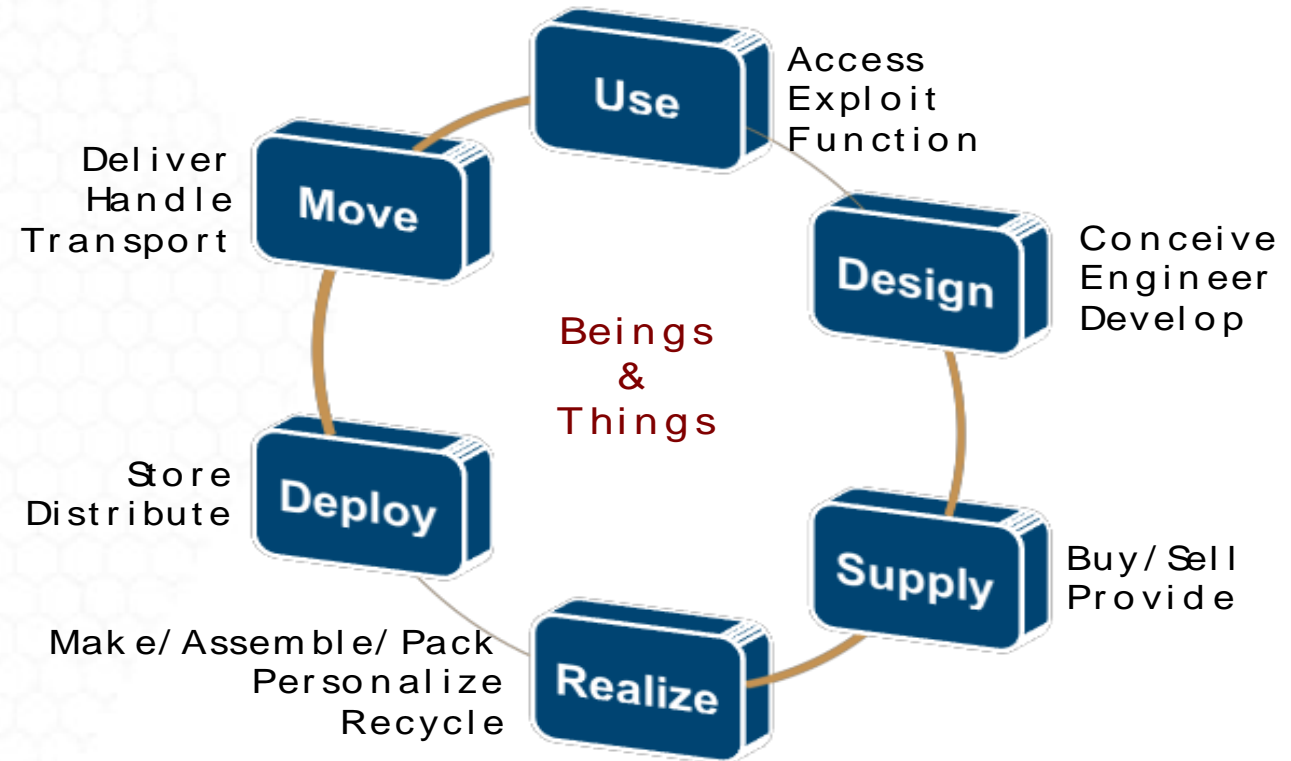
The Physical Internet would move goods the way its namesake moves data



Science Magazine  
June 6, 2014

Rethinking  
the Global Supply Chain

Serving humanity's demand for physical object services



Montreuil B. (2011). Towards a Physical Internet: Meeting the Global Logistics Sustainability Grand Challenge, *Logistics Research*, Vol. 3, No. 2-3, p. 71-87

# Worldwide Next-Generation Logistics System: The Physical Internet

Hyperconnected global logistics system aiming to serve efficiently and sustainably  
**humanity's demand for physical object services**

by enabling seamless open resource sharing and flow consolidation  
**through standardized encapsulation, modularization, protocols and interfaces**



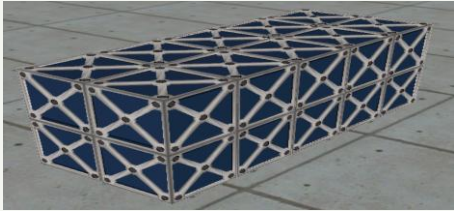
Image source: clyderathbone.com

**Hyperconnected:**  
Components and actors intensely  
interconnected on multiple layers,  
ultimately anytime, anywhere

**Interconnectivity layers:**  
digital, physical, operational,  
business, legal and personal

# Physical Internet Building Blocks

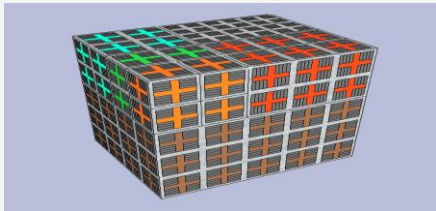
## Transport Containers ( $\pi$ -Pods)



Modular fit in  $\pi$ -certified vehicles  
12; 6; 4,8; 3,6; 2,4; 1,2 meters

12m  
6m  
4,8m  
3,6m  
2,4m  
1,2m

## Handling Containers ( $\pi$ -Boxes)



Modular fit in  $\pi$ -Pods  
1,2; 0,8; 0,6; 0,4; 0,3; 0,2; 0,1 –  $\epsilon$  meters

1,2m  
0,8m  
0,6m  
0,4m  
0,3m  
0,2m  
0,1m

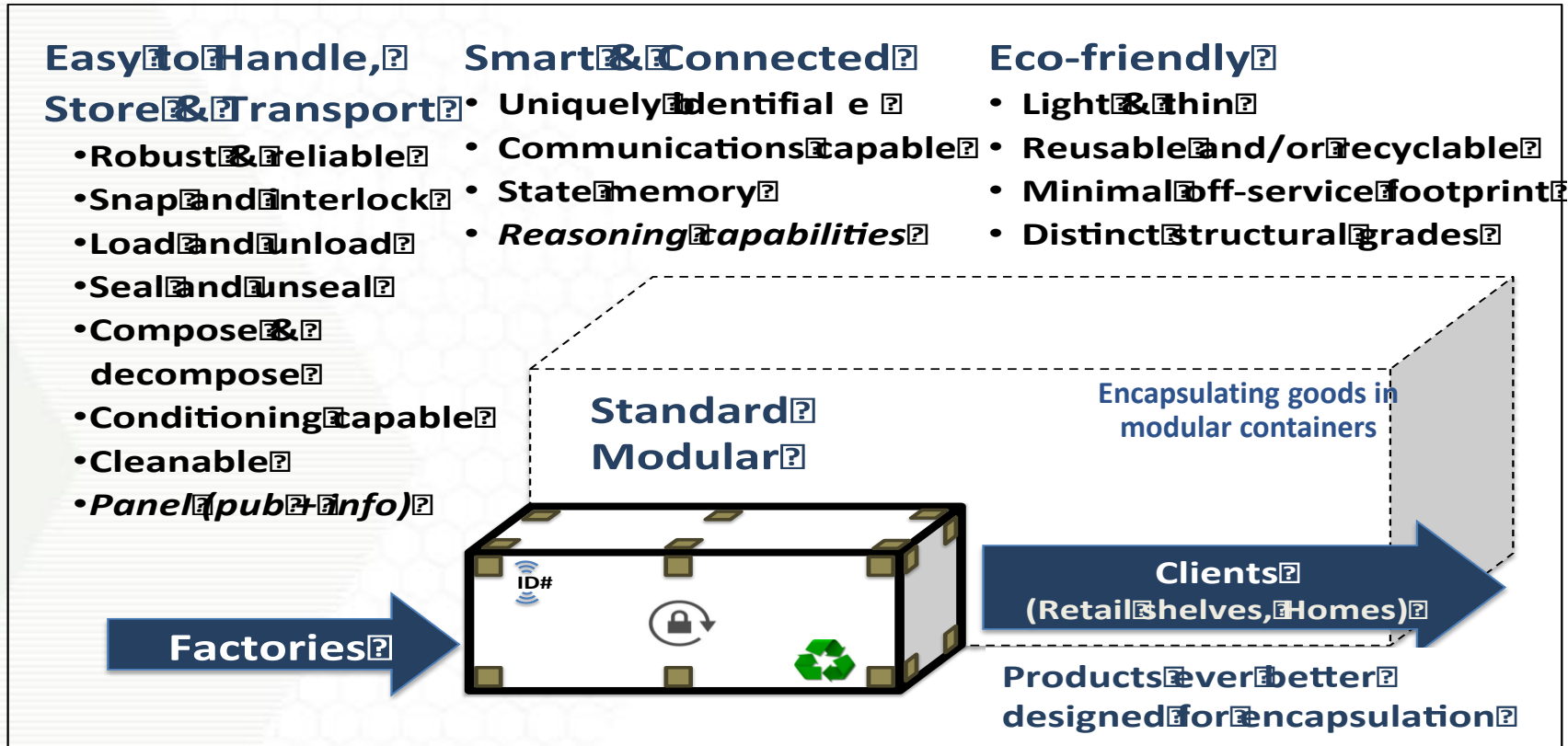
## Packaging Containers ( $\pi$ -Packs)



Modular fit in  $\pi$ -Boxes

1,2; 0,8; 0,6; 0,4; 0,3; 0,2; 0,1 –  $\epsilon$  -  $\delta$  meters

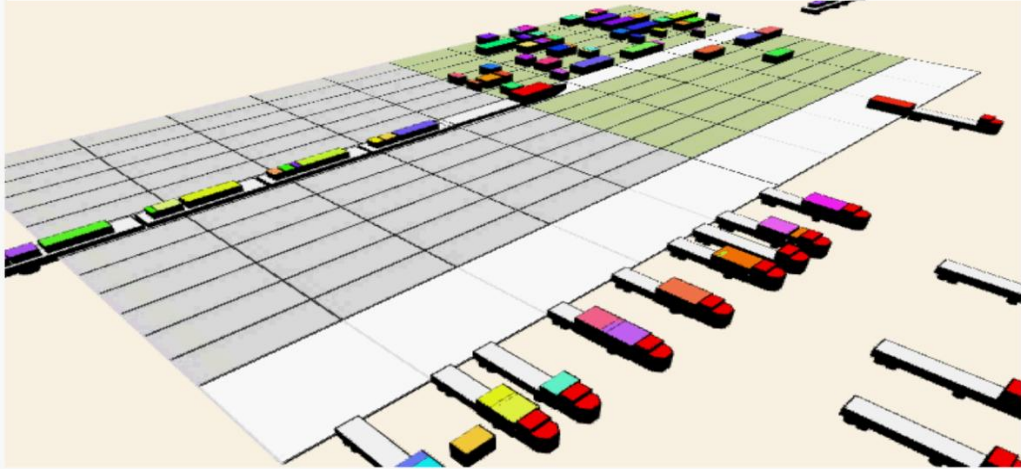
1,2m  
0,8m  
0,6m  
0,4m  
0,3m  
0,2m  
0,1m



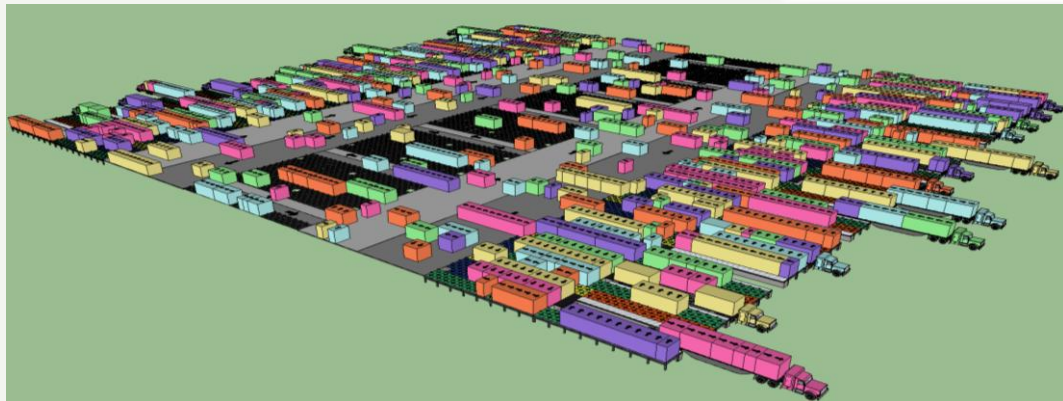
**Unified Set of Standard Modular Logistics Containers**

Montreuil B., E. Ballot, W. Tremblay (2016). *Modular Design of Physical Internet Transport, Handling and Packaging Containers*, Progress in Material Handling Research Vol. 13, Ed. J. Smith et al., MHI, Charlotte, NC, USA.

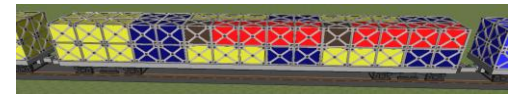
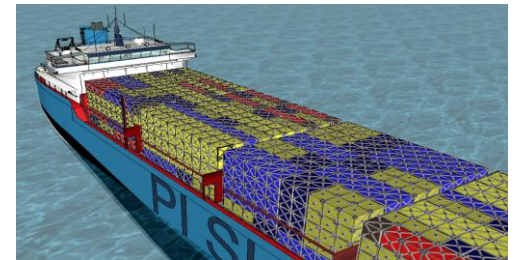
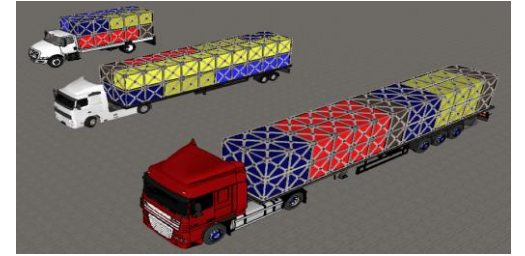
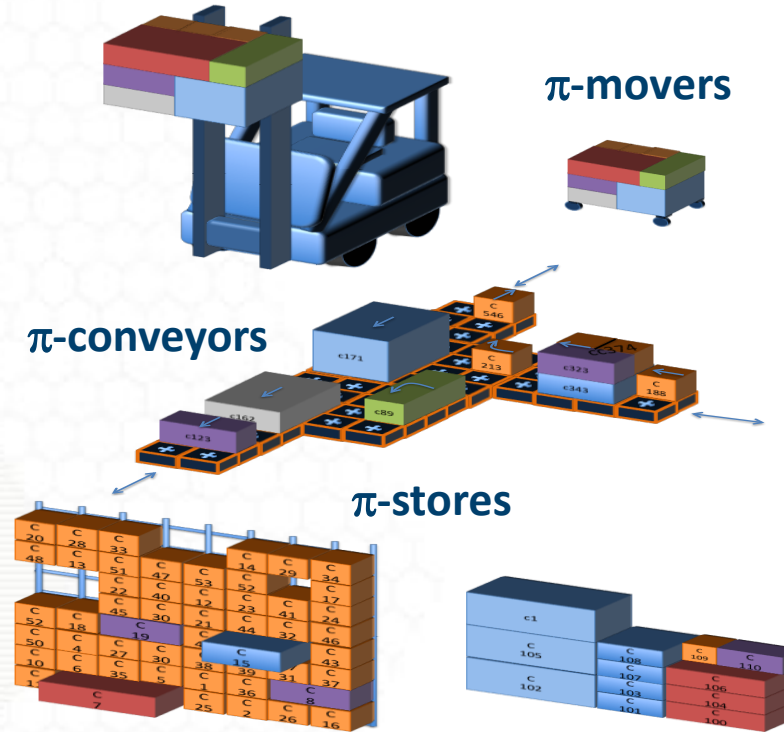
# Physical Internet Building Blocks



Road-Rail Transshipment Hub



Road-Based Crossdocking Hub



Certified Open Logistics Facilities and Ways

Containerized Logistics Equipment and Technology

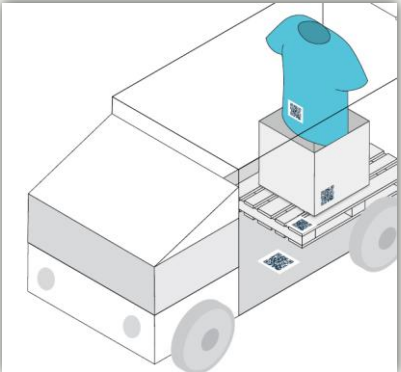
Unified Set of Standard Modular Logistics Containers

Reference: Montreuil, B., R.D. Meller, E. Ballot (2010) *Towards a physical internet: the impact on logistics facilities and material handling systems design and innovation*, in Progress in Material Handling Research, Edited by K. Gue et al., Material Handling Industry of America, 23 p., 2010.

# Physical Internet Building Blocks

Enabling Seamless, Trustworthy, Ubiquitous Monitoring, Traceability and Transactions

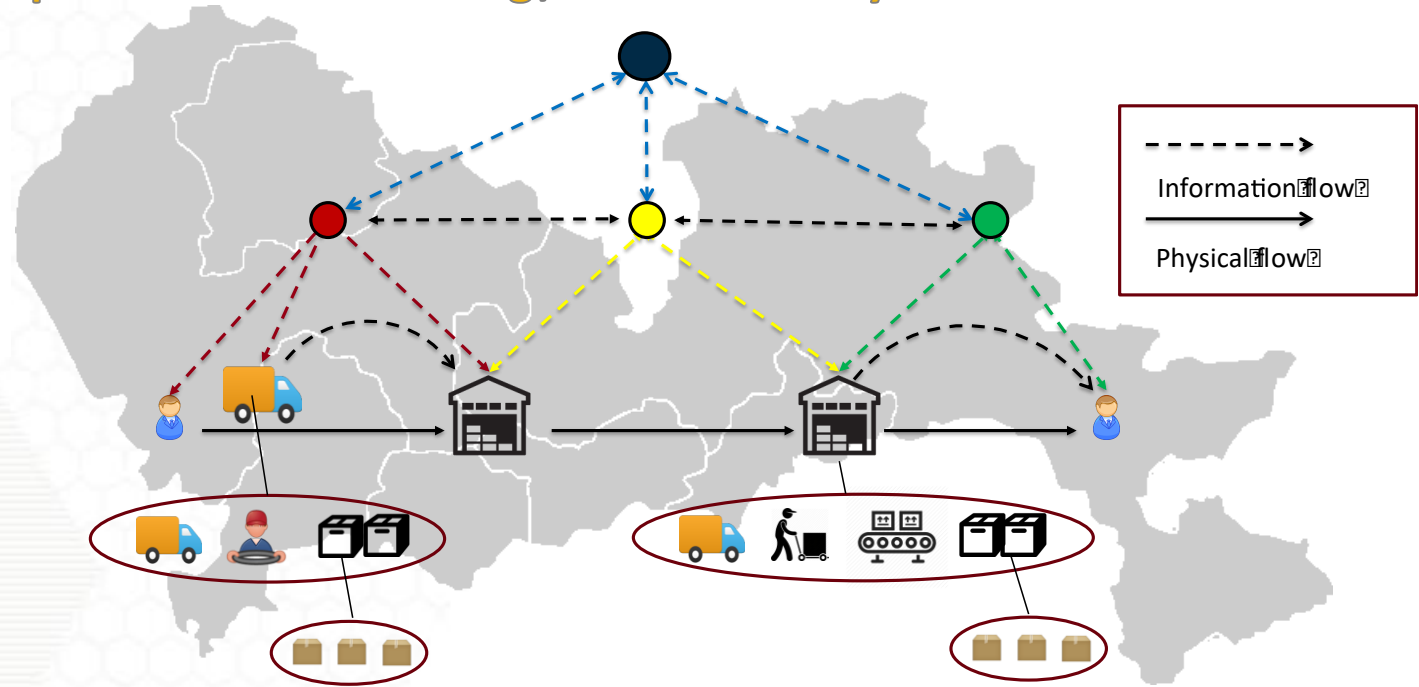
We here adapt to hyperconnected parcel logistics the Simple Links concept recently introduced by the Consumer Goods Forum.



Original schematic provided by the Consumer Goods Forum to illustrate the basic concepts of Simple Links: [www.thecustomergoodsforum.com](http://www.thecustomergoodsforum.com)



Schematics provided by the Consumer Goods Forum  
[www.thecustomergoodsforum.com](http://www.thecustomergoodsforum.com)



## Simple Links

## Internet-of-Things

## BlockChain

Open Logistics Decisional & Transactional Platforms

Standard Logistics Protocols

Global Logistics Monitoring System

Containerized Logistics Equipment and Technology

Certified Open Logistics Facilities and Ways

Unified Set of Standard Modular Logistics Containers

# Physical Internet Building Blocks



Smart Data-Driven Analytics, Optimization & Simulation

Open Logistics Decisional & Transactional Platforms

Global Logistics Monitoring System

Certified Open Logistics Facilities and Ways

Standard Logistics Protocols

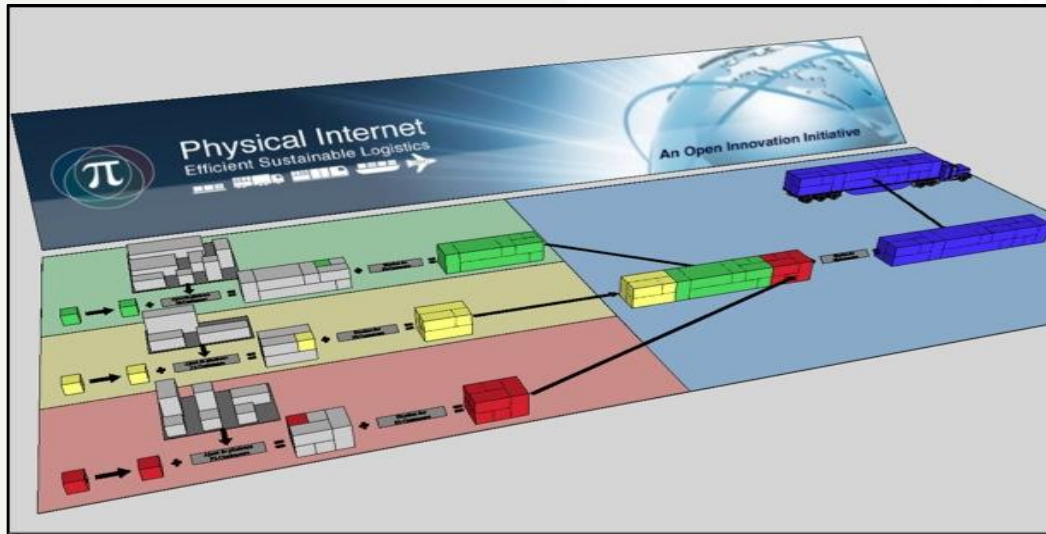
Containerized Logistics Equipment and Technology

Unified Set of Standard Modular Logistics Containers



Apps and Situation Room by Elementum.com  
Georgia Tech's Physical Internet Lab

# Physical Internet Building Blocks



B. Montreuil & C. Thivierge, 2011

Enabling Efficient, Sustainable, Smart, Agile,  
Adaptable, Scalable, Resilient,  
Hyperconnected Supply Chains

Certified Open Logistics Service Providers

Smart Data-Driven Analytics, Optimization & Simulation

Open Logistics Decisional & Transactional Platforms

Global Logistics Monitoring System

Certified Open Logistics Facilities and Ways

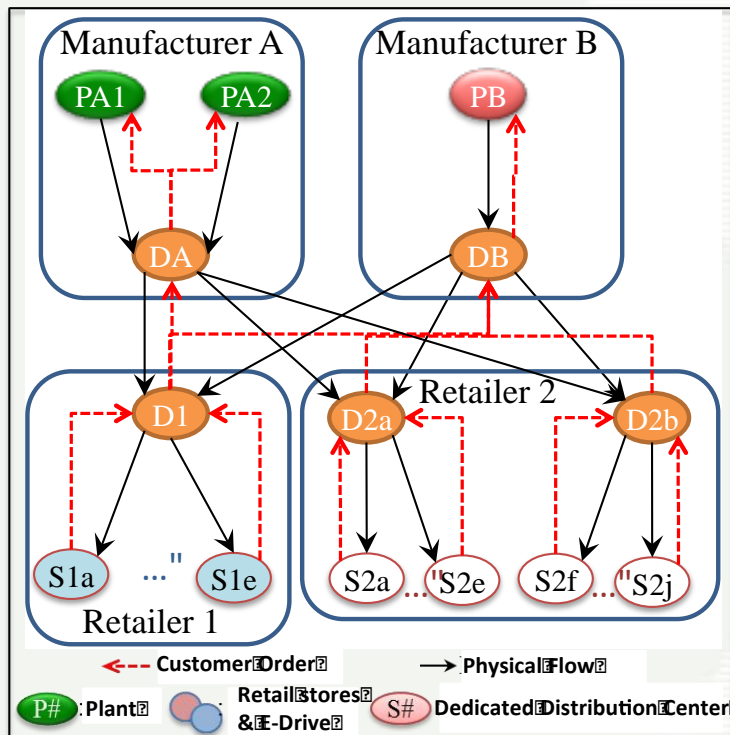
Standard Logistics Protocols

Containerized Logistics Equipment and Technology

Unified Set of Standard Modular Logistics Containers

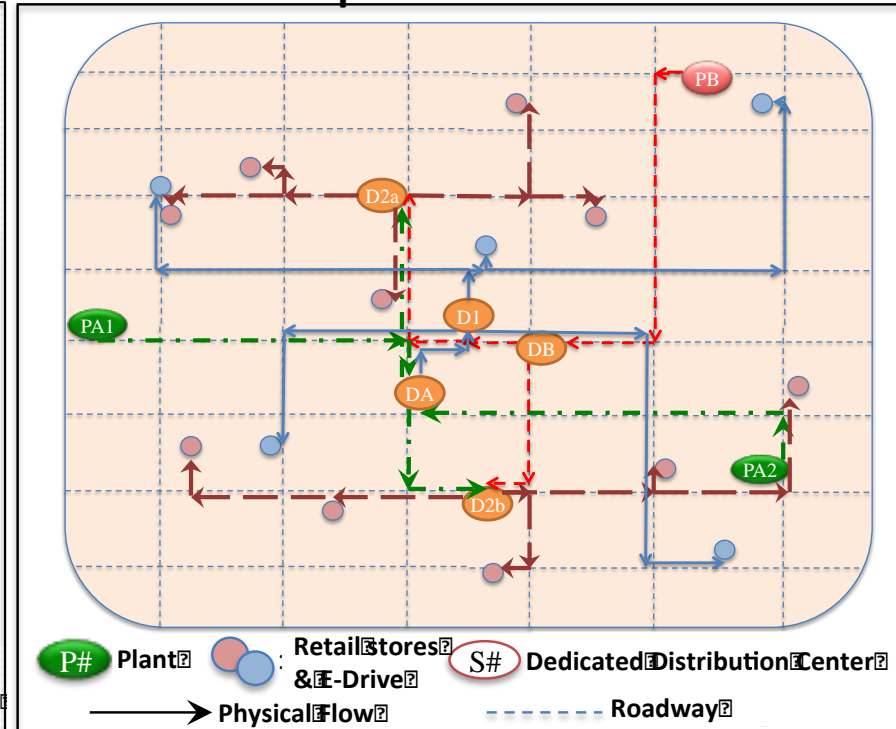


# Hyperconnected Transportation: A Simple Case



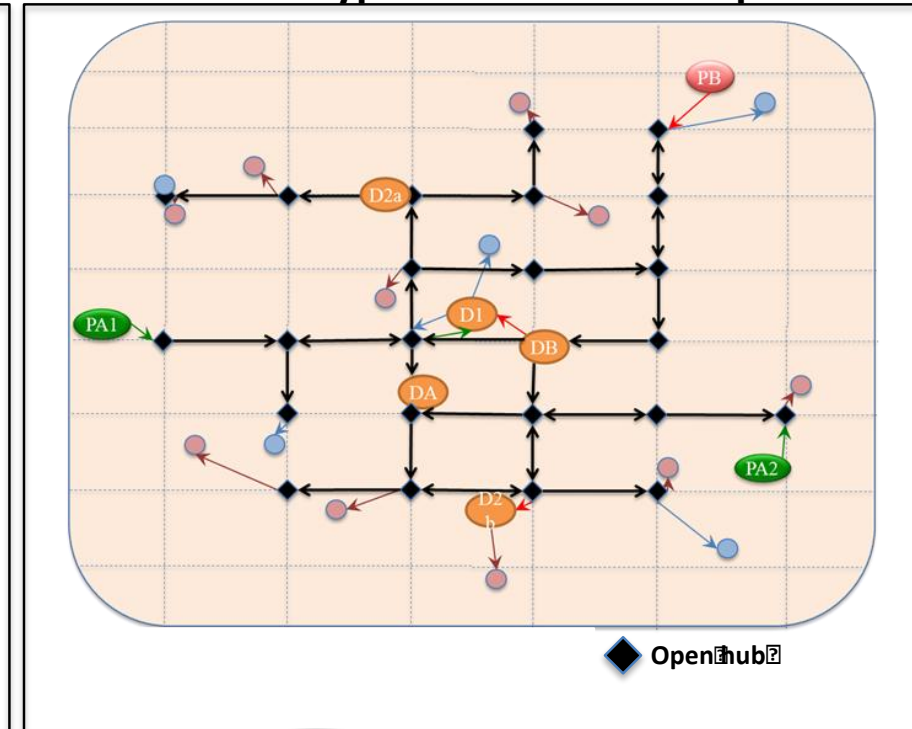
Current Conceptual Networks

## Dedicated Transportation



Current Spatial Flows

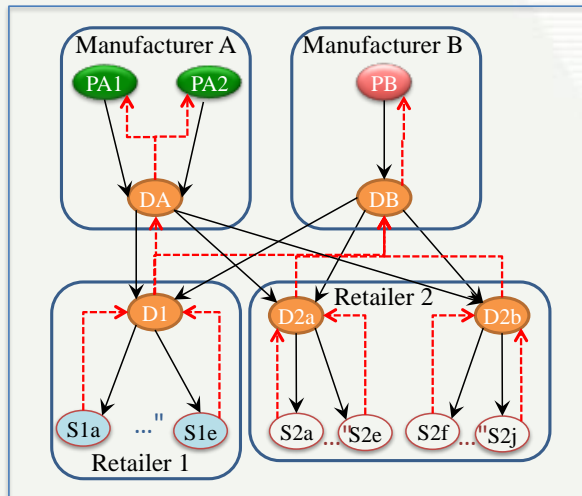
## Hyperconnected Transportation



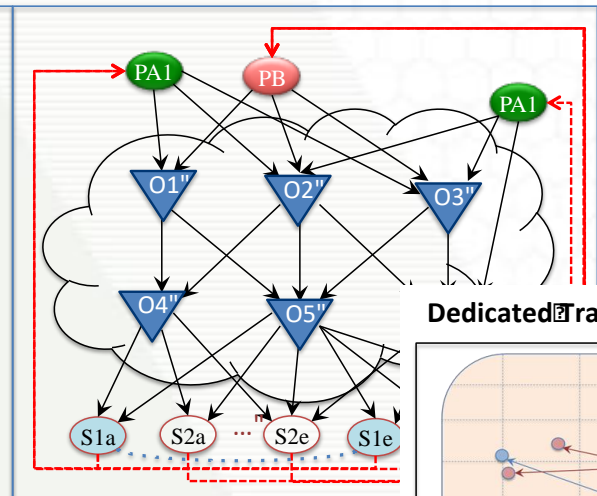
Travelled distance: -27%  
 Fuel Consumption: -19%  
 Average delivery time: +2%  
 Maximum delivery time: -36%

# Hyperconnected Distribution: A Simple Case

Dedicated Distribution

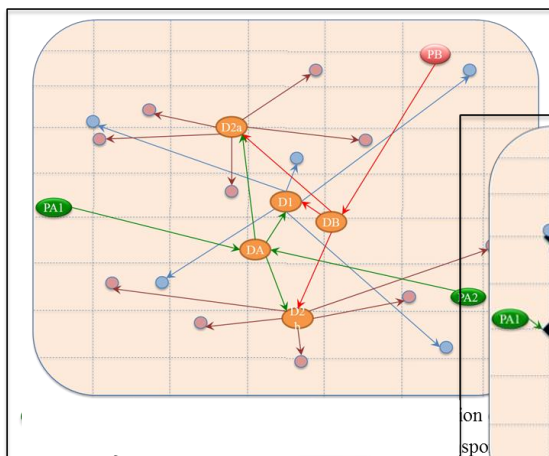


Hyperconnected Distribution



Transposing Cloud Storage & Computing Concepts, Practices & Business Models from IT to Logistics and Supply Chains

Dedicated Transportation & Distribution

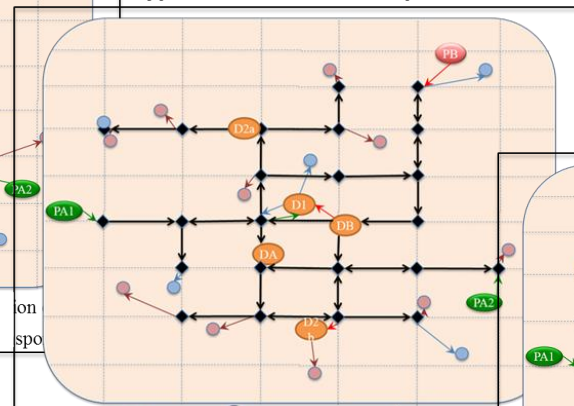


+16%; +15%

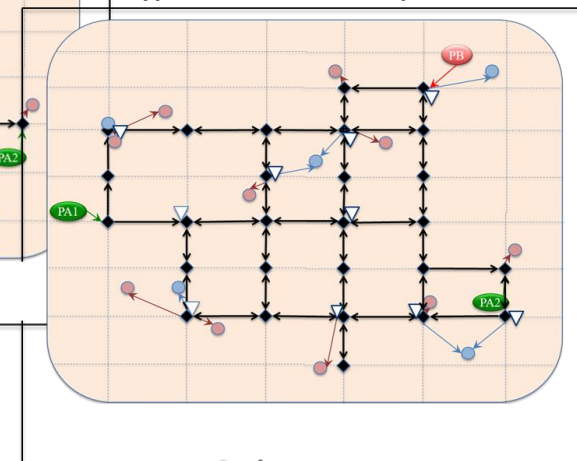
[ Average; Max ]  
Delivery-Time-to-Store

-79%; -71%

Hyperconnected Transportation



Hyperconnected Transportation & Distribution



-4.2%; -4.4%

-19%; -27%

Fuel; Travel

-29%; -23%

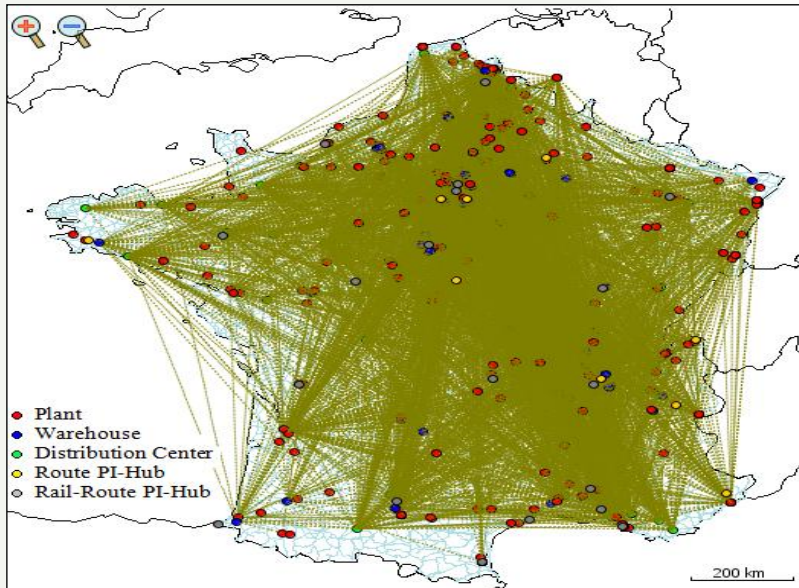
---> Client Order  
-> Physical Flow  
P# Plant  
R# Retail Store  
E-Drive  
S# Dedicated Distribution Center  
O# Open Distribution Center

---> Client Order  
-> Physical Flow  
P# Plant  
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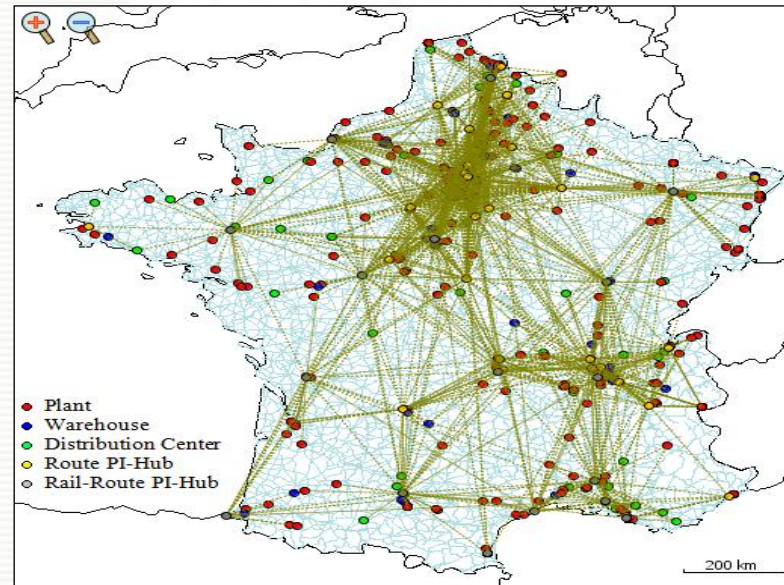
# Hyperconnected Transportation: Large Scale Experiment in France

## Simulation Experiment with Top Retailers Carrefour & Casino and their top 100 suppliers

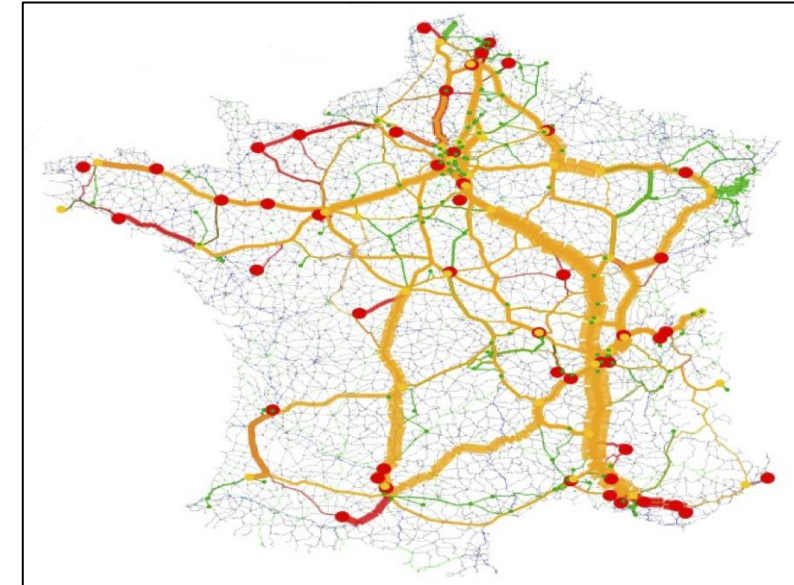
Modular Container; Open Crossdocking Hubs; Multimodal, Multi-Party, Inter-Hub Routing



Current flows



Hyperconnected flows



Current: Trucks  
Hyperconnected: Trucks & Rail

**Economical: Up to 32% overall cost saving**

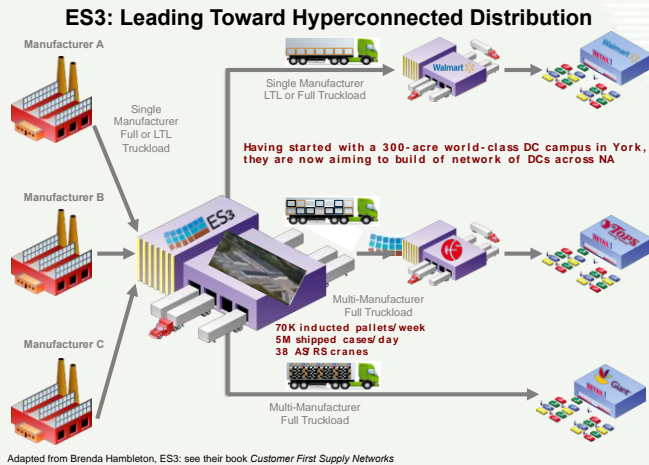
**Environmental: About 60% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**

**Truckers return home every day: Helping reduce trucker turnover and shortage**

Project lead by E. Ballot, B. Montreuil & R. Glardon: PREDIT Best International Project  
Ballot É., B. Montreuil, R. Meller (2015), The Physical Internet: The Network of Logistics Networks, Documentation Française.

# Hyperconnected Distribution & Fulfillment: Current Large-Scale Models

Dynamically deploying products for rapid on-demand fulfillment  
Exploiting Physical Internet principles, Beyond client dedicated facilities and services



**FLEXE connects you to warehouse capacity when, where, and how you need it.**

Warehousing space fluctuation drivers

- Seasonality
- Product promotions
- Bulk buying
- Lead time variability

**Amazon.com**  
105 fulfillment centers in the USA,  
70 others across the world  
15 B\$ in FC investment

Phase 1: Amazon stock only  
Phase 2: Open to vendors for their stock sold on Amazon  
Phase 3: Open to any vendor

## The ES3 Model

Openly shared automated DC  
Multi-manufacturer: full load inbound  
Multi-retailer full load outbound  
Enables Direct-to-store  
Medium-to-Long-Term Commitment

## The ES3 Model

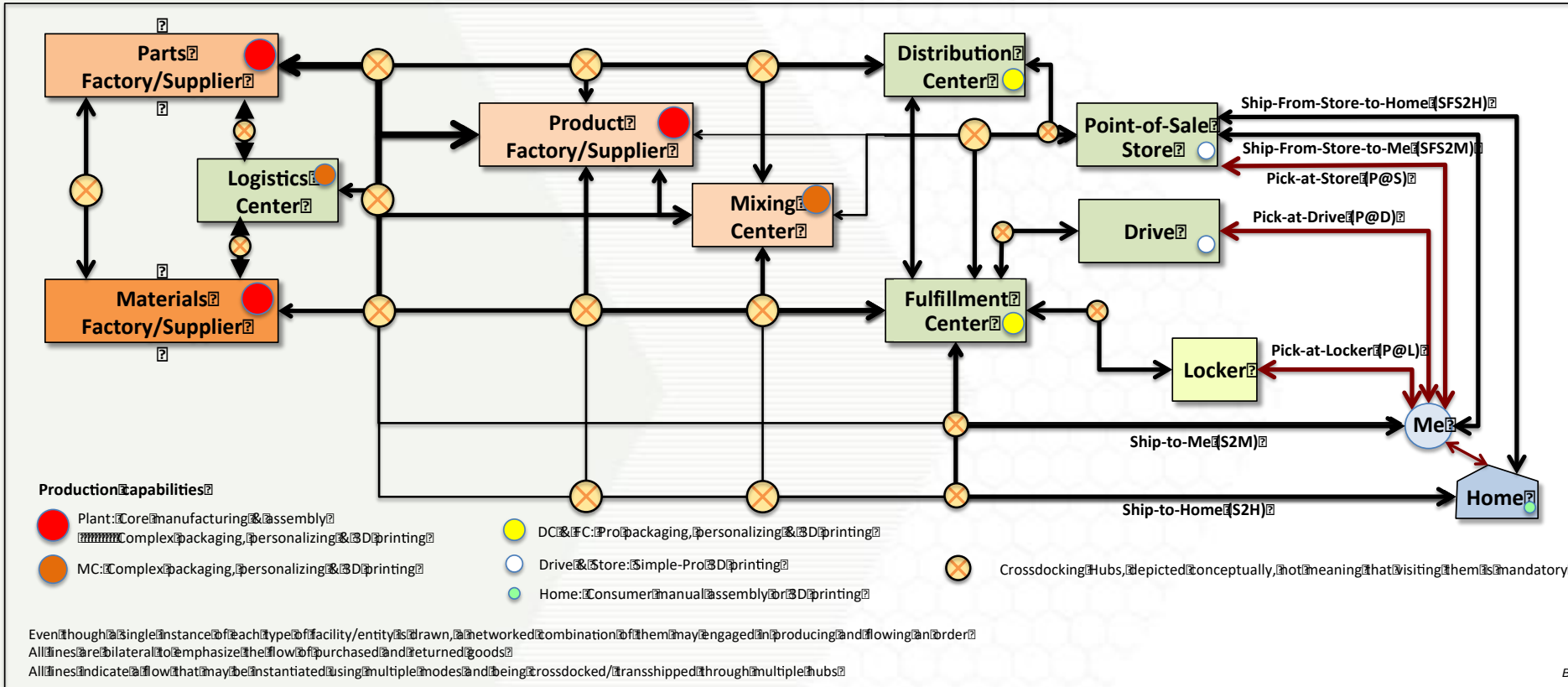
On-Demand Warehousing  
Asset-free platform  
Multi-warehouse, Multi-User  
AirBnB-like shared economy model  
Pay-per-Use

## The Fulfillment-By-Amazon Model

First Open Large-Scale Asset-Based  
Storage and Fulfillment Service Provider  
Asset-Intensive: US fulfillment center network  
Open to any vendor, selling or not on Amazon  
Inspired by Amazon's huge success in cloud storage

# Towards Smart Hyperconnected Omnichannel Logistics and Supply

Hundred of thousands of suppliers, distributors & (e-)retailers  
Millions of facilities and vehicles, billions of customers



## Blurred Facility Roles

## A Web of Hyperconnected Facilities, Modes and Actors

Expected Delivery or Pickup with Minutes, Hours, maybe a few Days  
With Minimal Stock Smartly Flowed and Deployed Between Suppliers and Customers

Montreuil B. (2017). Omnichannel Business-to-Consumer Logistics and Supply Chains: Towards Hyperconnected Networks and Facilities, Progress in Material Handling Research Vol. 14, Ed. K. Ellis et al., MHI, Charlotte, NC, USA. CMO Innovation, 2015-09-02, <http://www.enterpriseinnovation.net/sponsor-article/art-and-science-omni-channel-retailing> <http://www.wilsonperumal.com/blog/can-97-of-retailers-be-wrong-about-omni-channel-commerce/>

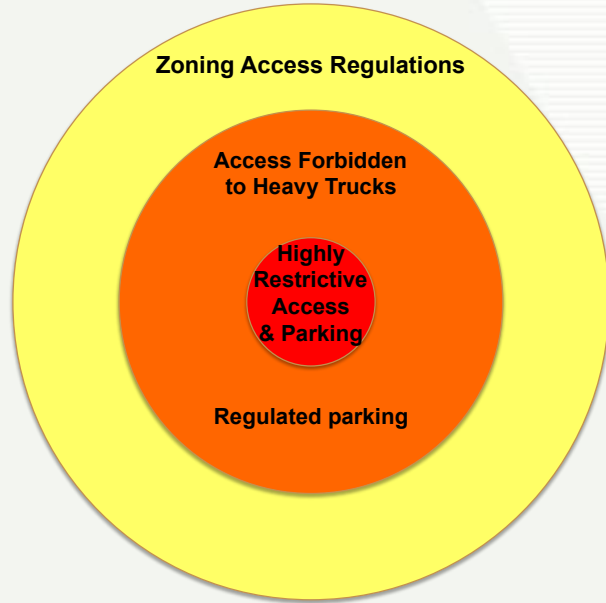
## City Logistics: Its Main Goals

**To reduce the negative impact of freight-vehicle movements on city-living conditions, particularly in terms of congestion/mobility and environmental impact, while not penalizing its social and economic activities and fostering an efficient and sustainable transportation system (e.g., Taniguchi *et al.* 2003, 2013)**

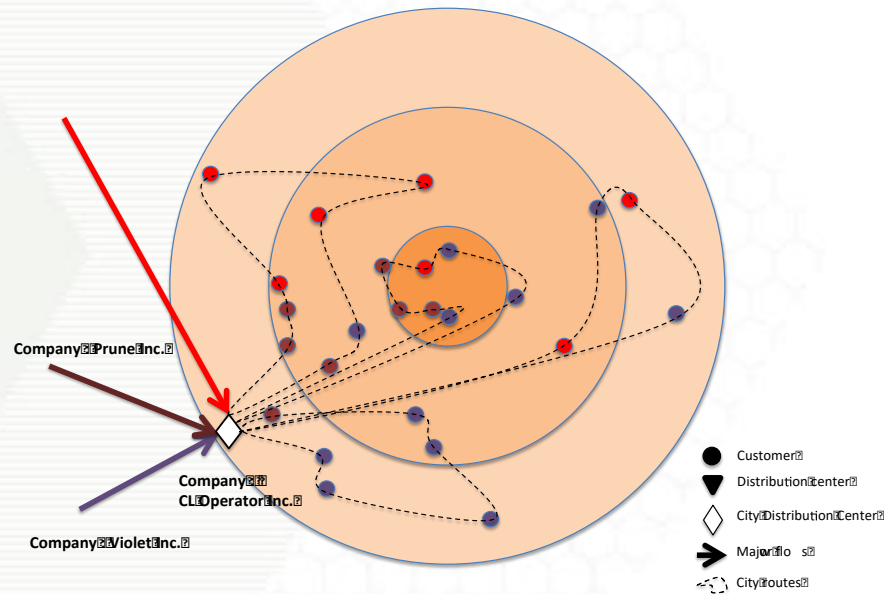
- **To reduce and control the urban presence and motorization of freight vehicles**
- **To improve the efficiency of freight movements & their environmental footprint**
- **To reduce the number of empty vehicles getting in, through and out of the city (e.g. Benjelloun et al., 2010, Dablanc, 2007)**

# City Logistics Concepts

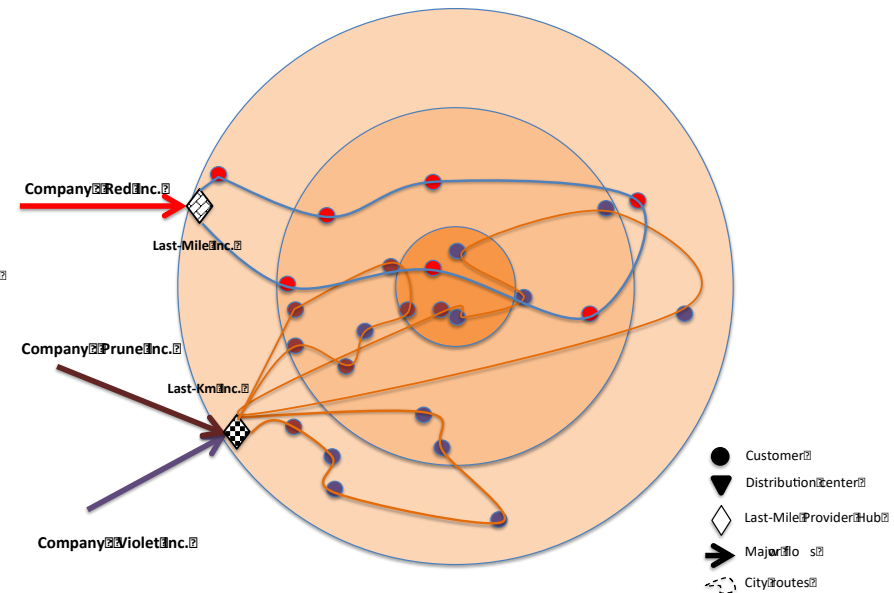
## Access and Parking Regulations



## City Distribution Center



## Last-Mile Delivery Service Providers

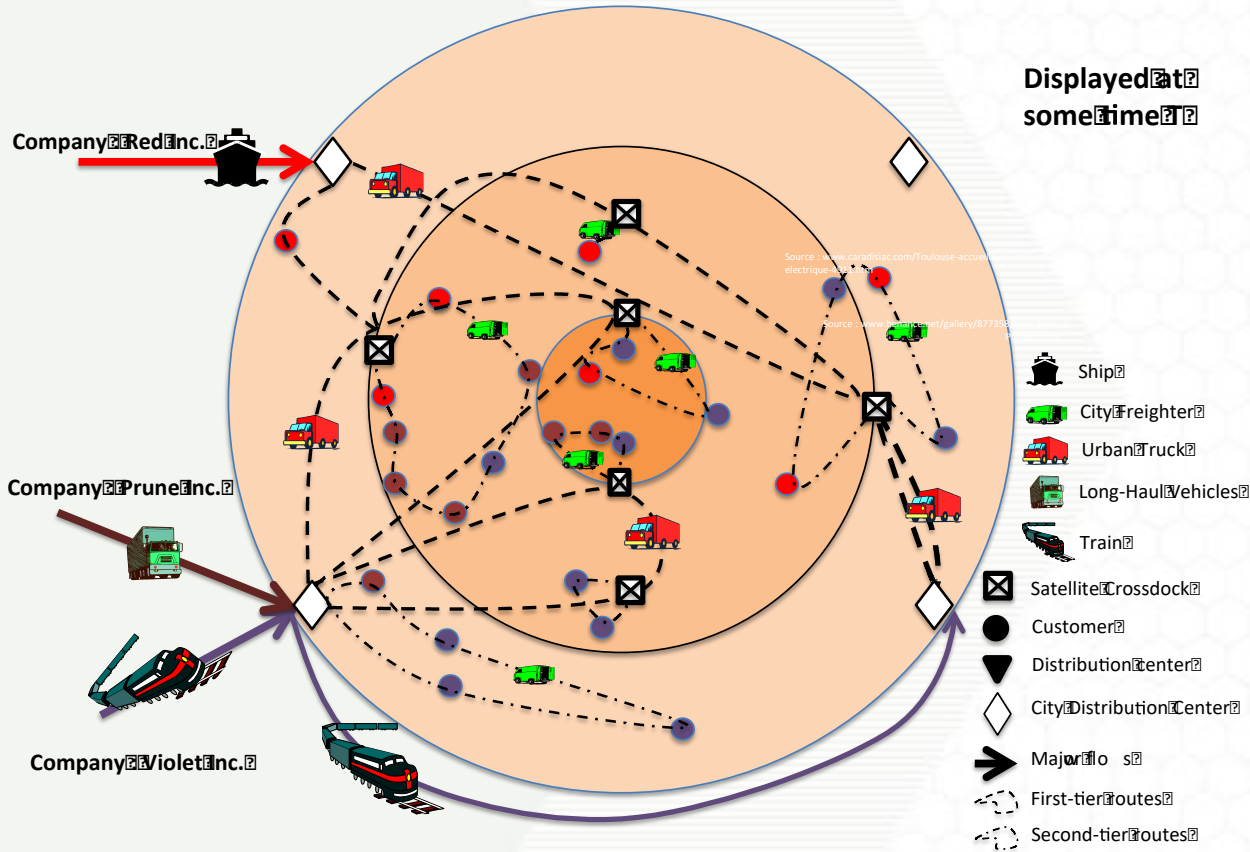


Adapted from: T. G. Crainic and B. Montreuil, Physical internet enabled Hyperconnected City logistics," Transportation Research Procedia, vol. 12, pp. 383-398., 2016.

# City Logistics Concepts

## Tier-Adapted Ecofriendly Vehicles

### Two-Tier Hub & Satellite Network



**CHRONOPOST**



**Posteitaliane**



Adapted from: T. G. Crainic and B. Montreuil, "Physical internet enabled Hyperconnected City logistics," Transportation Research Procedia, vol. 12, pp. 383-398., 2016.

Mostly smaller, green, active or electrical vehicles



# Physical Internet Enabled City Logistics

<b>Core Hyperconnected City Logistics Concepts</b>		
<b>Interconnect</b>	<b>Cities as Nodes of the World's Logistics Web</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Cities by Systems Standardization</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>The Multi-Faceted Activities of City Logistics</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>City Logistic Networks in a City Web Architecture</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>The Multiplicity of Urban Logistics Centers</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>City Logistics Stakeholders into an Open System</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Goods Through Modular Logistics Containers</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>People Mobility and Freight Logistics in the City</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>City Logistics with Urban Planning</b>	<b>9</b>

# Interconnect Cities as Nodes of the World's Logistics Web

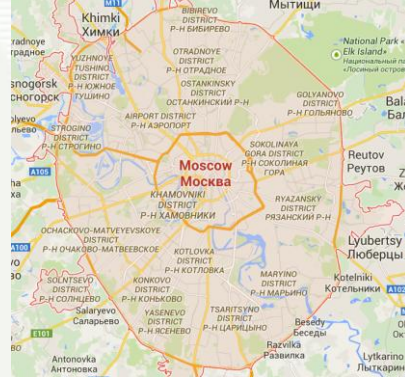


# Interconnect Cities by Worldwide Systemic Standardization

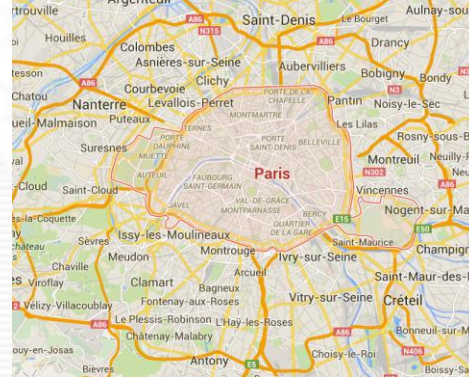
Mexico



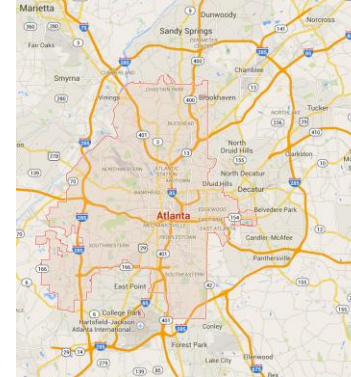
Moscow



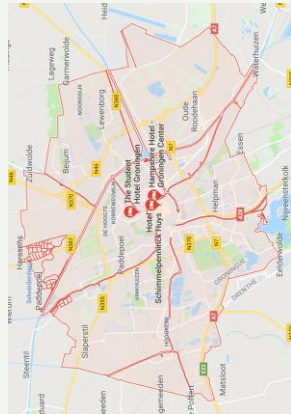
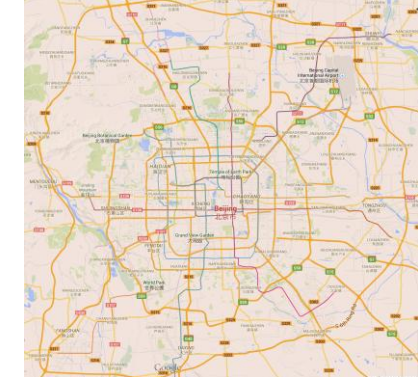
Paris



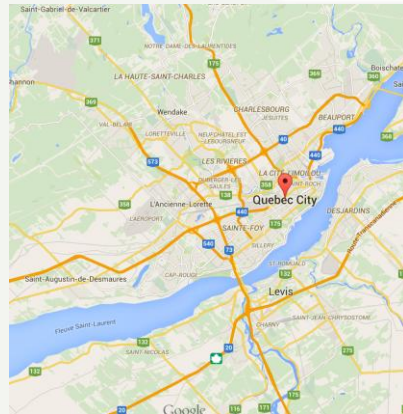
Atlanta



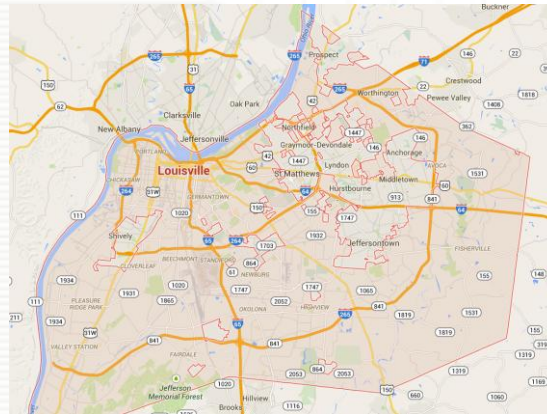
Beijing



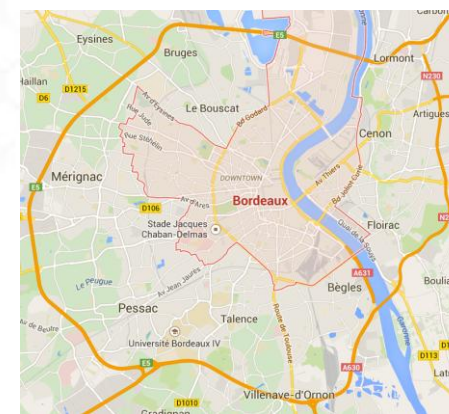
Groningen



Québec



Louisville



Bordeaux

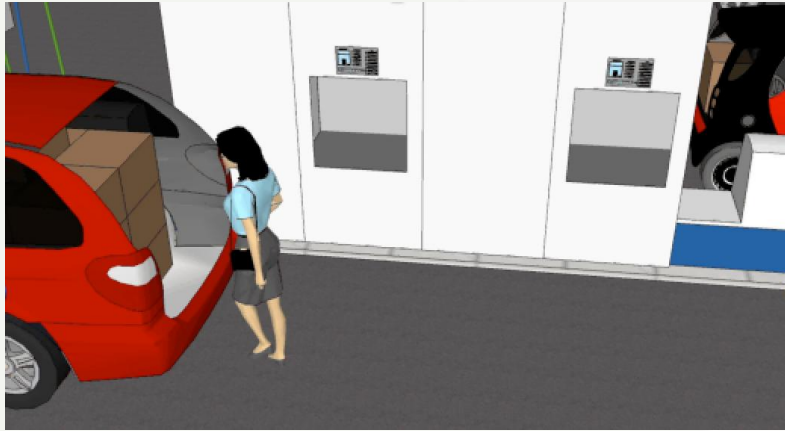


Porto

Each city thinks it is unique and requires custom logistics solutions, yet the last thing large retailers, e-tailers, manufacturers and the likes want is for each city to have distinct interfaces and protocols

# Exploiting Hyperconnected On Demand Crowdsourced Delivery

People carrying modular containers between hubs using public transit, bicycles, cars, vans



Exploiting smartphone-based apps; Pickup packs at hub near departure

Deliver them at hub near arrival, making money; Others carry them in relay mode to destination

# Interconnect People Mobility & Freight Logistics Into, Within and Out of City



Source : [www.traconference.eu/papers/pdfs/TRA2014\\_Fom\\_29372.pdf](http://www.traconference.eu/papers/pdfs/TRA2014_Fom_29372.pdf)

### Interior variation

All interior space in "Uni Block" is made of composing space as making hexahedron to make application high. Also it is composed of many blocks instead car seats, so passengers can change space easily. Moreover, it has magnet inside of walls and blocks, so it is easy to stick figures that passengers want.











### Hidden interior Functions

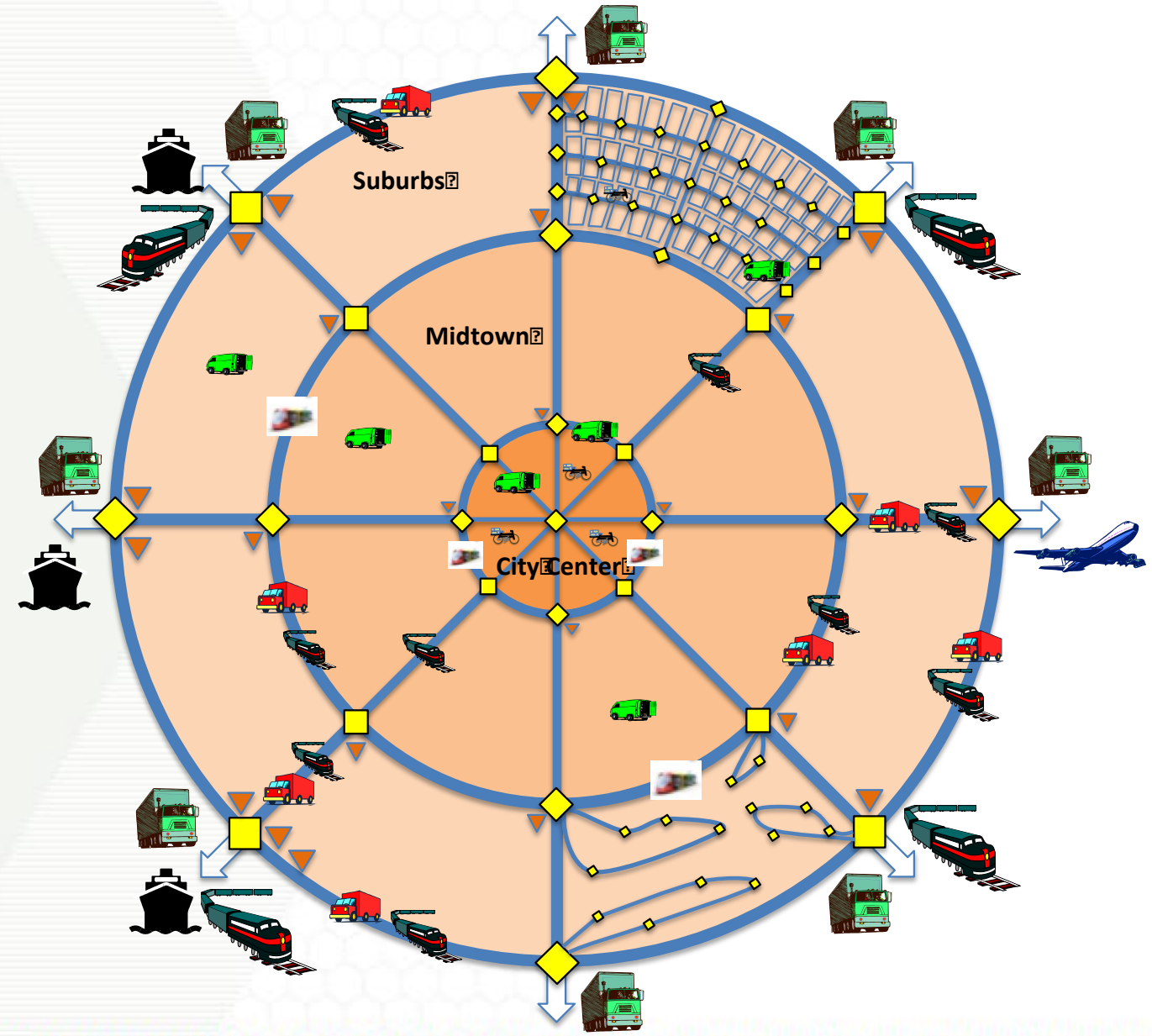
Passengers can control various functions and drive the car through Wi-Fi using the display. Also, passengers enjoy seeing movies and many entertainment contents

Source : [www.boldride.com/ride/2014/uniblock-by-jungu-lee](http://www.boldride.com/ride/2014/uniblock-by-jungu-lee)

Slide adapted from Durand A, N. Lavigne-Lefebvre, J.-F. Rougès, M. Carrier, C. Gagné, J. Mercier, B. Montreuil (2014), L'Électrification des Transports: Une Perspective québécoise, ITIS Research Report, Université Laval, Québec, Canada

# Hyperconnected City Logistics: Developing Urban Logistic Intranet

-  Bicycle, scooter, drone
-  Urban transporter, personal vehicle
-  Tramway, light rail, metrobus, barge
-  Urban truck
-  Long-distance vehicle
-  Train
-  Ship
-  Plane, airship
-  Urban hub
-  Open DC



Exploiting most zone-appropriate  $\pi$ -container transport, handling & storage modes, vehicles, means & facilities

Building on synergies between freight logistics and people mobility

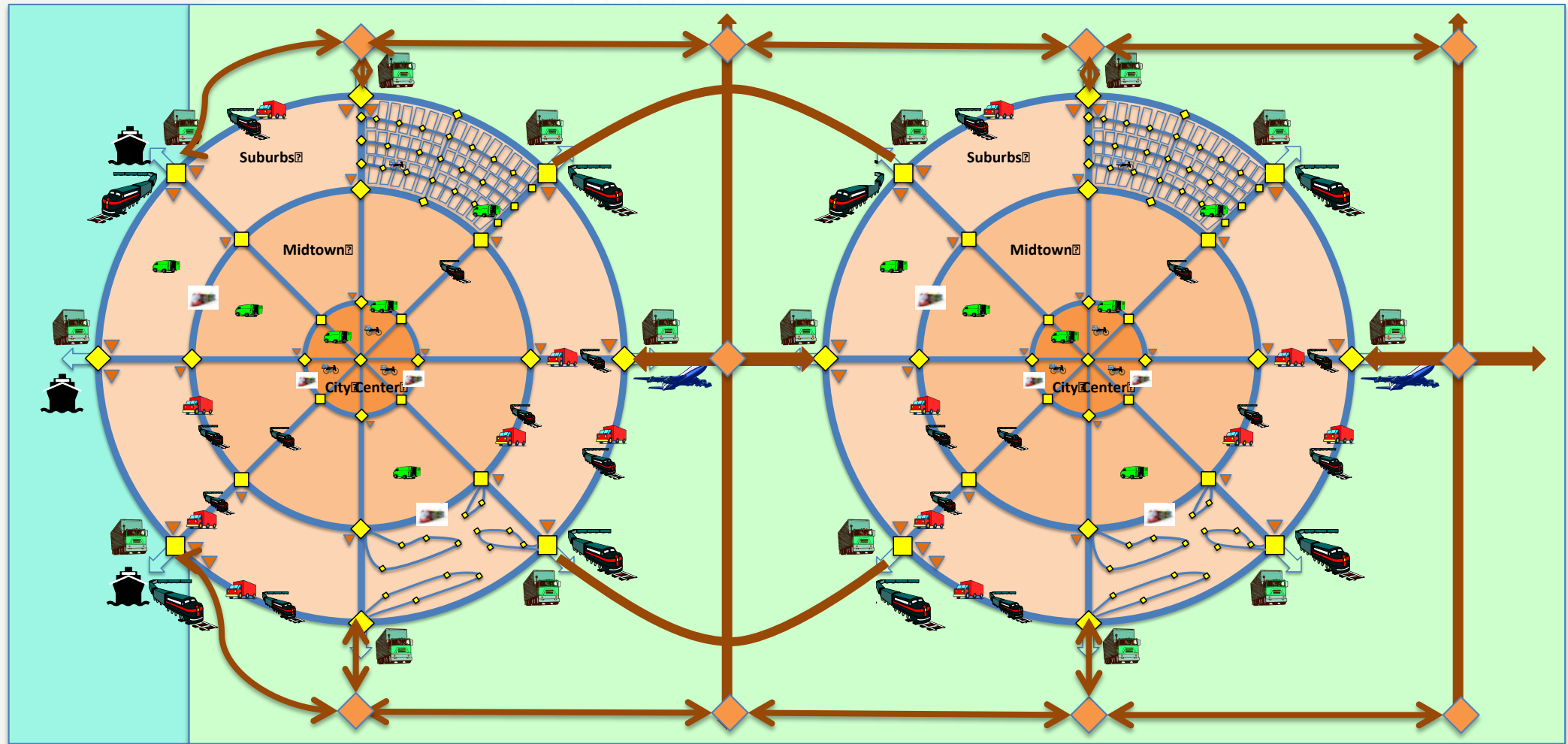
Aiming for gains in economic, environmental and societal efficiency, sustainability and service capability

Exploiting existing infrastructures (subway, tramway) and gradually developing innovative interconnected infrastructures

Adapted from: T. G. Crainic and B. Montreuil, "Physical internet enabled Hyperconnected City logistics," Transportation Research Procedia, vol. 12, pp. 383-398., 2016.

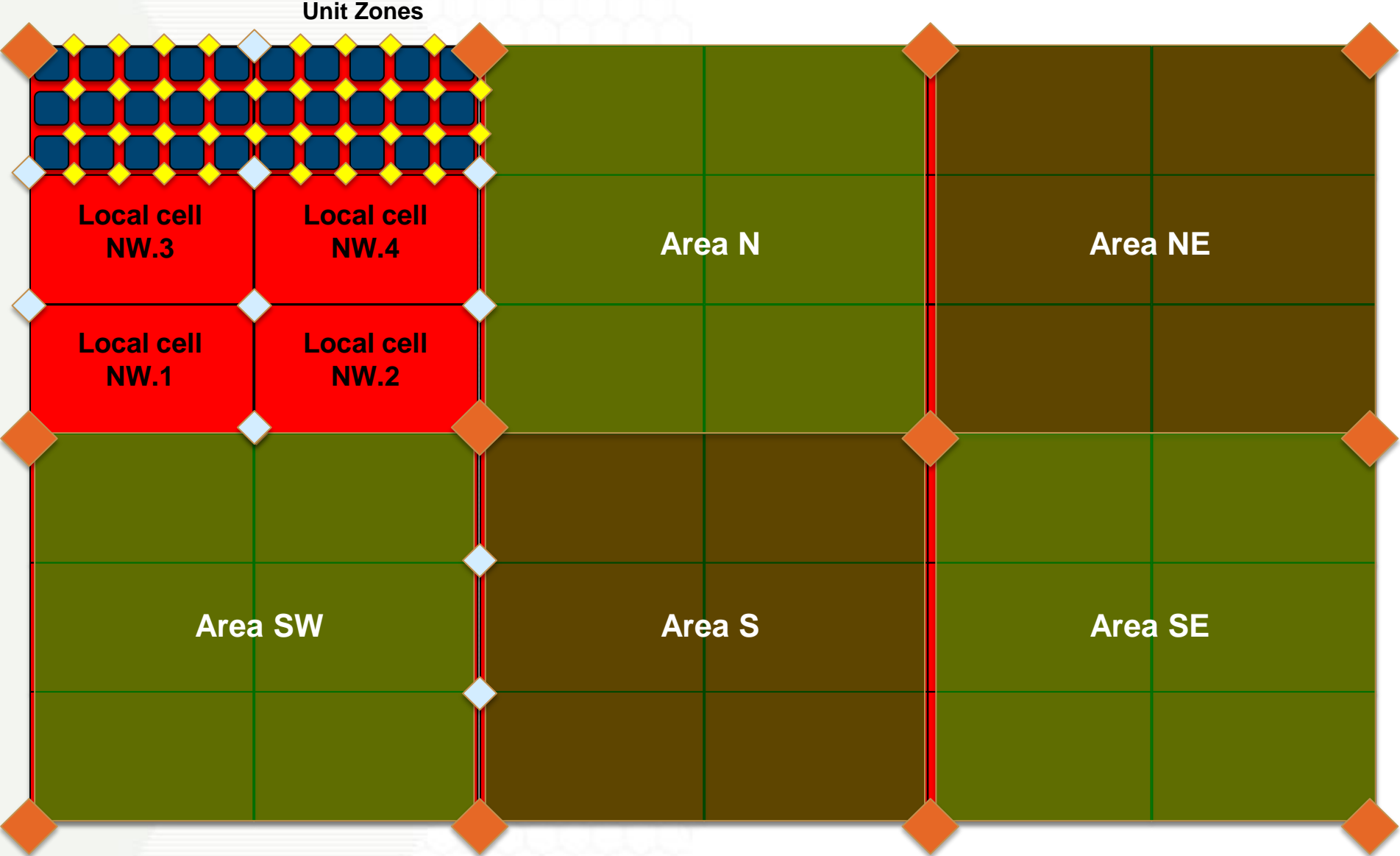
# Interconnecting Cities




Economic, Environmental, Societal Sustainability, Development and Innovation



Numerous Stakeholders: At the Core, Citizens (Quality of Life, Jobs, ...), Businesses (Ease to Do Business, ...), Logistics Hubs (Near & Far, Ease to Connect)

# Hyperconnected City Logistics: Urban Pixelization + Meshed Hub Networks



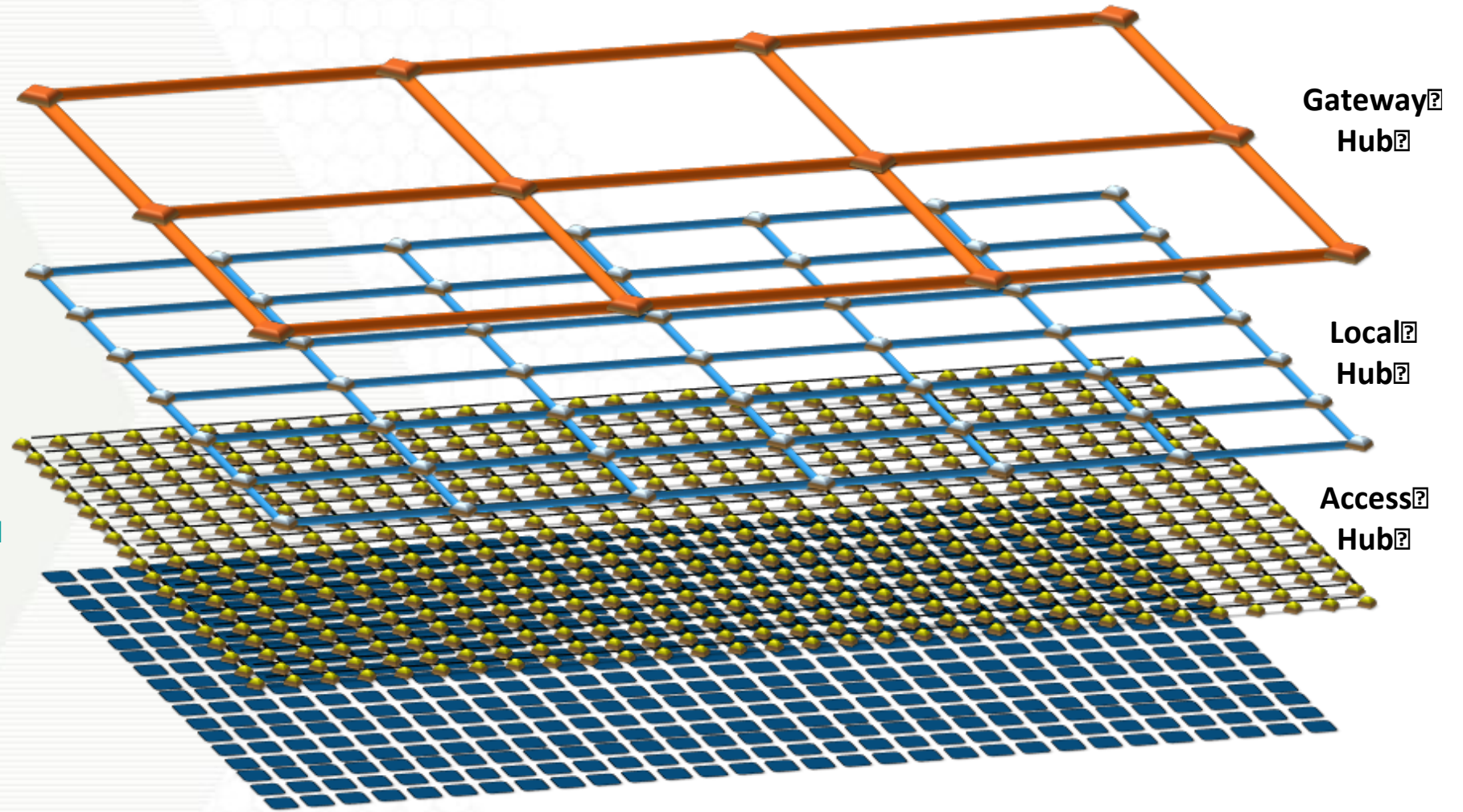
-  Access hub
-  Local hub
-  Gateway hub



# Hyperconnected City Logistics: Multi-Plane Urban Logistics Web

## Interconnected Meshed Hub Networks for Fast, Precise, Efficient, Reliable Delivery

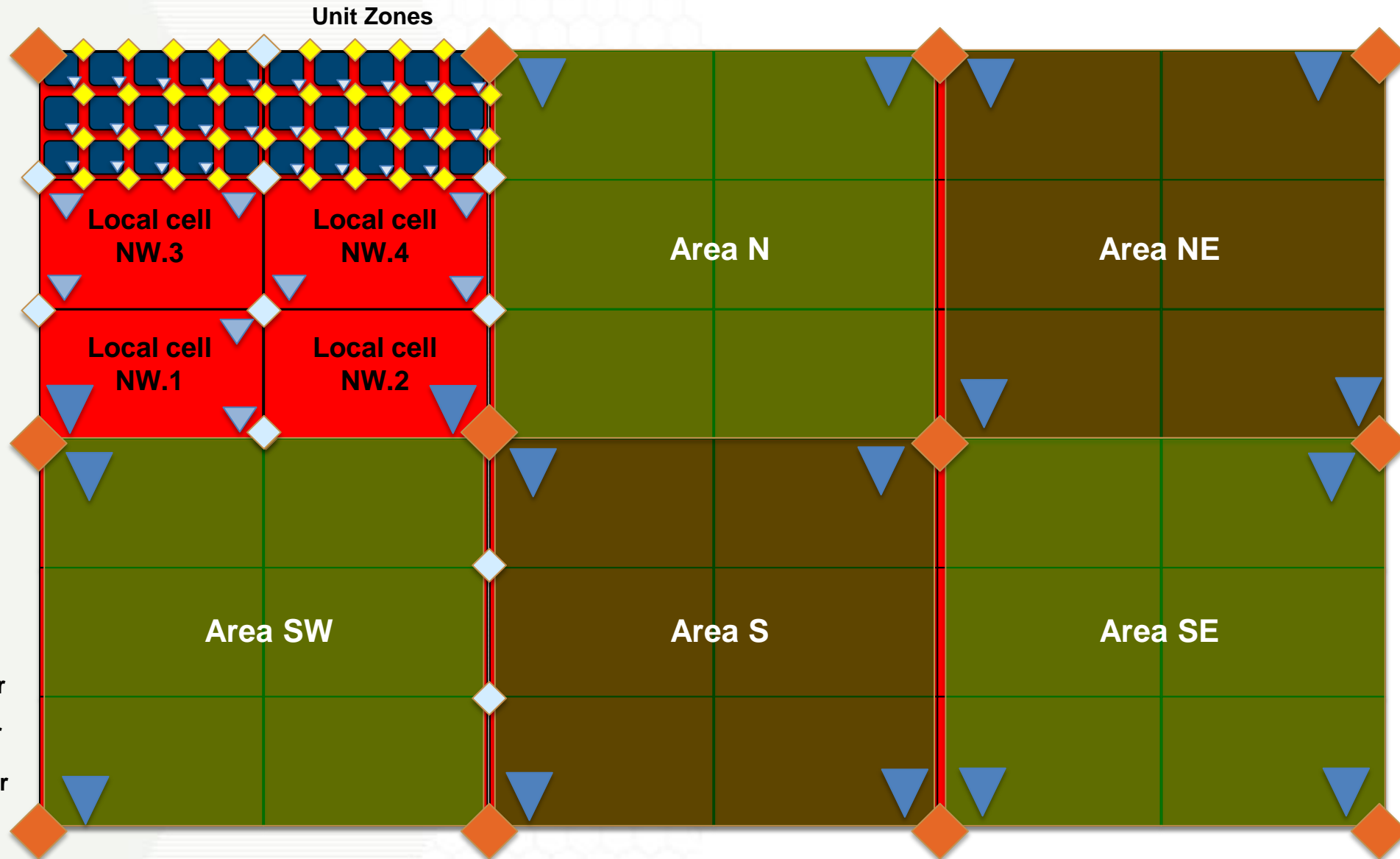
- Plane 3**  
**Inter-Area Network**  
Linking areas through gateway hubs
- Plane 2**  
**Inter-Cell Network**  
Linking local cells through local hubs
- Plane 1**  
**Inter-Zone Network**  
Linking unit zones through access hubs
- Plane 0**  
**Inter-P/D Network**  
Linking Pickup/Delivery locations



The meshed networks of adjacent planes are connected by inter-hub links

# Hyperconnected City Logistics: Meshed Hub & Fulfiller Networks

Proximity pre-positioning of products based on smart predictive analytics

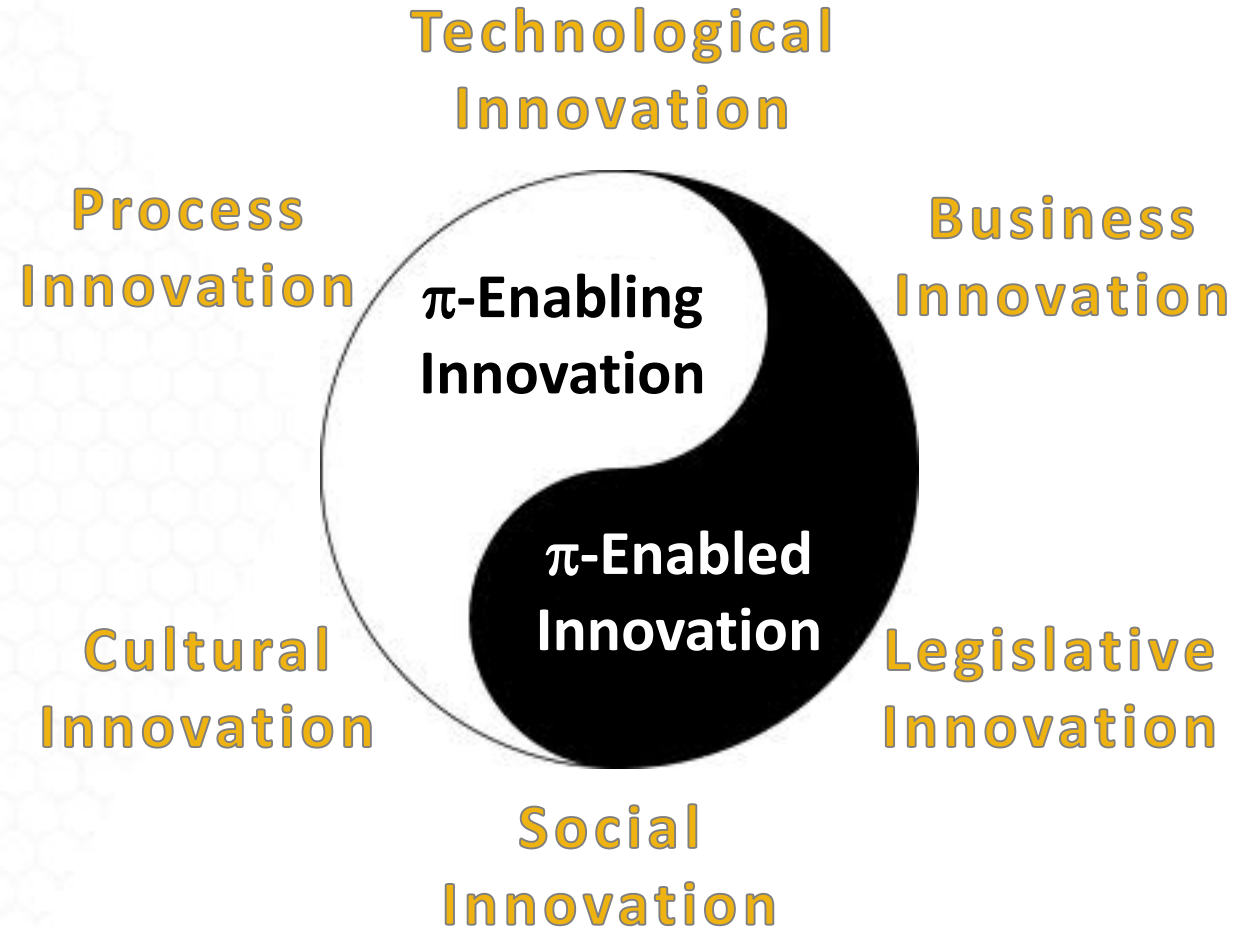
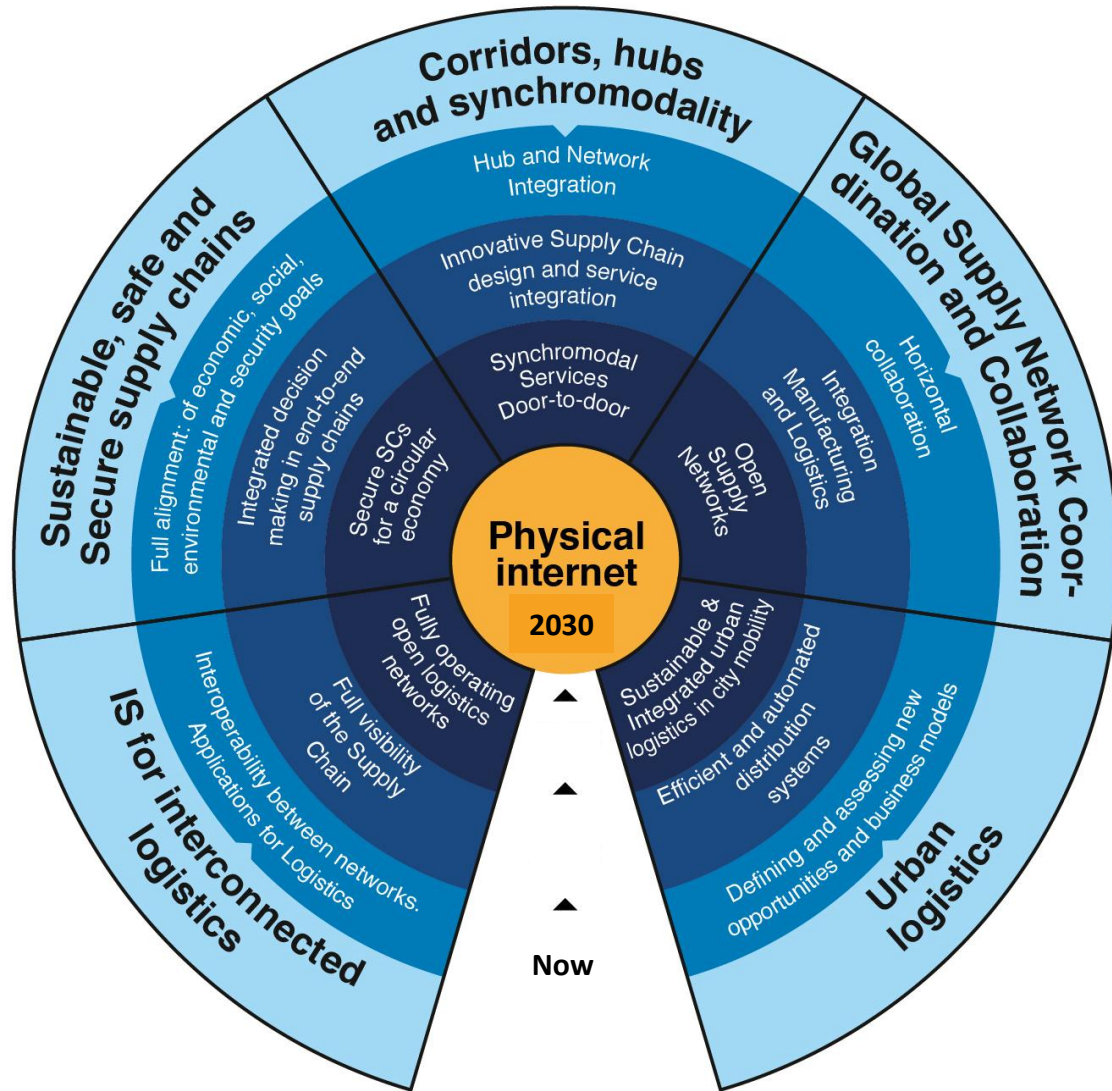


- ◆ Access hub
- ◆ Local hub
- ◆ Gateway hub
- ▽ Proxy Fulfiller
- ▽ Local Fulfiller
- ▽ Urban Fulfiller

B. Montreuil et al., "Urban Parcel Logistics Hub and Network Design: The Impact of Modularity and Hyperconnectivity", Proceedings of IMHRC 2018, to appear., 2018

# Innovation Driven Journey

Grasp Vision, Aim for Early Quick Wins, Act along Roadmap, Adapt to Evolving Landscape



Adapted from [www.etp-logistics.eu](http://www.etp-logistics.eu)

**Questions, comments, ideas are most welcome**

**Thanks!**

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