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The International Transportation Management Conference 2006
"Consolidation, Competition, Cost in Moving Freight"
Stephen Flott, Chairman & CEO - SeaBridge USA, Inc.
Houston, TX – Tuesday, February 28, 2006



Has consolidation improved efficiency?

Mergers and acquisitions in the shipping, rail and logistics industries have created a new landscape with greater economies of scale

ü Have shippers benefited?

ü Have shippers' direct transportation costs fallen?

ü Are the "all-in" costs actually higher?





Is improved efficiency or increased pricing power driving consolidation?

Shippers have enjoyed pricing power in key freight markets – *e.g.*, domestic trucking, international container movements

Competition forced carriers serving those markets to achieve high levels of service without increased freight rates, slicing margins

Supply chain management has pushed greater integration of services from origin to destination





The logistics paradigm has shifted

Supply chain management drives transportation decision making in 2006

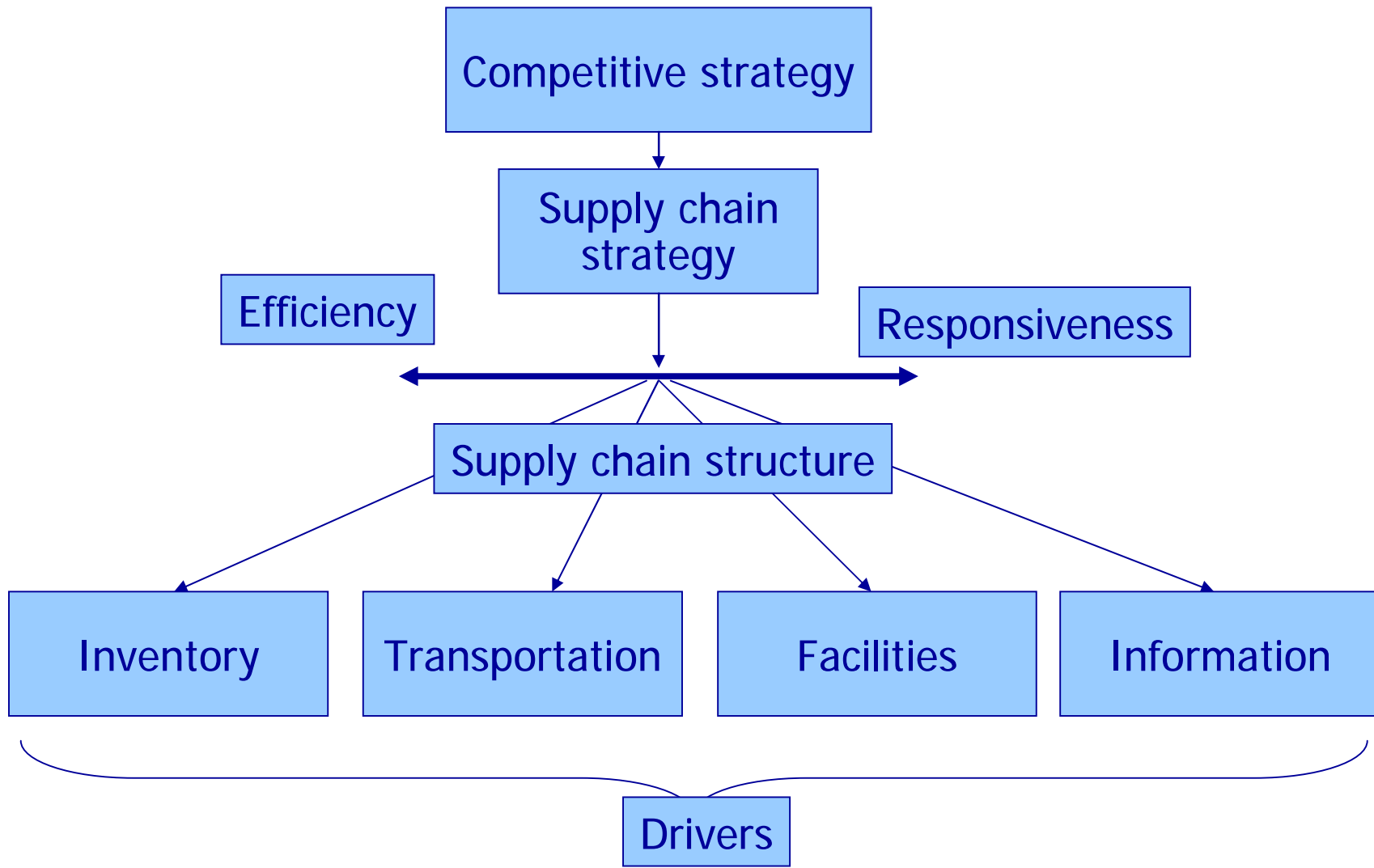
1980 - How much inventory do we have?

2006 - How fast is our inventory moving?



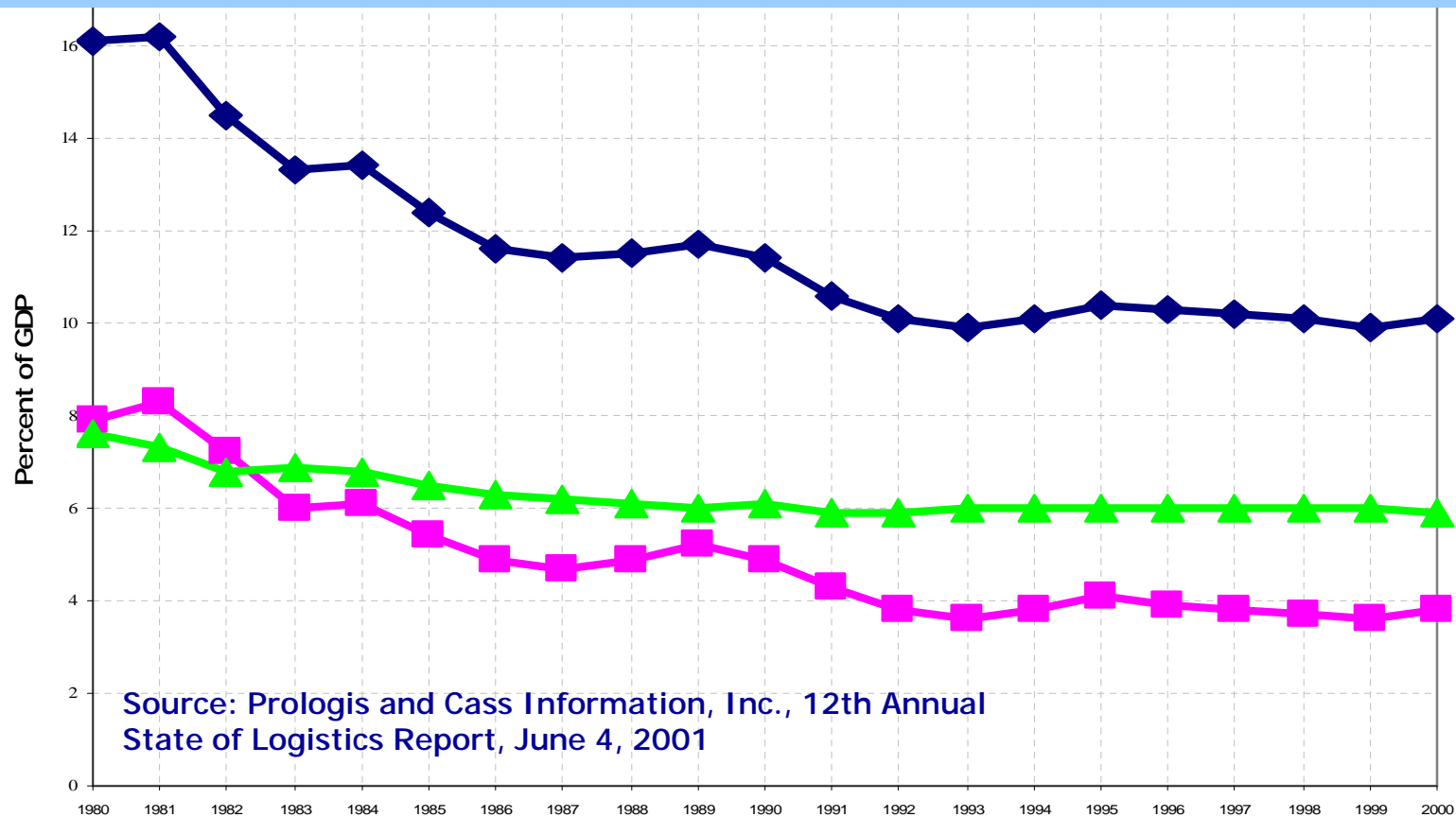


Turning America's Coastal Oceans into Sea Bridges





Logistics costs as a percent of US GDP



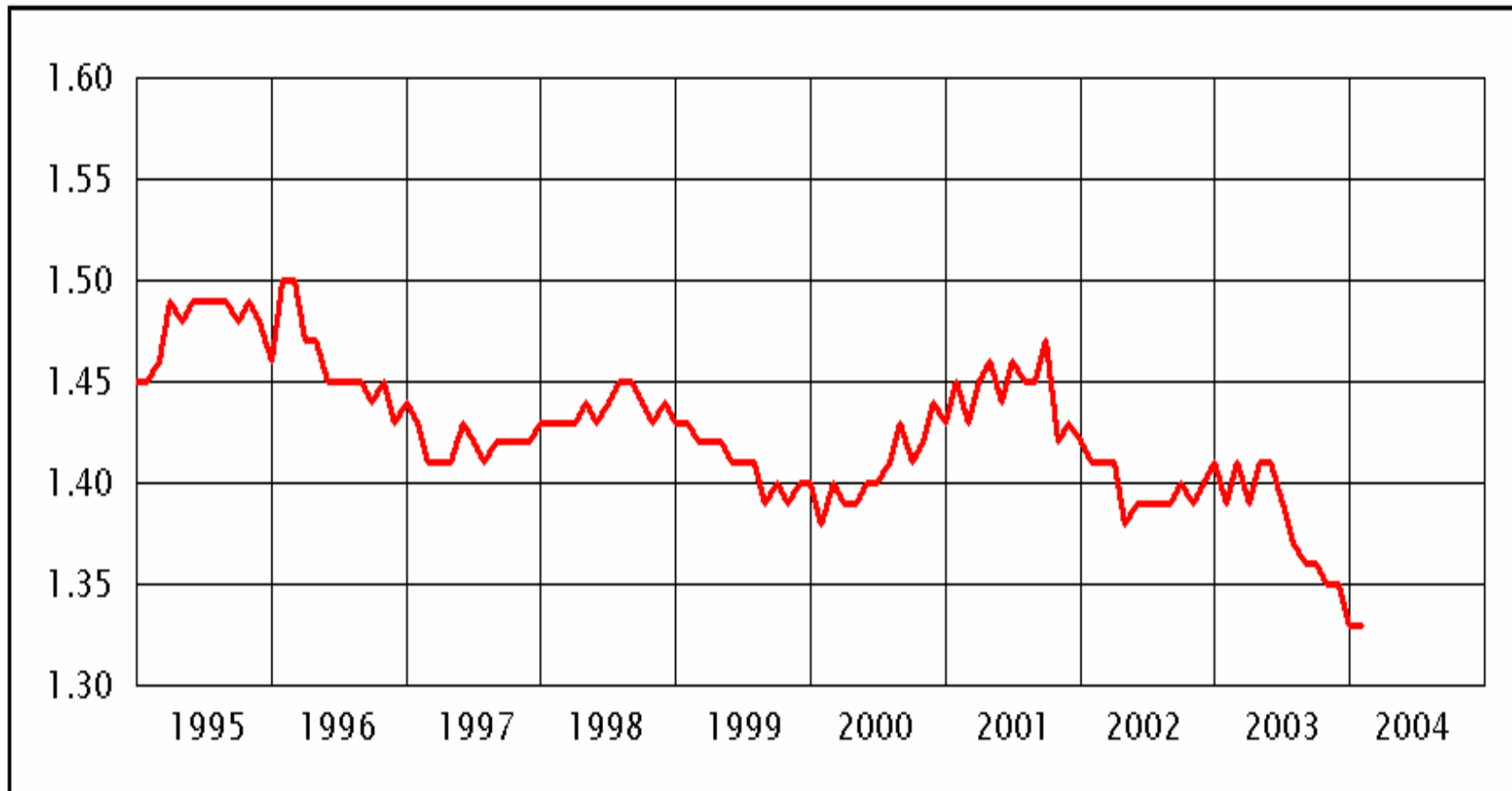
Source: Prologis and Cass Information, Inc., 12th Annual State of Logistics Report, June 4, 2001

◆ Total Logistics Costs ■ Inventory Costs ▲ Transportation Costs





Business inventory/sales ratios: 1995-2004



Source: www.census.gov/mtis/www/current.html





Is it consolidation that matters?

Capacity and supply chain integration – not consolidation alone – are shifting the balance of pricing power to carriers in key markets

Asset-based motor carriers, capable of managing and executing an integrated logistics plan, will command a premium and loyalty

Shippers will compete for their services





Eliminating costs is worth it

Historically, strategy was to shift costs to others in the supply chain

Service integration promotes efficiency by driving costs from the supply chain; logistics = IT

Consolidation and integration create value which carriers will now be better able to capture in their pricing





Capacity is KING; integration is QUEEN

Capacity, capacity, capacity; without it, supply chain management will revert to inventory management

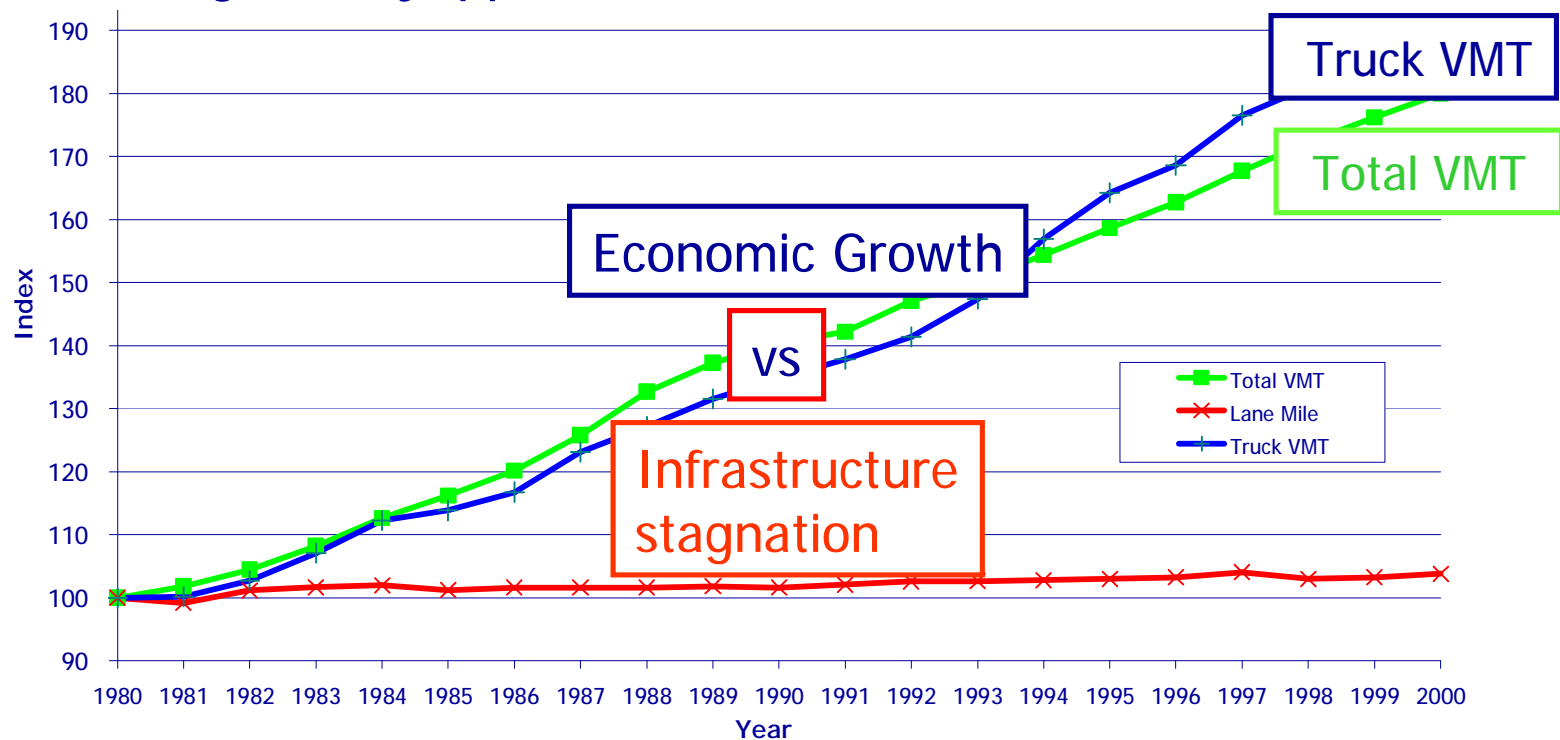
As capacity becomes more constrained, the value of integration is magnified





“One of the nation’s biggest challenges is closing the gap between the demand for transportation services and infrastructure capacity.”

The Freight Story, pp. 12-13, USDOT, November 2002

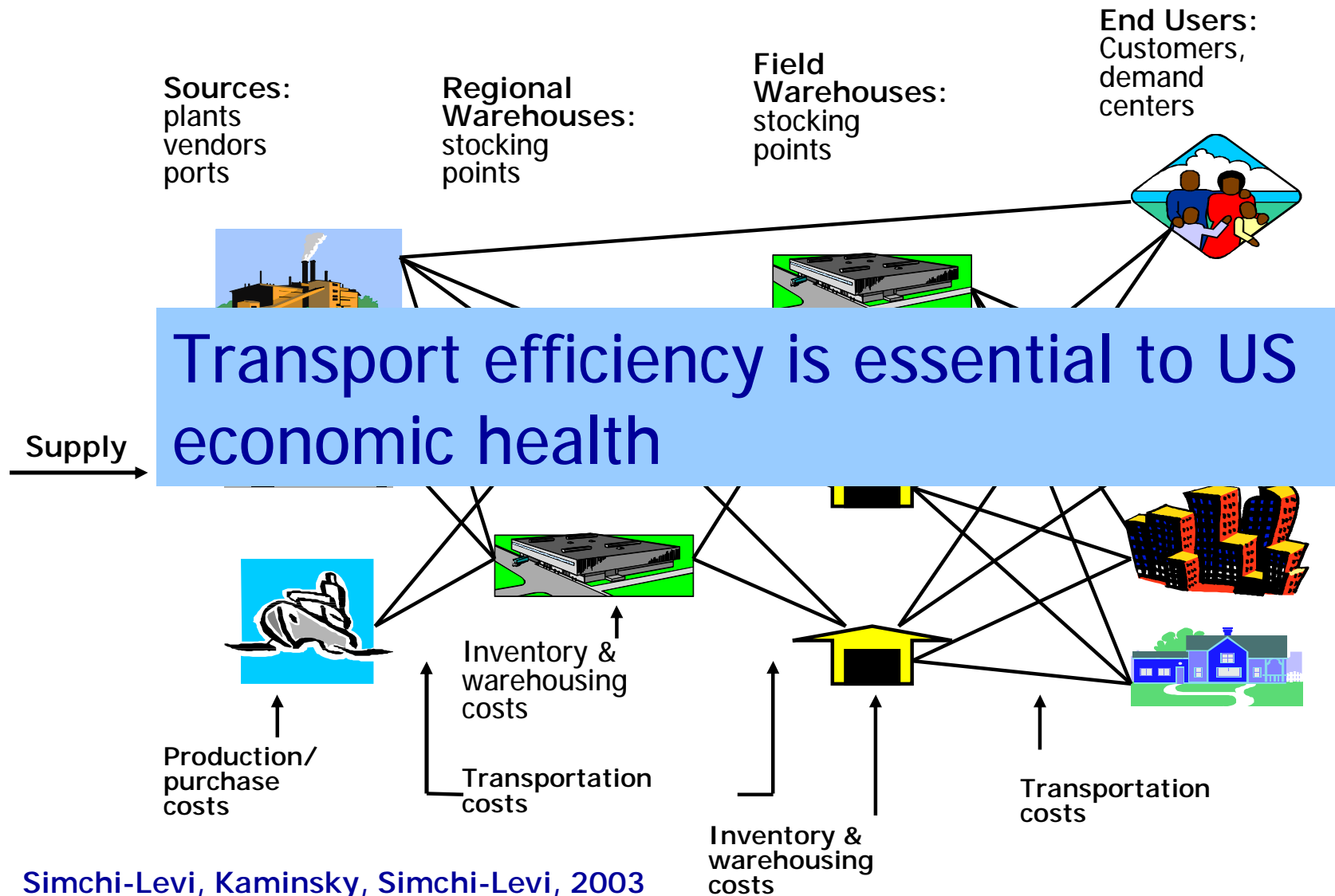


Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Highway Statistics (Washington, DC: Various years).





Turning America's Coastal Oceans into Sea Bridges



Simchi-Levi, Kaminsky, Simchi-Levi, 2003





Tax policies that promote economic growth without addressing infrastructure capacity do not make sense

Economic growth creates demand; demand stresses capacity of existing infrastructure

Constrained capacity increases supply chain costs, affecting pricing throughout the chain

Smart tax policy ensures that capacity grows in line with economic growth

