



Analysis of Freight Flows for Transportation Planning

How can Transearch (Reebie)
data on commodity flows be used
for freight planning?

(Nashville, 2/25/2005)



Levels of Planning

- National/International
- Statewide/Regional
- MPO/Local



At National/International Level

- Issues: Trade surplus/deficit; delay at seaports; delay along domestic transportation networks; security, etc.
- Demand Related Data Needs:
 - Exports and imports (commodities in Tons and Dollars)
 - Marine containers at seaports (Numbers)
 - Commodity flows between states/regions



At Statewide/Regional Level

- Issues:
 - Economic development
 - Strengthening economic base of the state
 - Finding state's 'niche' in economic activities
 - Traffic congestion along major corridors
 - Modal diversion of freight, e.g., highway to rail
 - Access to major freight terminals



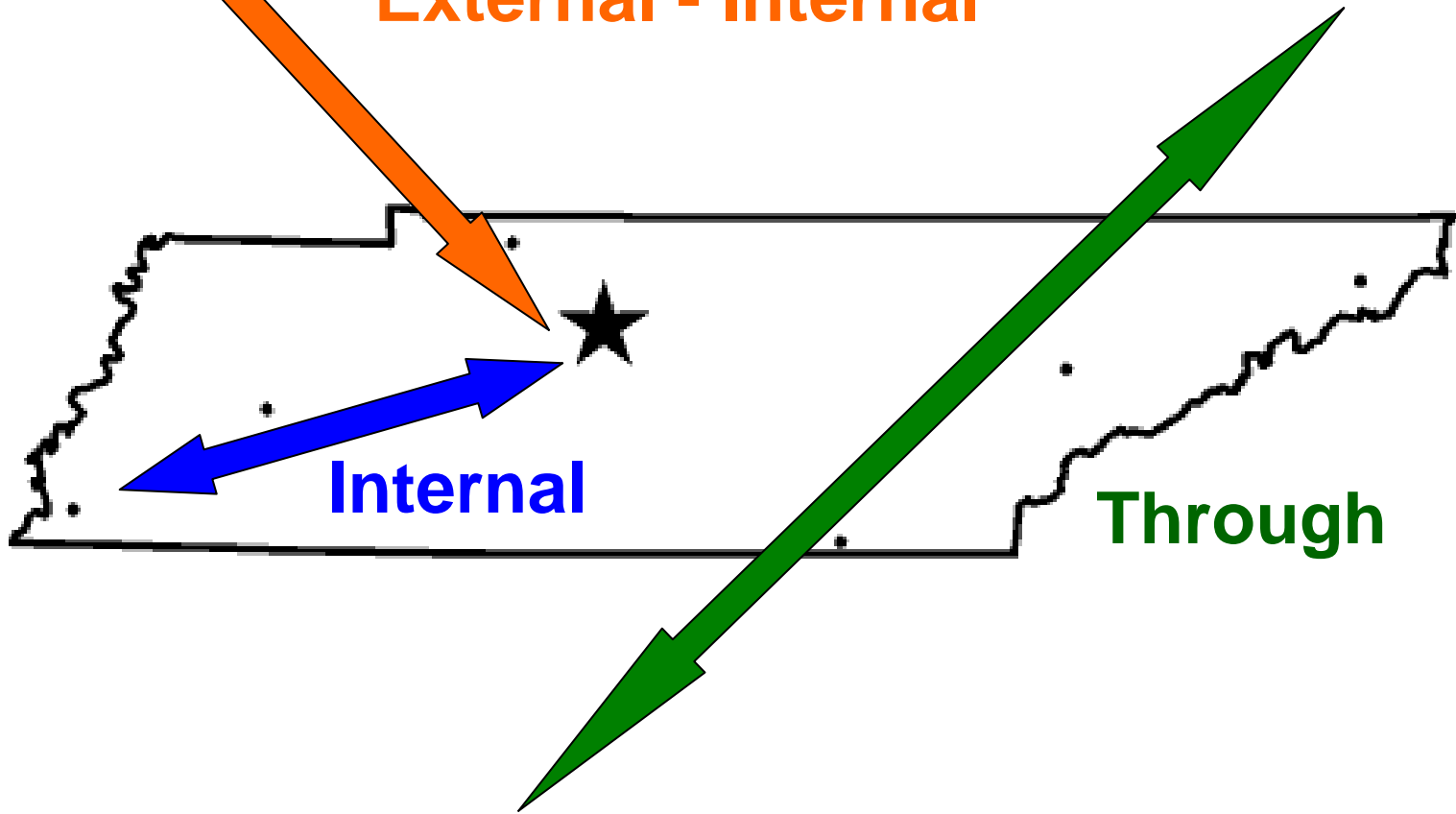
State Level (Continued)

- Demand Related Data Needs:
 - Commodity flows in/out of state (Reebie data)
 - Commodity flows between regions/counties within state (Reebie data)
 - Commodity and truck flows along major corridors including through flows (can be estimated using Reebie data?)
 - Truck traffic on access roads of freight terminals (Reebie data will not be helpful)



Q-D Patterns

External - Internal



Internal

Through



At MPO Level

- Issues:
 - Economic development
 - Finding area's 'niche' in economic activities
 - Truck traffic along major corridors
 - Truck traffic at specific intersections and road segments
 - Freight terminal location/access (intermodal connectors)



MPO Level (Continued)

- Demand Related Data Needs:
 - Commodity flows in/out of MPO area (Reebie data)
 - Truck flows along major corridors including through trips (Reebie data may be helpful in some ways?)
 - Truck traffic volumes at specific locations (Reebie data will not be helpful)



Remarks

- 'Reebie' data are useful for macro level planning for addressing statewide, regional and corridor oriented issues.
- The data is not 100 percent accurate since it is based on sample data from several different sources.
- It is very difficult to get commodity flow data from private companies. This is the best source of commodity flow data at this time.