

Dispatching and Beyond



Free Dispatcher Course

For Kyrgyz community entering
the US Trucking Industry

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6. Planning: Optimizing Your Operations

Why Planning Matters

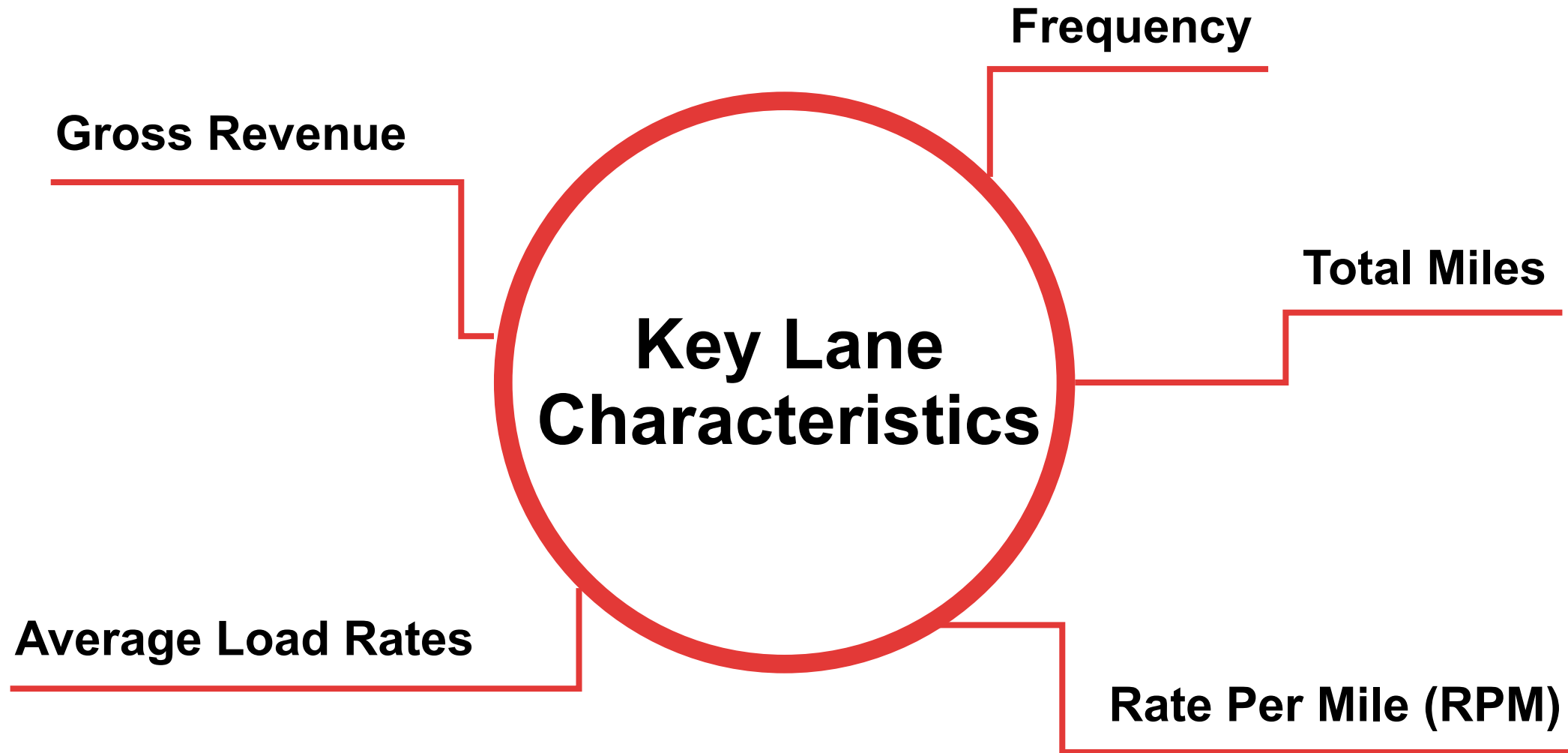
- Informs drivers of upcoming work
- Manages multiple trucks efficiently
- Develops optimal routes

- Improves overall work quality
- Responds quickly to changes
- Reduces downtime and waiting for loads
- Enhances operational stability and predictability

- Avoids empty miles and deadhead trips
- Selects the right trailer and driver for each load
- Prepares necessary load requirements in advance



KEY ASPECTS



Planning Essentials

Driver's Role in Load Planning:

- Clear agreement between dispatcher and driver
- Discuss potential scenarios and plan deviations
- Stick to the plan; highlight key dates and non-routine trips
- Adapt plans to fit the driver's preferences and capabilities

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Market Analysis:

- Identify states best suited for your trailer type
- Understand rate trends and seasonal variations
- Know how to navigate out of states with low demand
- Recognize market zones that provide sufficient miles

Route Planning Steps

**Define Point A
(start) and Point B
(destination)**

01

**Set timelines
for achieving goals
(miles, gross, RPM)**

02

Check ELD balance

03

**Identify best lanes
or next loads**

04

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**Identify best lanes
or next loads**

04

**Prepare
alternative
routes**

05

**Minimize
deadhead miles**

06

**Avoid gaps
between
pickups and
deliveries**

07

**Ensure the plan
suits the driver**

08

**Position the driver
in areas with good
follow-up load
opportunities**

09

Building the Load Plan



**Note states and loads to avoid
(e.g., specific cargo types)**

**Define the start point, date,
and estimated on-road duration**

Establish the endpoint of the route



Review load boards and driver profiles

**Calculate potential weekly miles
(e.g., 3,500 miles)**

Assess ELD availability for the work period

Set a target rate per mile above market average

Be Ready for Changes:

- **Adapt plans quickly when unexpected situations arise.**
- **Always have a backup plan.**
- **Anticipate market and route changes.**

Essential Dispatcher Skills:

- **Flexibility:** Adjust plans swiftly.
- **Problem-Solving:** Handle deviations calmly.
- **Communication:** Keep drivers informed.
- **Support:** Motivate and guide drivers.