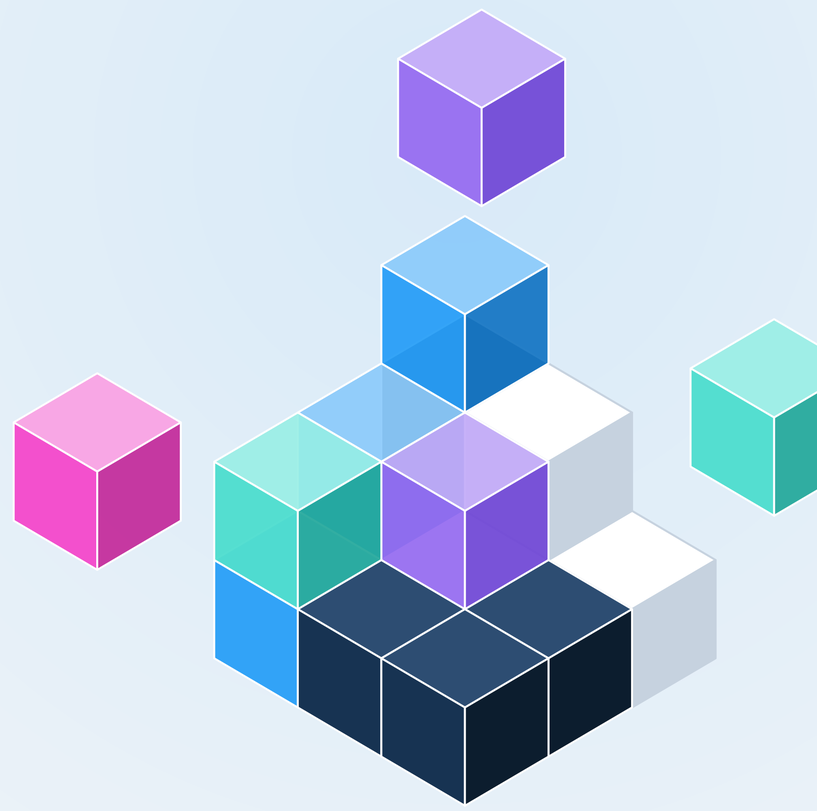
SUPPLY CHAIN & LOGISTICS

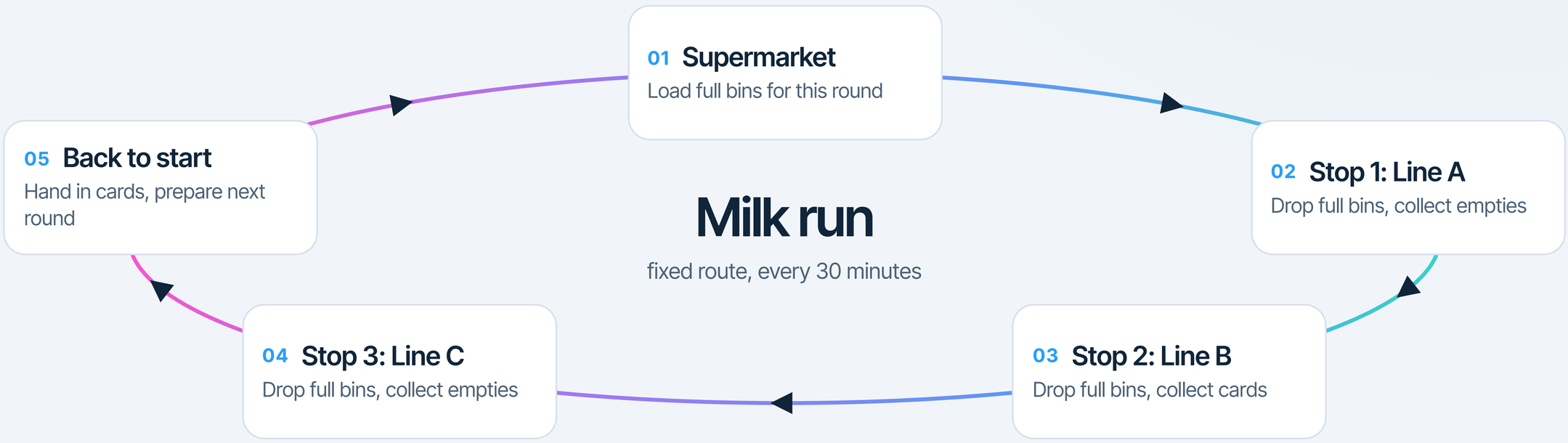
Milk Run Logistics

A milk run is a scheduled delivery loop that serves several stops on a fixed route and timetable, delivering full bins and collecting empties and kanban signals.



01 THE CORE MODEL

LOOP ROUTE · FIXED STOPS, FIXED CYCLE



Fixed route

The same stops in the same order every round.

Fixed cycle time

Rounds start at set intervals, for example every 30 or 60 minutes.

Exchange

Full bins delivered, empty bins and kanban cards collected.

02 WHY MILK RUNS

Frequent small deliveries replace sporadic large ones.

ON CALL — MILK RUN

FORKLIFT ON CALL

- Irregular, large deliveries
- Line-side stock piles up
- Drivers react to calls all day

SCHEDULED MILK RUN

+ Small, frequent, predictable supply
+ Less line-side stock and space
+ Pull signals collected every round

03 WORKED EXAMPLE

ASSEMBLY HALL · TUGGER TRAIN EVERY 30 MINUTES

ROUTE
3 lines, 9 stops
one loop

→

CYCLE
30 min
fixed start times

→

LOAD
Per kanban
cards from the last round

→

EFFECT
Less line stock
bins sized to the cycle

04 MANAGEMENT TAKEAWAYS

01
Size bins to the cycle
Line-side stock should cover one or two rounds, not a whole shift.

02
Fix the timetable
Predictable rounds let lines plan and cut calls.

03
Carry signals on every round
Collect kanban cards at each stop to drive replenishment.

05 COMMON MISTAKE

LIMITATION
Running it as a taxi service
Extra trips on request break the cycle and bring back the old chaos.