

► DELIVER THE GOODS

The schematic diagram on the right shows the minimum distance between every combination of locations in Gridlock City. For example, the shortest taxicab distance between the red “3” and the red “5” is six blocks, so we label that line with a yellow 6.

The problem now becomes: Visit every red dot in a loop, collecting the smallest total of yellow numbers possible. Via a little trial and error, you’ll find the shortest solution is 26 blocks long, as shown by the arrows on the diagram.

By analogy, the best route on the original diagram is to visit the locations in this order: 1, 5, 6, 2, 3, 4, and back to 1. As we’ve already seen, there are many different “shortest” routes you could take that follow this route.

