



Marine Highway M-65: Paducah and Knoxville to the Port of Mobile, with the Black Warrior to Birmingham. Dashed lines: connections to M-55 at Cairo, Illinois and M-10 in the Gulf.

Site Selector Toolkit

*A concise guide to the
Tennessee-Tombigbee
Waterway and Marine
Highway M-65.*

The corridor

Corridor maps: rail, interstates, airports, ports, locks

Why water freight

Site selection advantages

Find a site and who to call

One corridor, five river systems, four states.

The Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway anchors Marine Highway M–65, a corridor of over 1,300 miles connecting five river systems across four states, with direct access to the Port of Mobile.

1,364

Statute miles on M–65

The full federally designated route.

234

Miles of the Tenn–Tom

The ten–lock heart of M–65.

116

Counties in four states

Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee.

800

Miles closer to the Gulf

For interior shippers.

17

Ports and terminals

On the Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway.

2010

Designated by MARAD

TTWDA is the route's official sponsor.

TENNESSEE RIVER

The entire river, Paducah, Kentucky to Knoxville, Tennessee

BLACK WARRIOR RIVER

Demopolis to the Port of Birmingham

CONNECTIONS

M–10 at Mobile · M–55 at Cairo, Illinois

TENNESSEE–TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

234 miles, ten locks, 341 feet of total lift

TOMBIGBEE AND MOBILE RIVERS

South to the Port of Mobile and the Gulf

LANDSIDE

Interstate 65 corridor

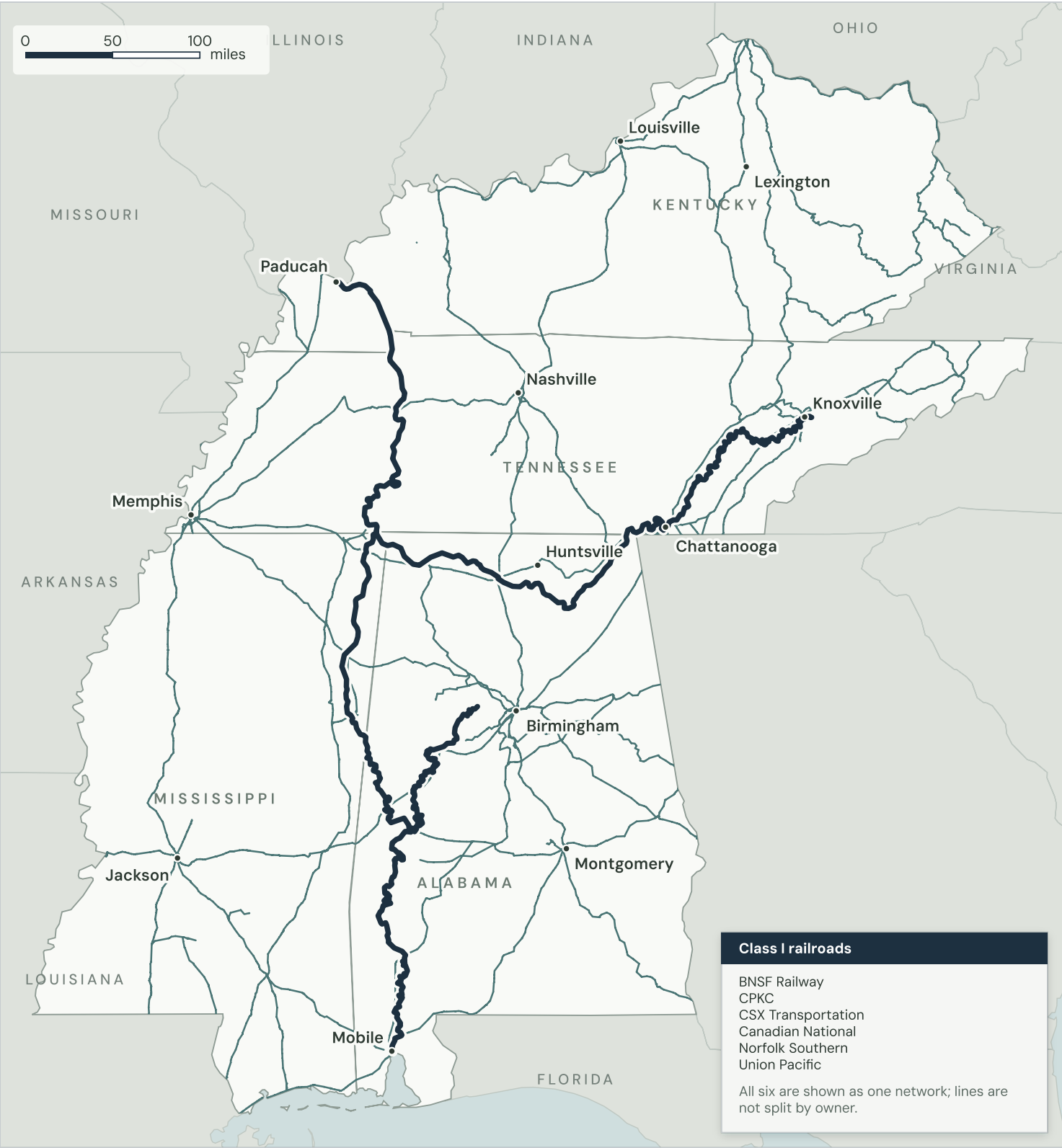
Route and length: U.S. Maritime Administration, M–65 route sheet (December 2025). Ports and terminals: Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway only.

Rail



Class I railroads in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee

— Marine Highway M-65 — Class I railroad

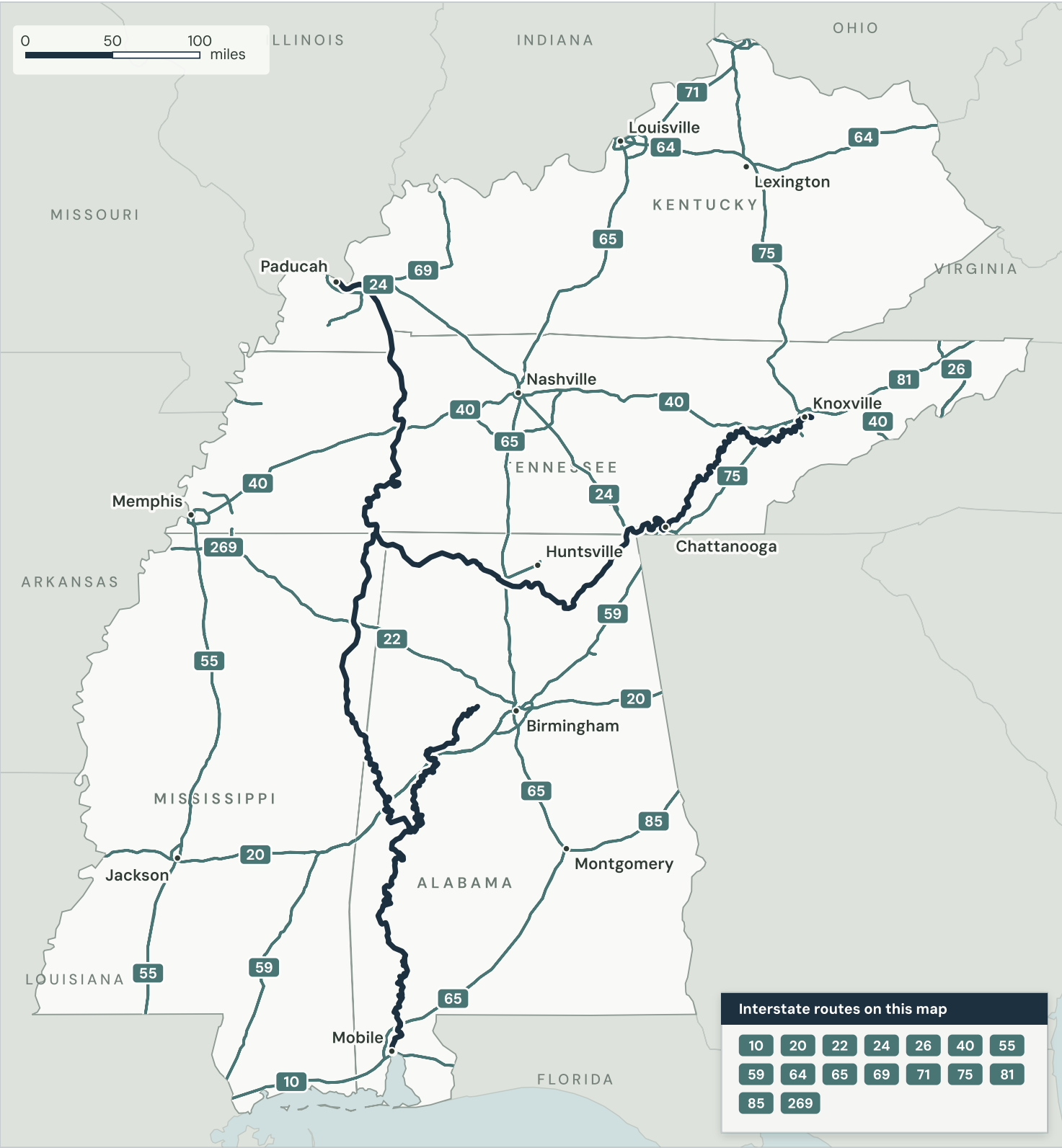


Interstates



Interstate highways in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee

— Marine Highway M-65 65 Interstate highway and route number

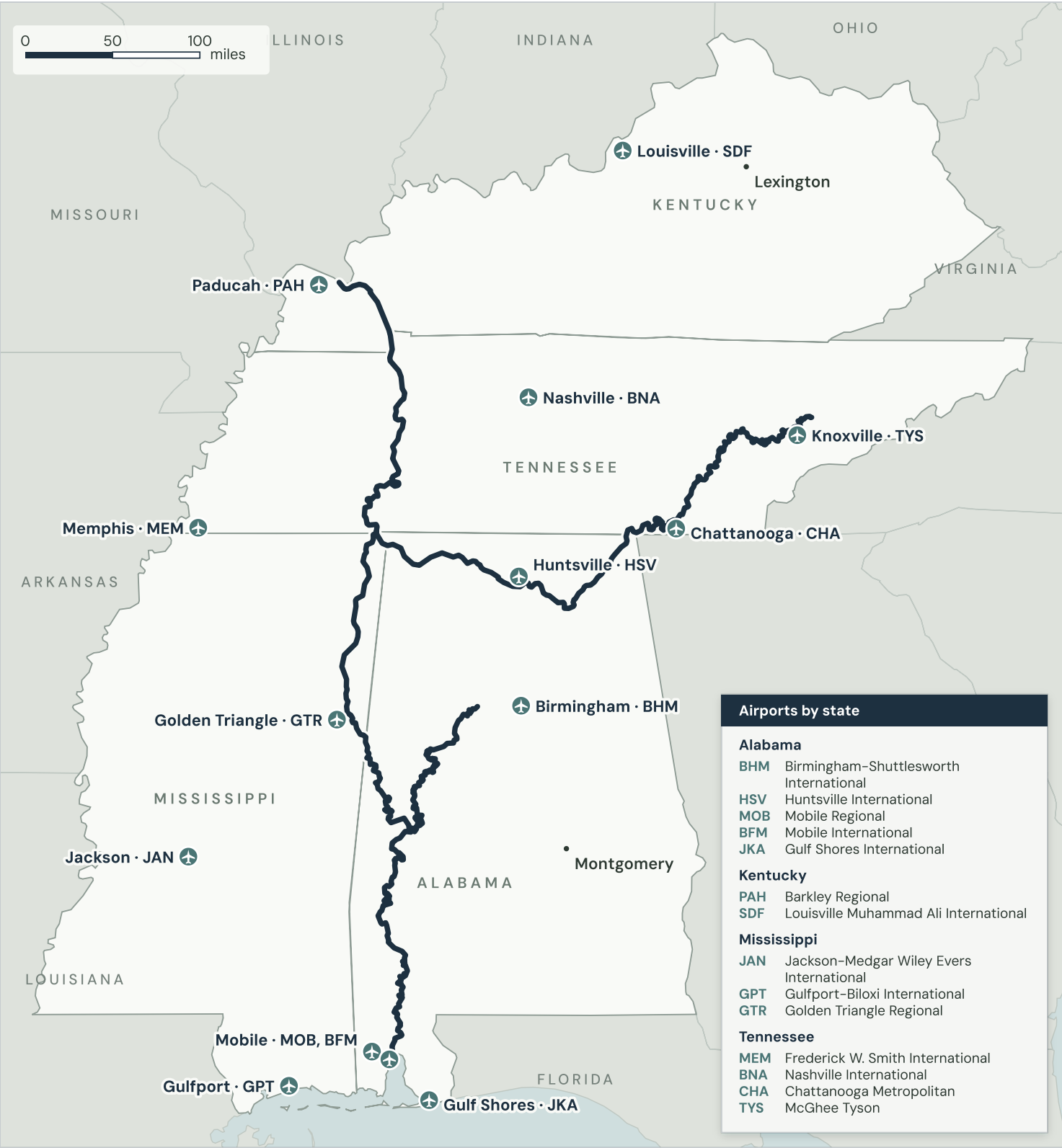


Major airports



Fourteen commercial-service airports serving the corridor

— Marine Highway M-65 ✈ Commercial-service airport, labeled by city and airport code



Ports and terminals

38 ports and terminals at 32 numbered locations

— Marine Highway M-65 — Other navigable rivers ① Port or terminal, numbered in the key



Tennessee River

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Paducah-McCracken County Riverport | 4 Hardin County Port | 10 Port of Nickajack |
| 2 Bailey Port, Inc. | 5 Port of Florence | 11 JIT Chemical Corporation |
| Hollywood Transload Terminal | 6 Mallard-Fox Creek River Port | Mid-South Terminals |
| Calvert City Marine Terminal | 7 Port of Decatur | Centre South Riverport |
| 3 Herbert Sangravl Co. | 8 Port of Gunterville Bulk Handling Terminal | 12 Tellico Public Use Terminal |
| | 9 Bridgeport | 13 Burkhart Enterprises |

Locks



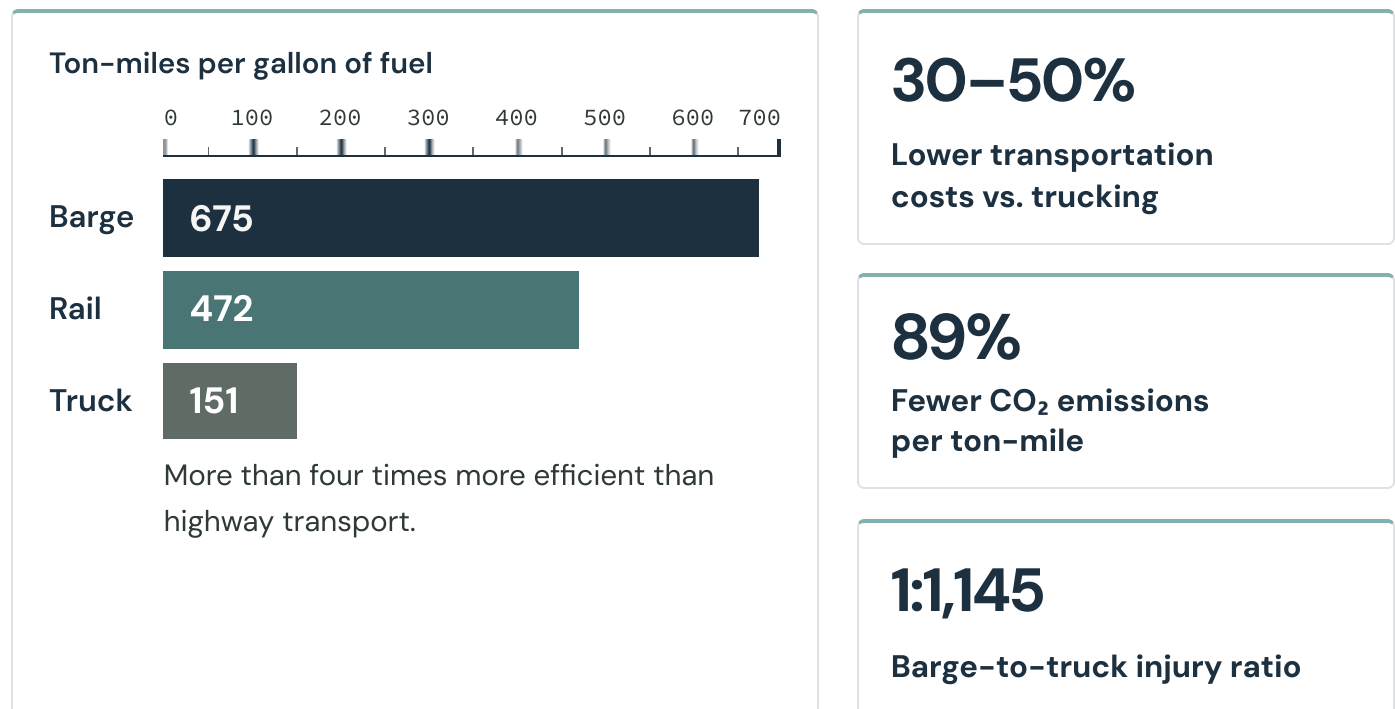
The 25 locks on Marine Highway M-65, with river miles

— Marine Highway M-65 | ④ Lock, numbered in the key



Why water freight.

One 8-barge tow carries what about 560 trucks carry.



Source: National Waterways Foundation / Texas A&M Transportation Institute, A Modal Comparison of Domestic Freight Transportation Effects on the General Public: 2001–2019 (January 2022).

Site selection advantages.

Multimodal access

Waterway-connected sites with access to rail, highways, and the Gulf.

Economic development connections

TTWDA connects site selectors with local partners for site-specific information.

Quality of place

Boating, fishing, public lands, and communities along the waterway.

Find a site. Start a conversation.

Featured industrial sites with water, rail, and highway access are on the interactive map. TTWDA makes the local introductions.

Interactive map

Industrial sites, ports, rail, and highways across the corridor.

tenntom.org/map

Economic Development Partners

An introduction to state, regional, and local development partners.

tenntom.org/develop/partners

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority

ttw@tenntom.org · 662.328.3286 · P.O. Drawer 671, Columbus, MS 39703

tenntom.org

ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Commerce

madeinalabama.com

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

ced.ky.gov

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Development Authority

mississippi.org

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development

tnecd.com