TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

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

TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

234 miles, ten locks, 341 feet of total lift

BLACK WARRIOR RIVER

Demopolis to the Port of Birmingham

TOMBIGBEE AND MOBILE RIVERS

South to the Port of Mobile and the Gulf

CONNECTIONS

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

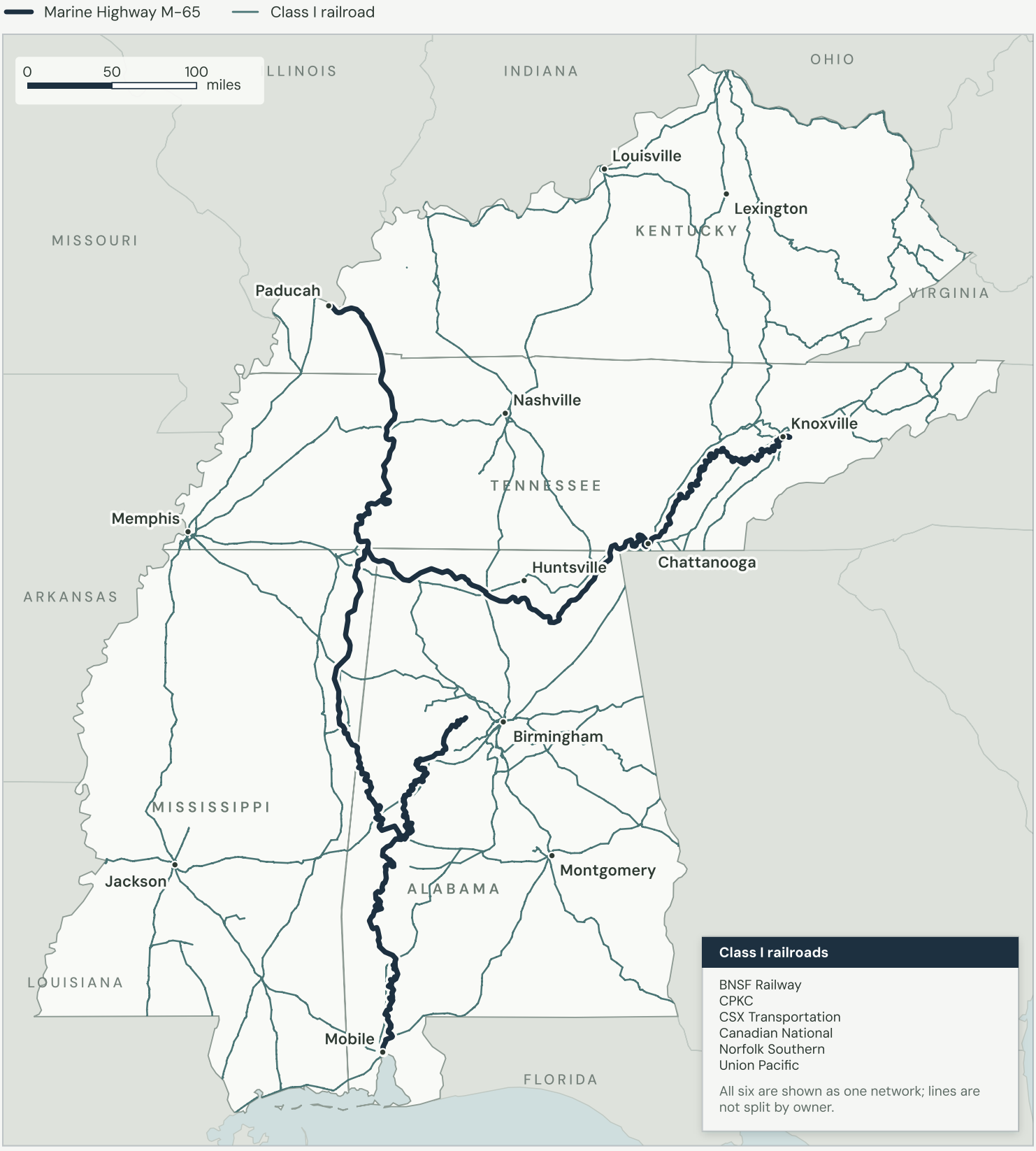
LANDSIDE

Interstate 65 corridor

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

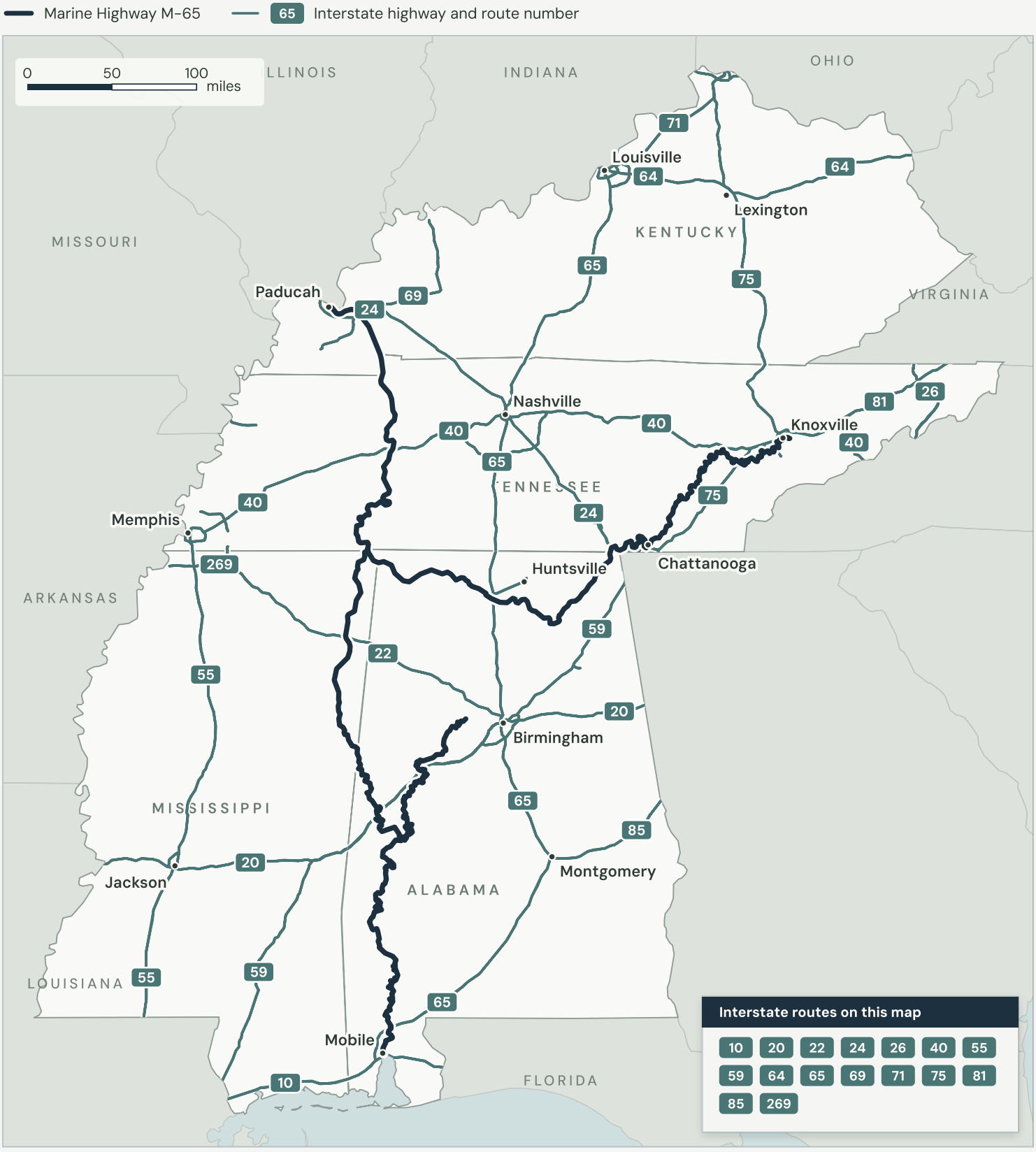
Rail

Class I railroads in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee



Interstates

Interstate highways in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee



Major airports

Fourteen commercial-service airports serving the corridor

Airports by state

Alabama

BHM	Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International
HSV	Huntsville International
MOB	Mobile Regional
BFM	Mobile International
JKA	Gulf Shores International

Kentucky

PAH	Barkley Regional
SDF	Louisville Muhammad Ali International

Mississippi

JAN	Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International
GPT	Gulfport-Biloxi International
GTR	Golden Triangle Regional

Tennessee

MEM	Frederick W. Smith International
BNA	Nashville International
CHA	Chattanooga Metropolitan
TYS	McGhee Tyson

Ports and terminals

39 ports and terminals at 33 numbered locations

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

Ports by waterway

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway

17 Yellow Creek Inland Port
18 Port of Itawamba
19 Port of Amory
20 Port of Aberdeen
21 Port of Clay
22 Lowndes County Industrial Port
23 Pickens County Port
24 Bevill-Hook Port
Aliceville River Terminal
25 Crossroads of America Port
26 Port of Epes

Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers

27 Port Birmingham
Birmingham Marine Terminal
28 Tuscaloosa County Riverport
29 Demopolis Port

Gulf Coast

30 Port of Gulfport
31 Port of Pascagoula
32 Port of Mobile
33 Port of Pensacola

Ohio, Mississippi, Cumberland Rivers

14 Four Rivers Marine Terminal
15 West Kentucky Regional Riverport
16 Lyon County Port

Tennessee River

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

Locks

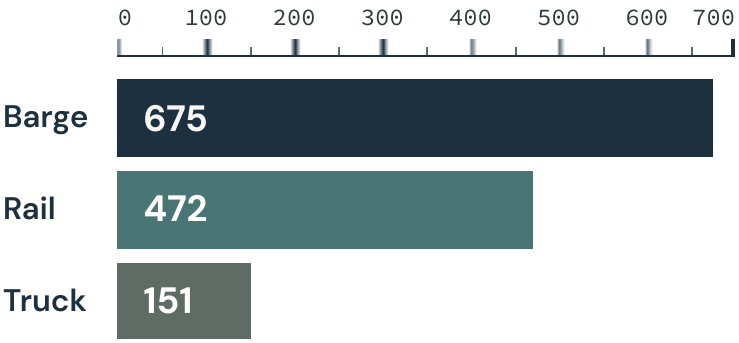
The 25 locks on Marine Highway M-65, with river miles

Locks	river mile
Tennessee River	
1 Kentucky	22.4
2 Pickwick	206.7
3 Wilson	259.4
4 Wheeler	274.9
5 Guntersville	349
6 Nickajack	424.7
7 Chickamauga	471
8 Watts Bar	529.9
9 Fort Loudoun	602.3
Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway	
10 Whitten	411.9
11 G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery	406.7
12 John Rankin	398.4
13 Fulton	391
14 Glover Wilkins	376.3
15 Thad Cochran	371.1
16 Donald G. Waldon	357.5
17 John Stennis	334.7
18 Tom Bevill	306.8
19 Howell Heflin	266.1
Black Warrior River	
20 Bankhead	365.5
21 Holt	347
22 Oliver	337.7
23 Selden	261.1
Tombigbee River	
24 Demopolis	213.2
25 Coffeeville	116.6

Why water freight.

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

Ton-miles per gallon of fuel



More than four times more efficient than highway transport.

30–50%

Lower transportation costs vs. trucking

89%

Fewer CO_2 emissions per ton-mile

1:1,145

Barge-to-truck injury ratio

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