The Roles and Functions of the Memphis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Engineers' Club
University of Memphis
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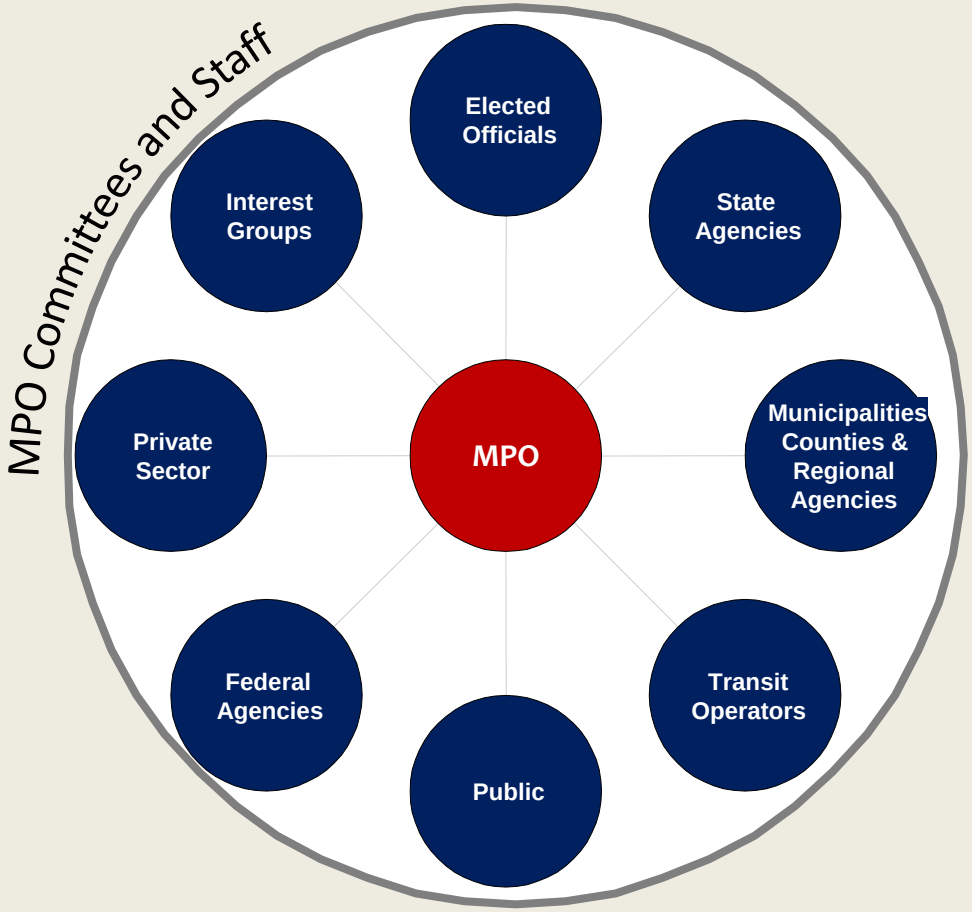
Overview

- What is an MPO?
- Core MPO functions
- The Memphis MPO at a glance

What is an MPO?

- The MPO is a **federally mandated** transportation policy-making and planning body.
- The MPO **allocates scarce transportation funding** resources appropriately.
- Federal Law requires a **regional outlook for transportation planning**. Hence Planning needs have to reflect the **region's shared vision** for its future.
- The MPO ensures federal spending on transportation occurs through a **comprehensive, cooperative and continuing** (3-C) process.

Who is the MPO?



Types of MPO's

- **Two Types**
  - Large (population 200k or more) (Memphis MPO)
  - Small (population between 50K and 200K)
- **Large MPO's (Tennessee has 4 Large MPOs)**
  - Also called Transportation Management Areas or TMAs
  - Require federal certification every 4 years
  - Receive direct allocations from Federal Government for STP funds (complete discretion to the MPO as to how they use these funds, within federal guidelines)
- There are more than 300 MPO's in the nation

What laws apply to the MPO?

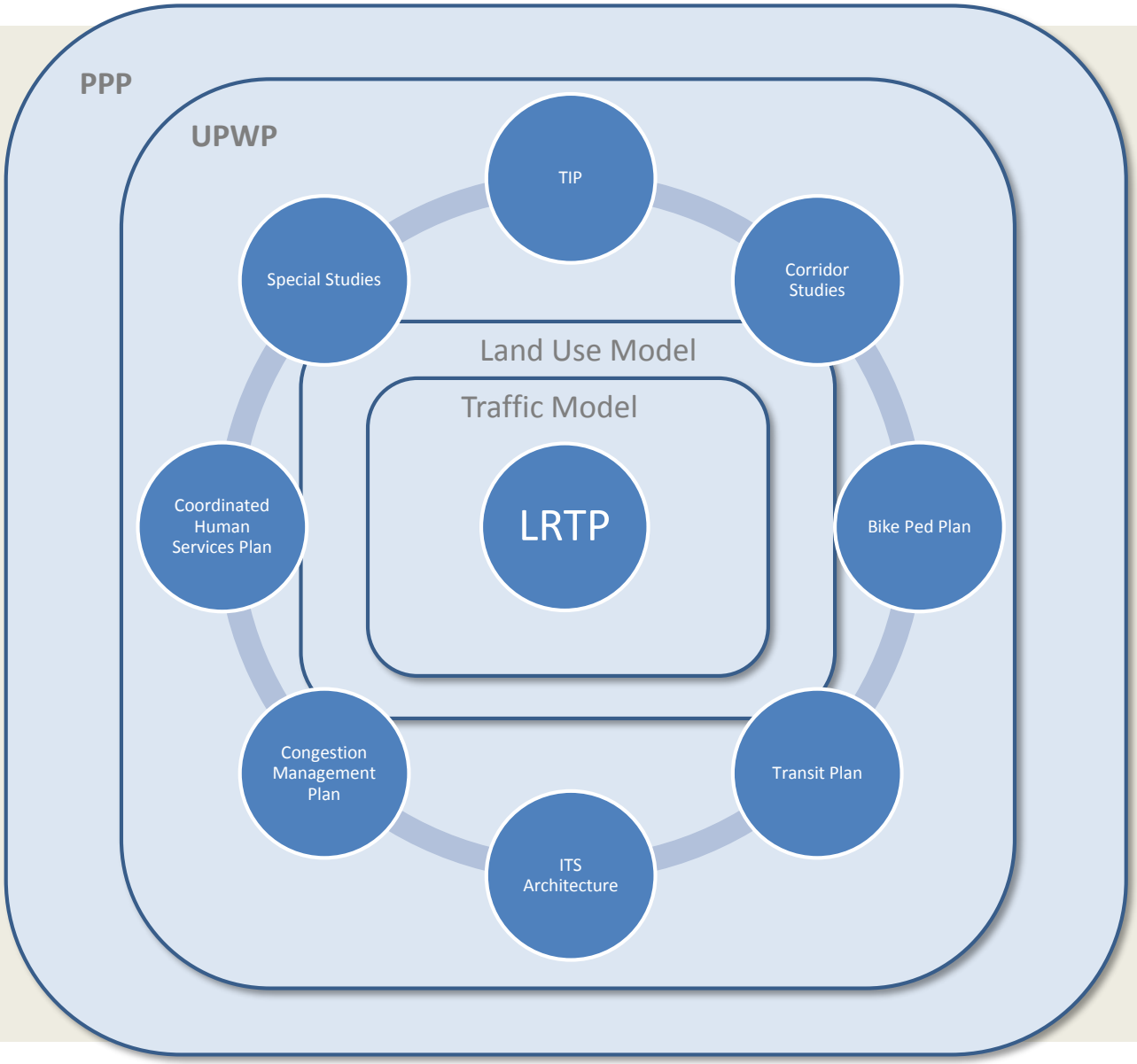
- **Federal Transportation Law– MAP-21**
  - Primary law that the MPO has to follow
  - Explains what funding programs are available and how they can be used
  - Defines the MPO's role and mandated tasks
- **Clean Air Act – (Environmental Protection Agency)**
- **TITLE VI of the Civil Rights Act**

MPO Functions

Four Core Functions:

- Establish a setting – fair & impartial
- Maintain a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Involve the public – residents and key affected sub-groups

MPO Planning Process



Major MPO Plans

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
UPWP	2 years	Planning studies, tasks, and budget	Annual
TIP	4 years	Transportation investments and projects	Every 4 years
LRTP	20 years (minimum) 25 years (preferred)	Future goals, strategies, and projects	Every 4 years

Other MPO Plans

Public Participation Plan

- Describes strategies for engaging the public
- Provides basis for project/plan-specific involvement plans

Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
UPWP	2 years	Planning studies, tasks, and budget	Annual
TIP	4 years	Transportation investments and projects	Every 4 years
LRTP	20 years (minimum) 25 years (preferred)	Future goals, strategies, and projects	Every 4 years

- MPO federal budget – covers 2 fiscal years
- Lists all the planning studies that MPO, MATA, TDOT and MDOT will do in the MPO area
- Identifies sources and allocation of federal, state, and local funding for MPO activities

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
UPWP	2 years	Planning studies, tasks, and budget	Annual
TIP	4 years	Transportation investments and projects	Every 4 years
LRTP	20 years (minimum) 25 years (preferred)	Future goals, strategies, and projects	Every 4 years

- Short Range Plan – covers 4 fiscal years
- Multimodal Plan – Roads, Bridges, Transit, Bike, etc.
- Allocates transportation resources among jurisdictions based on regional priorities
- Amended on a continuous basis
- Fiscally constrained and conforms to air quality standards
- Includes federally funded projects and regionally significant local projects of highest priority

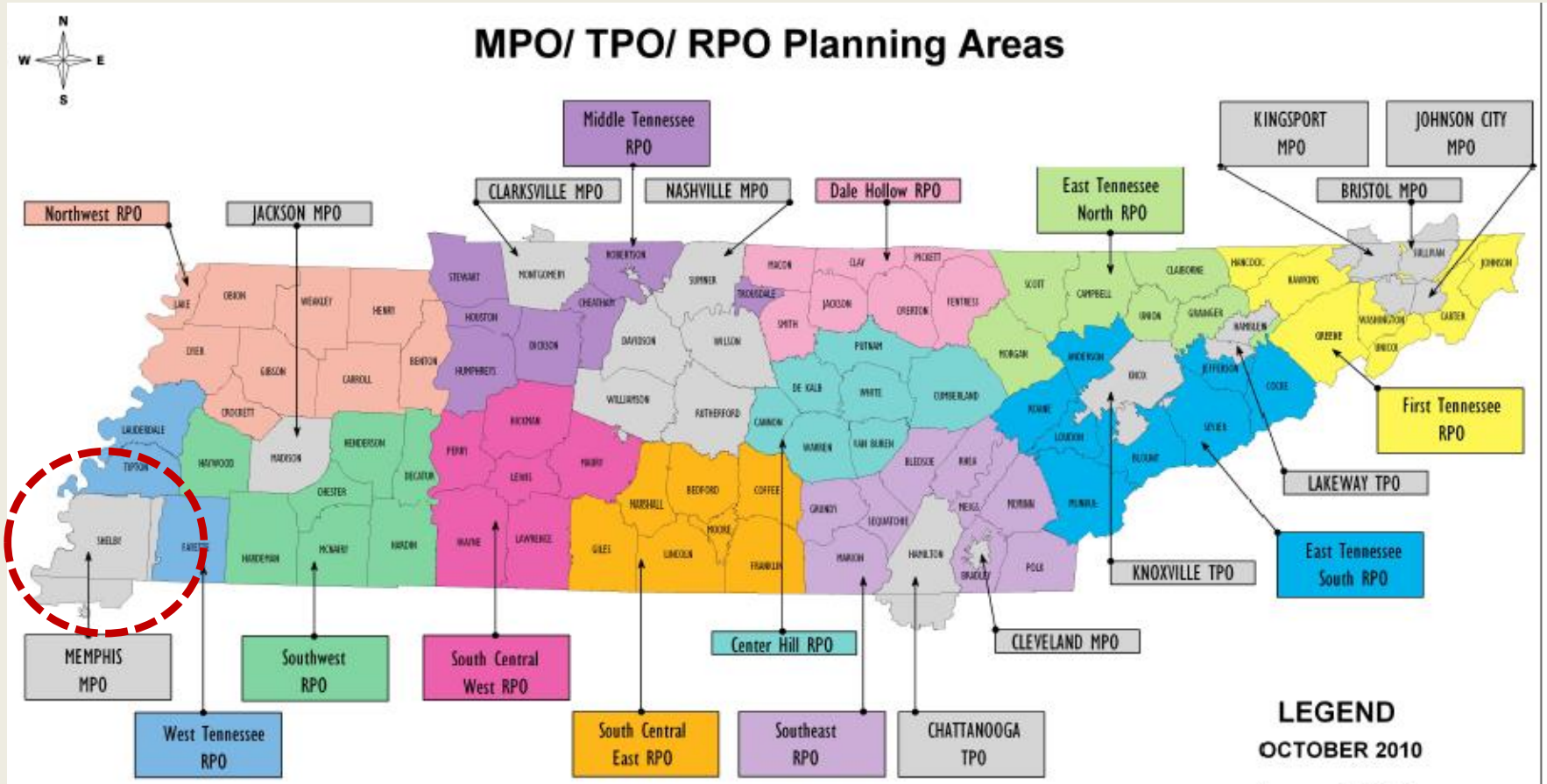
Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
UPWP	2 years	Planning studies, tasks, and budget	Annual
TIP	4 years	Transportation investments and projects	Every 4 years
LRTP	20 years (minimum) 25 years (preferred)	Future goals, strategies, and projects	Every 4 years

- Long Range Plan – Looks 20+ years in the future
- Multi-modal transportation plan
- Describes transportation improvements through horizon year (**currently 2040**)
- Fiscally constrained – identifies project funding sources
- Conforms to national and local air quality standards
- Includes federally funded projects and regionally significant local projects

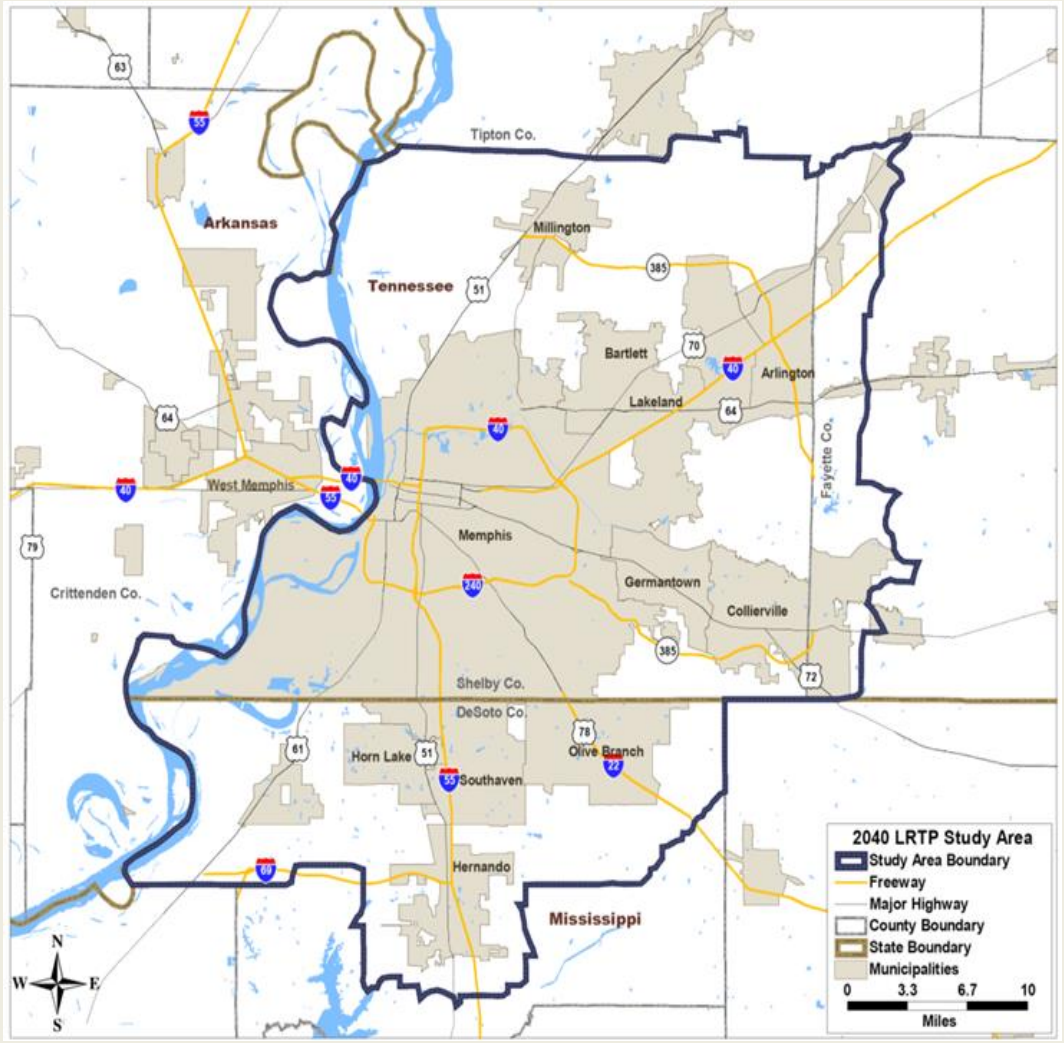
THE MEMPHIS MPO AT A GLANCE

Tennessee MPO's



*There are 5 Bi State MPO's in Tennessee

About the Memphis MPO



MPO Planning Area:

- Shelby Co.
- Western Fayette Co.
- Northern Desoto Co.

The MPO planning area contains the urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Census, as well as areas expected to be urbanized in the next 20 years

Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

State of Tennessee

- TN Governor
- Shelby County
  - Arlington
  - Bartlett
  - Collierville
  - Germantown
  - Lakeland
  - Memphis
  - Millington
- Fayette County
  - Braden
  - Gallaway
  - Piperton

State of Mississippi

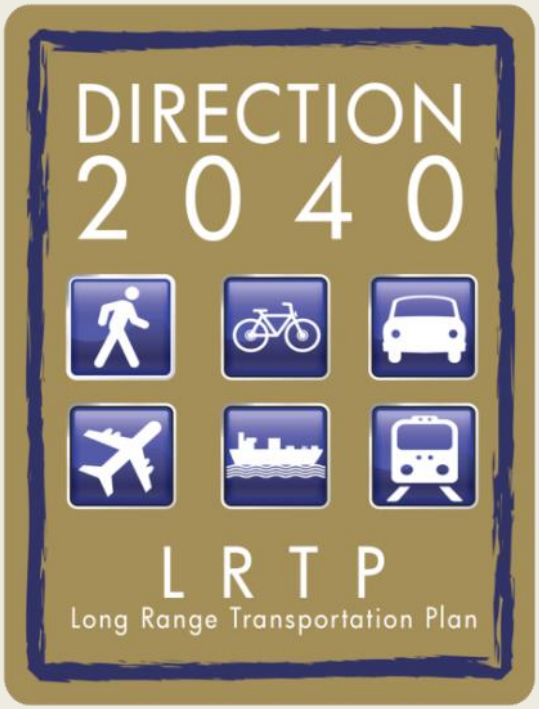
- MS Governor
- DeSoto County
  - Hernando
  - Horn Lake
  - Olive Branch
  - Southaven
  - Walls

Transportation Agencies

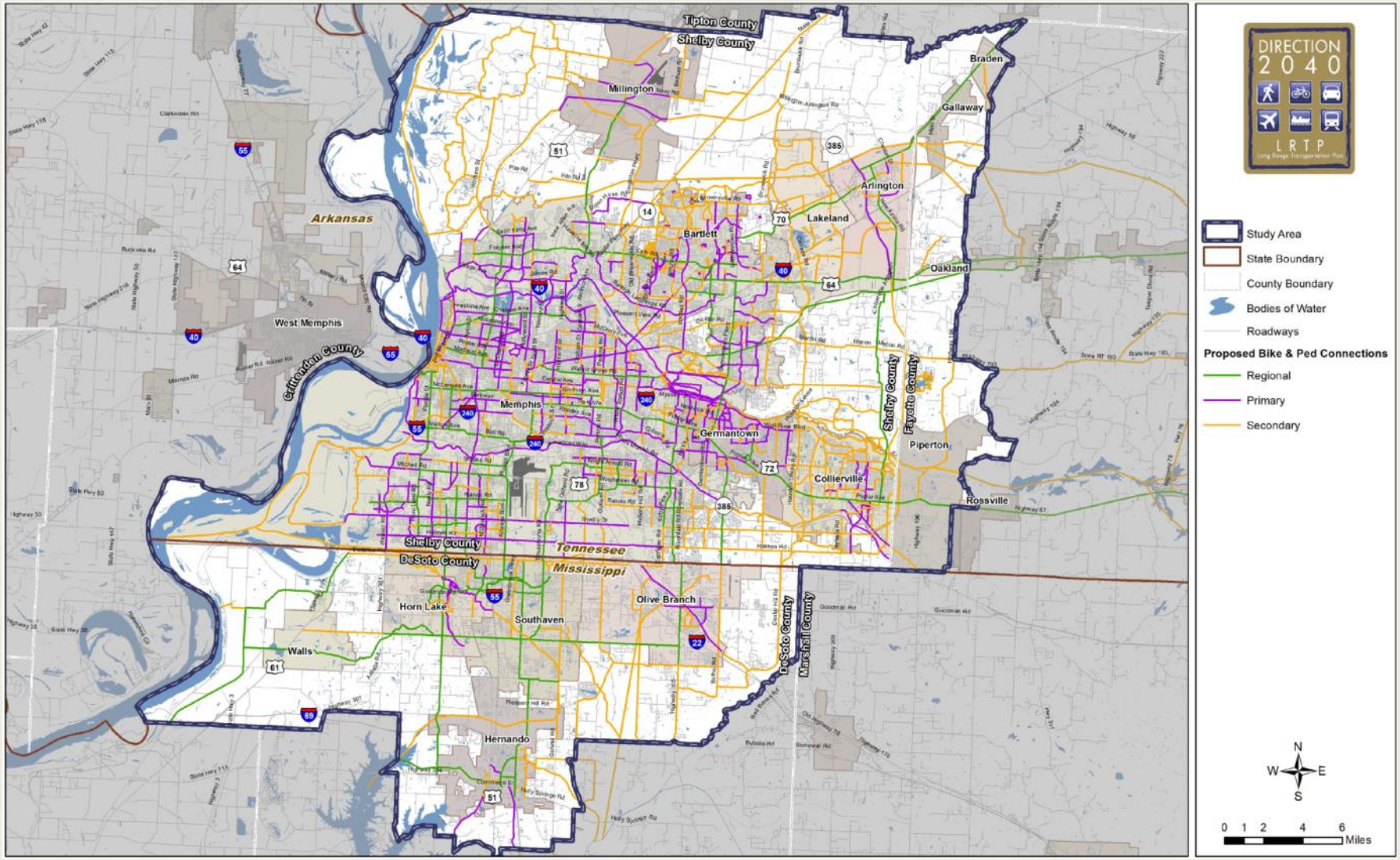
- MATA
- M/SC Airport Authority
- M/SC Port Commission

2040 LRTP

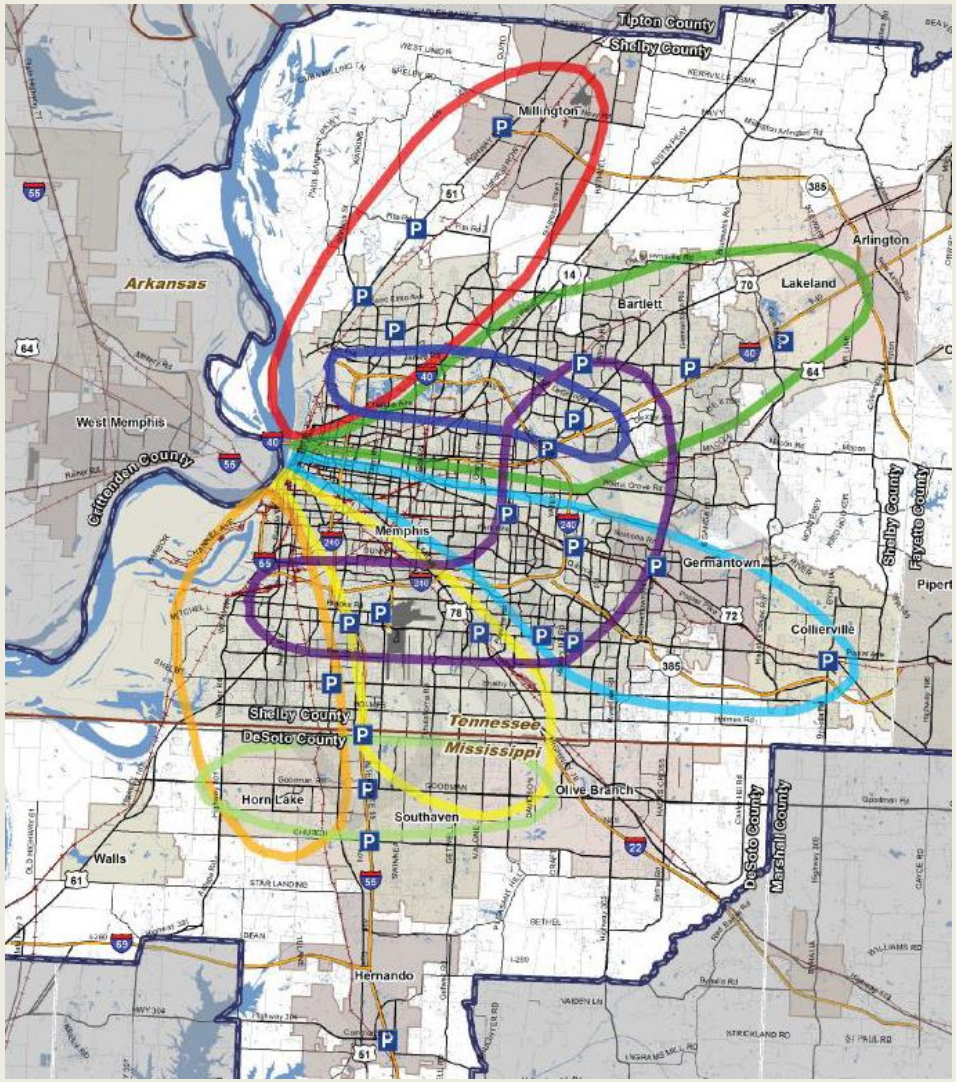
- Bicycle & Pedestrian
- Transit
  - Potential High Capacity Transit Corridors
- Freight
  - High Priority Projects
  - Intermodal Facilities
- Complete Streets
  - Community-oriented Streets
- Roadway Projects
  - Maintenance & Enhancement



Bicycle & Pedestrian

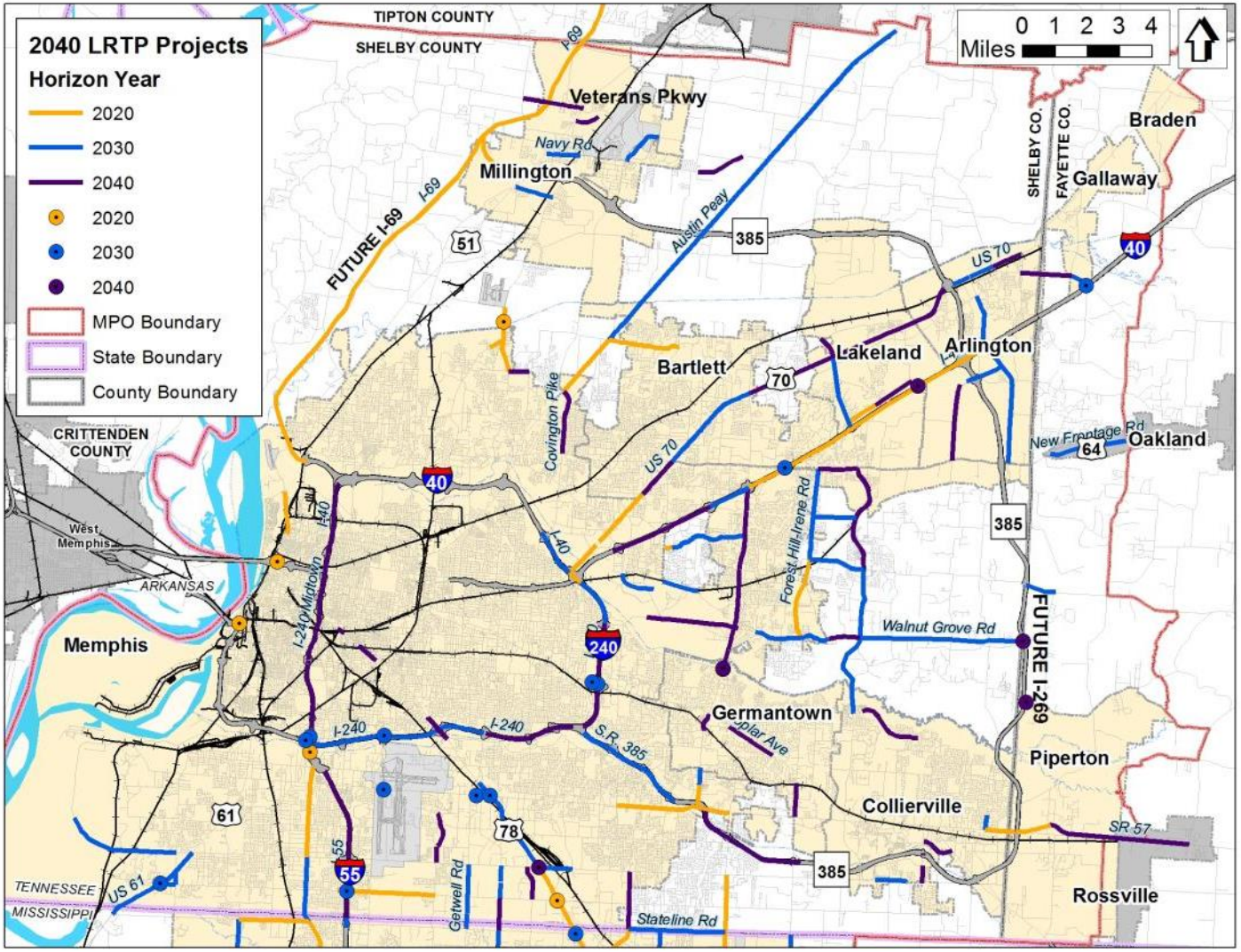


Transit

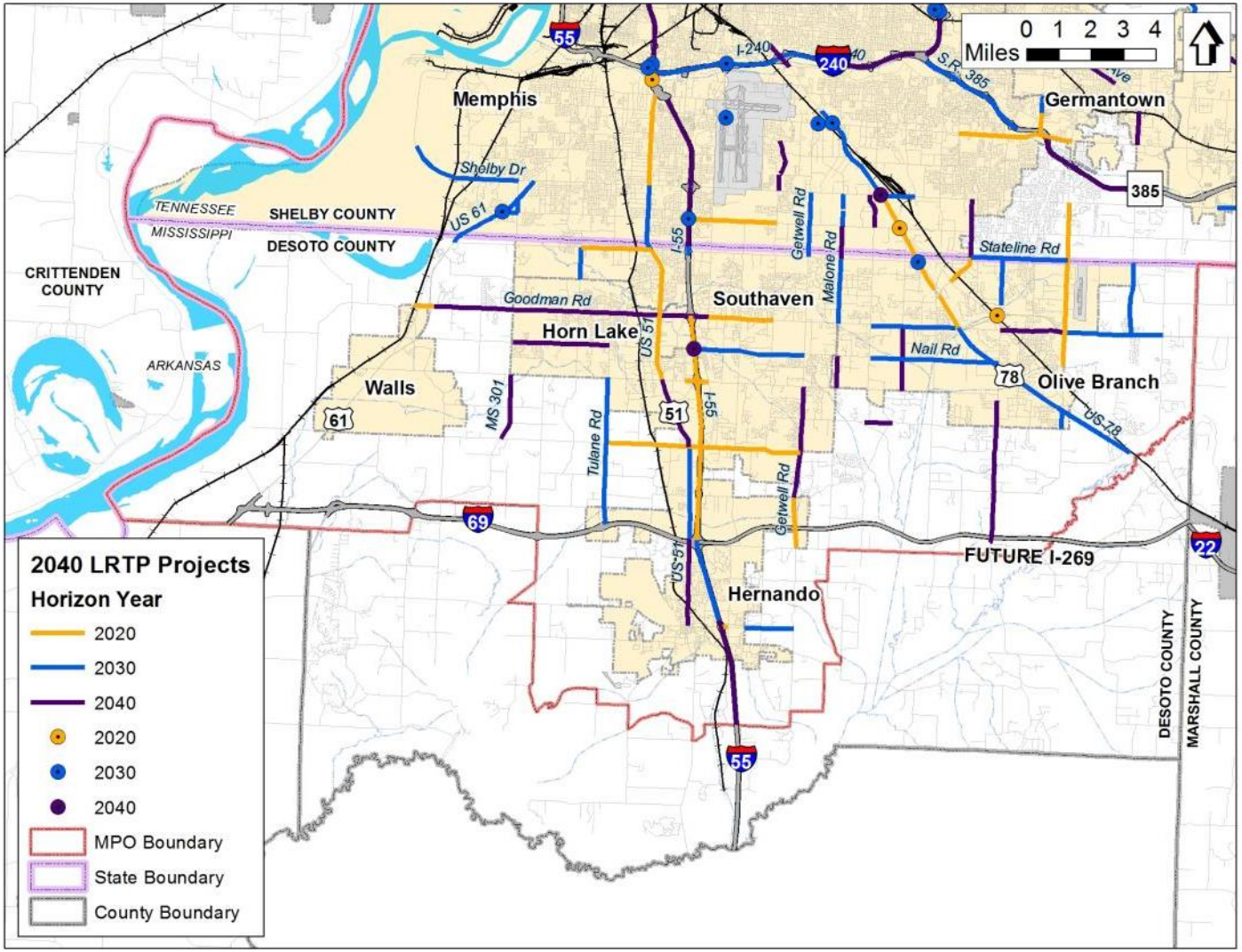


- Potential High Capacity Transit Corridors
- Describes potential transit modes for various corridors

2040 LRTP TN Projects

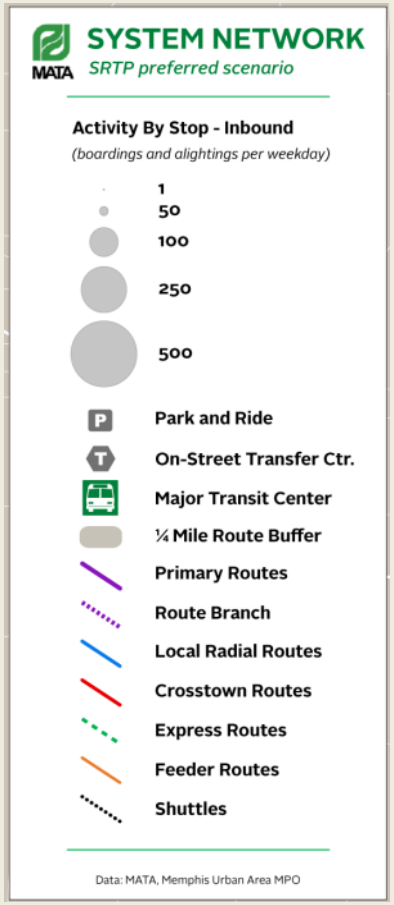


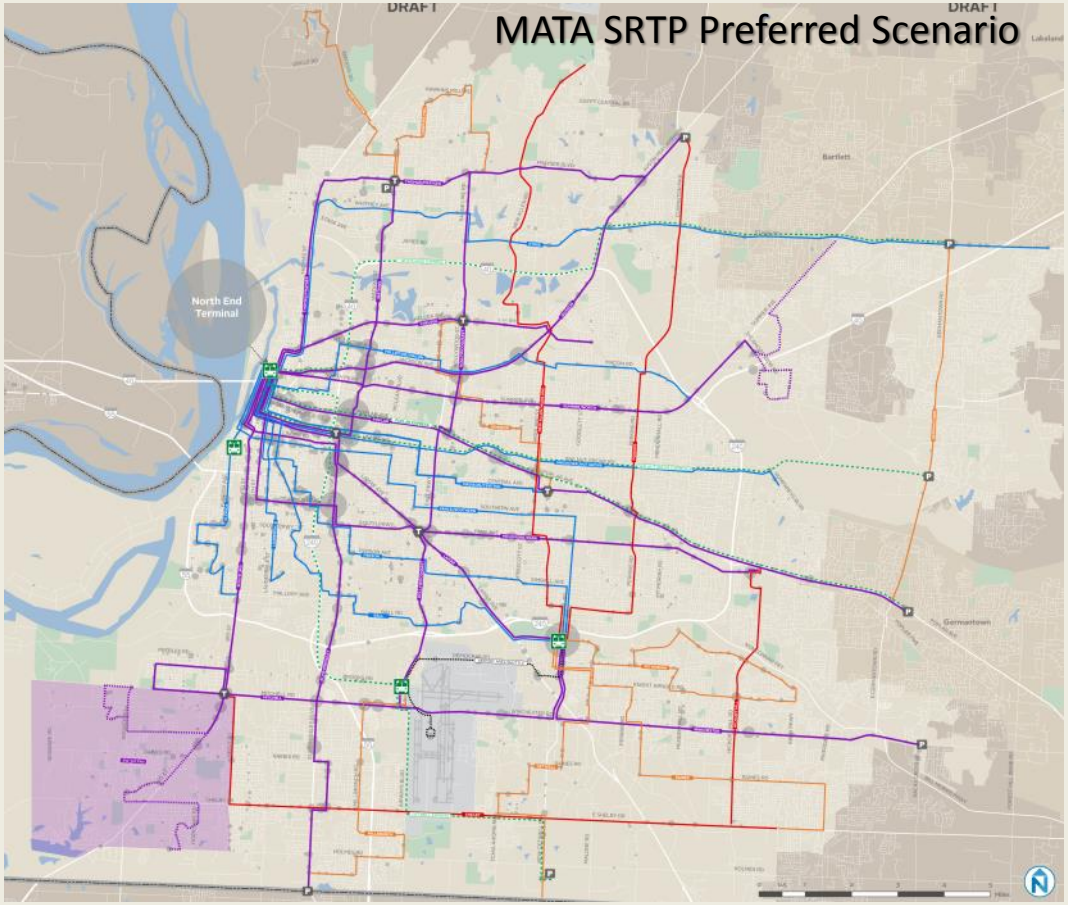
2040 LRTP MS Projects



MPO & Related Plans

- MPO Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- MATA Short Range Transit Plan

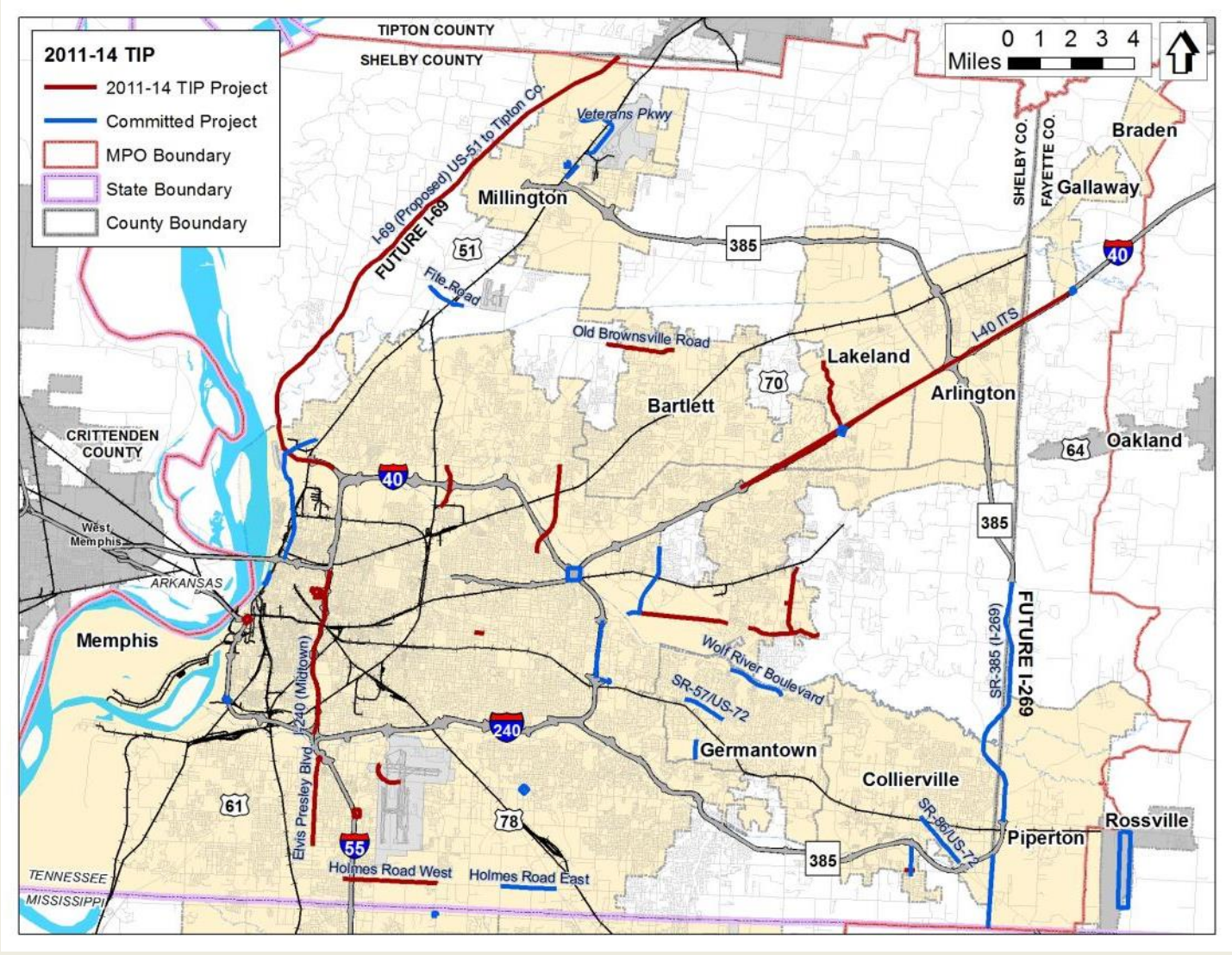




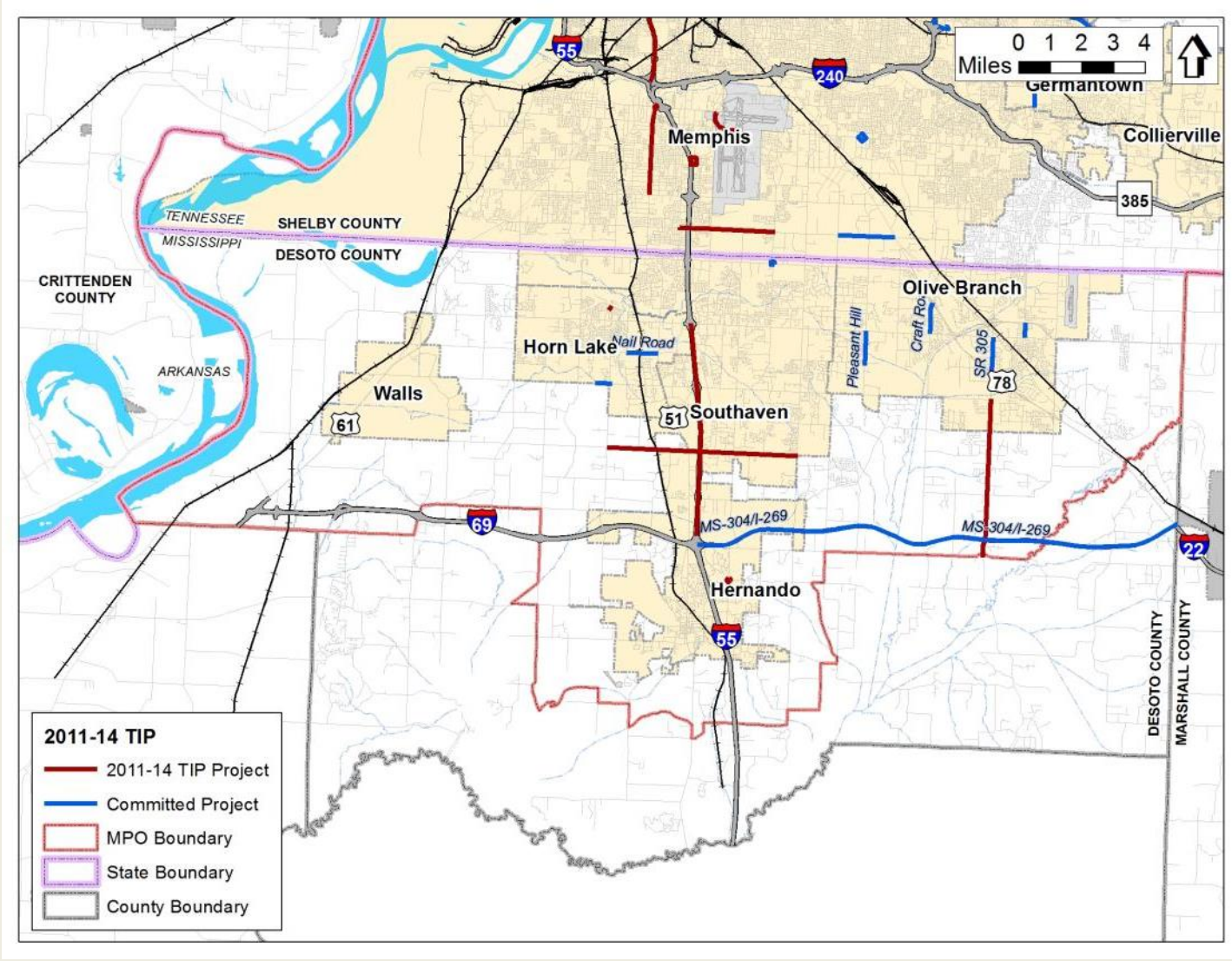
2011-14 TIP Projects

- **Major projects**
  - Completion of I-269 through TN & MS
  - Interstate widening projects – I-40
  - Highway interchange improvements – I-40 Canada Rd
  - ITS projects (Highway DMS boards, Signal Coordination)
  - Crump Blvd. interchange
  - I-240 Widening

2011-14 TIP: TN Projects



2011-14 TIP: MS Projects



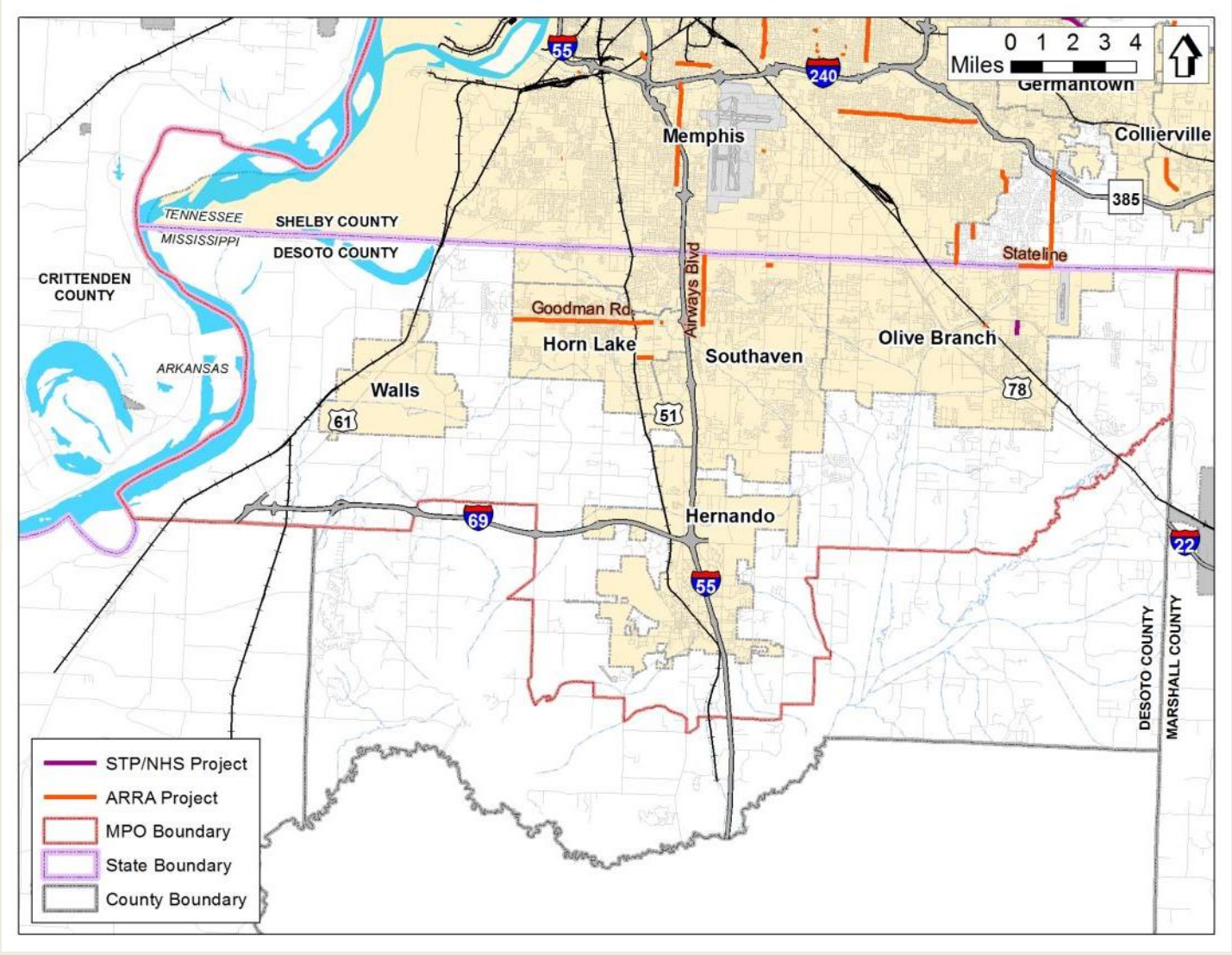
Recent & Current Projects

- **ARRA**
  - Repaving, Bridge Repair, Bike/Ped
  - 56 TN projects, totaling **$26 million**
  - 7 MS projects, totaling **$2.45 million**

- **STP & NHS**
  - Wolf River Blvd
  - Alexander Rd, MS
  - Veterans Pkwy
  - I-269 / TN-385
- **Other Funds (CMAQ, TE, etc.)**
  - Shelby Farms Greenline
  - Greenline Extensions
  - Signal Coordination

Recent & Current TN Projects

Recent & Current MS Projects



Questions?

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