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

**Memphis Traffic Club**
**November 13, 2012**

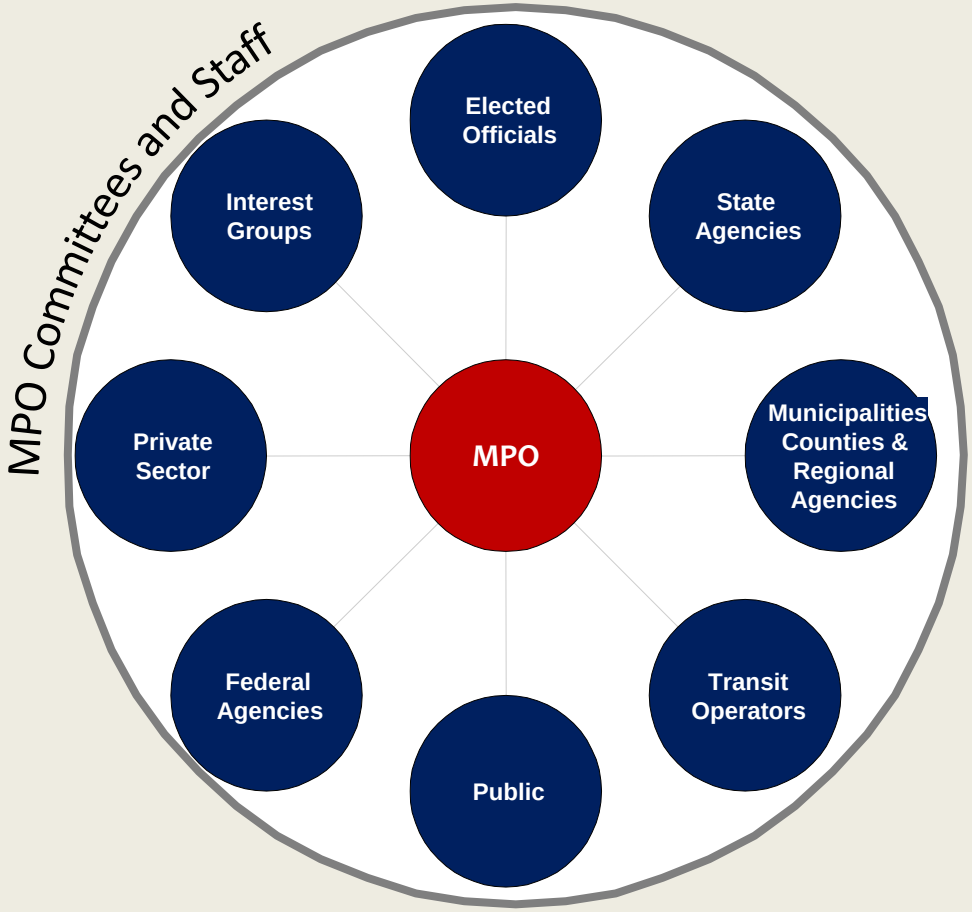
# Overview

- 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?

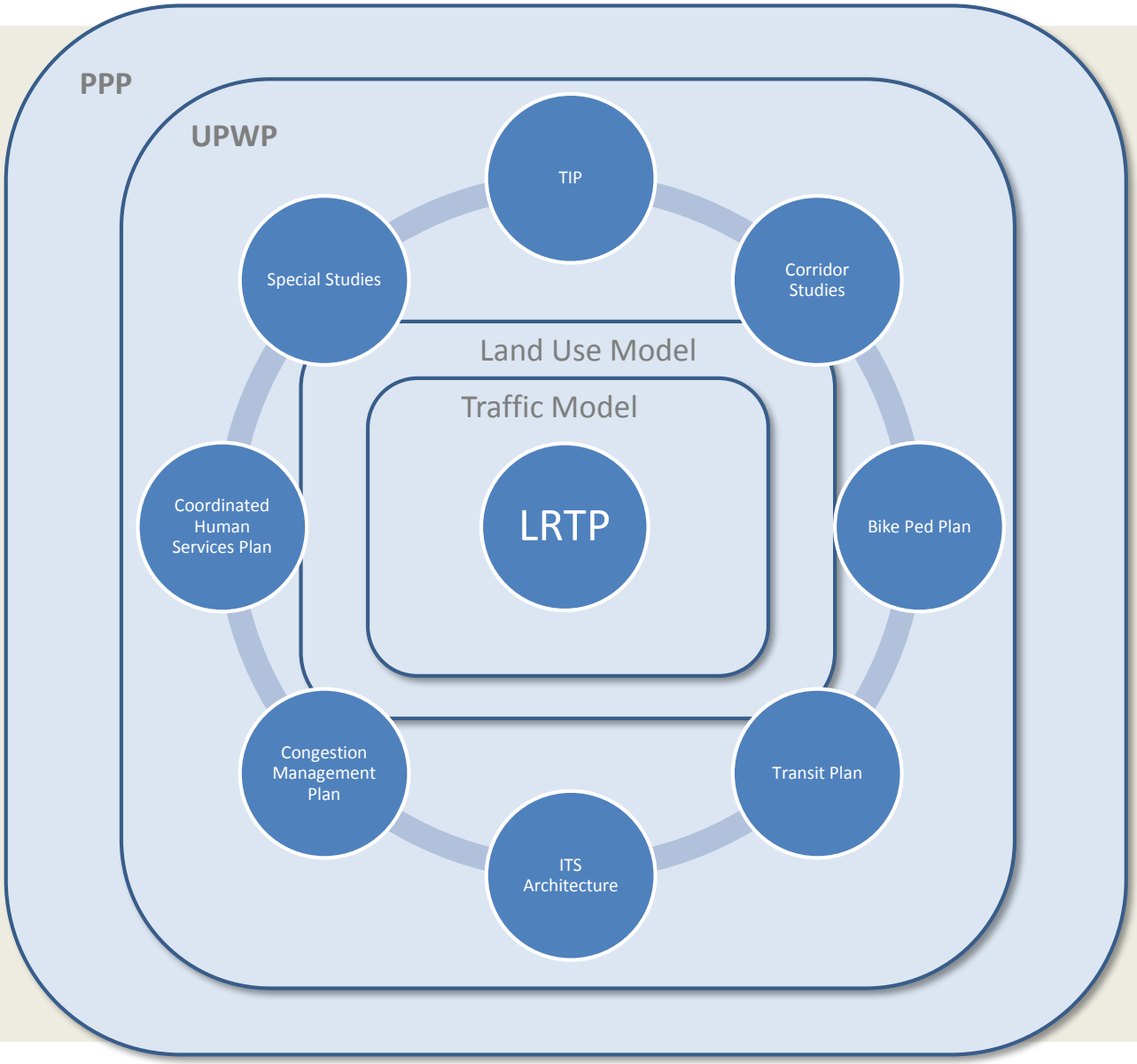
- **Federal Transportation Law– MAP-21**
  - Primary law that the MPO has to follow
  - Explains what funding programs are available and how they can be used
  - Defines the MPO's role and mandated tasks
- **Clean Air Act – (Environmental Protection Agency)**
- **TITLE VI of the Civil Rights Act**

# 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)<br>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)<br>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)<br>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

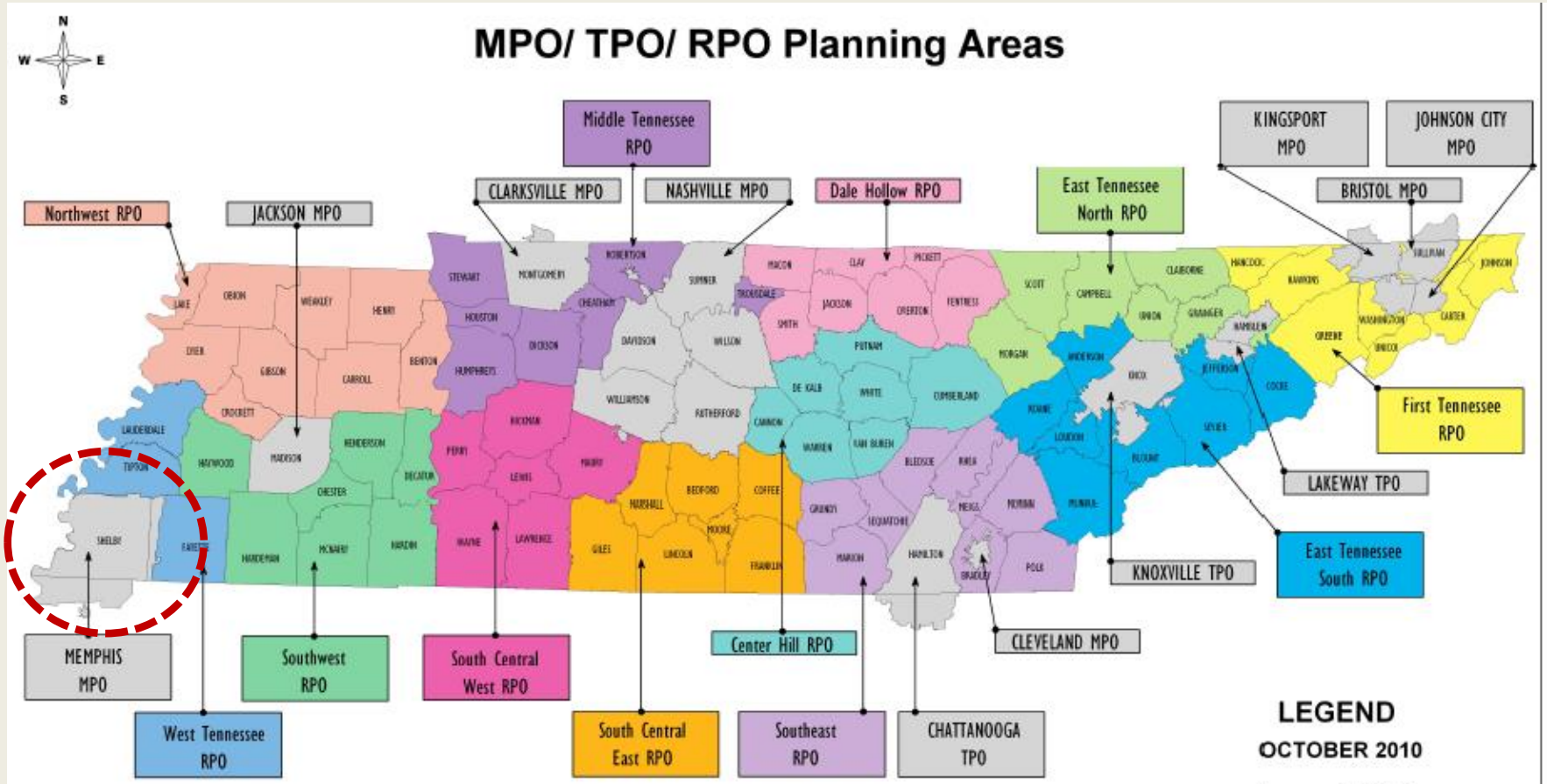
# Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

| 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)<br>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

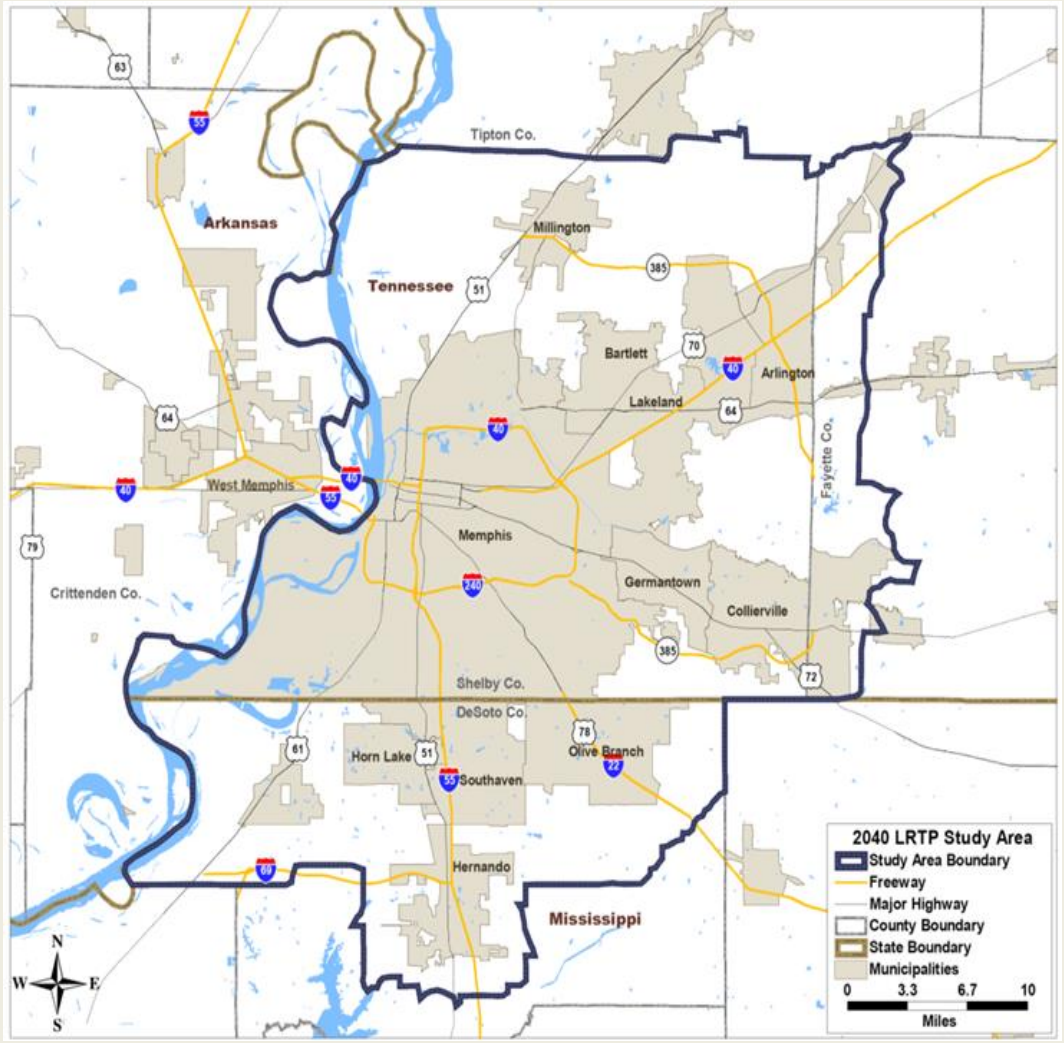
# THE MEMPHIS MPO AT A GLANCE

# 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*

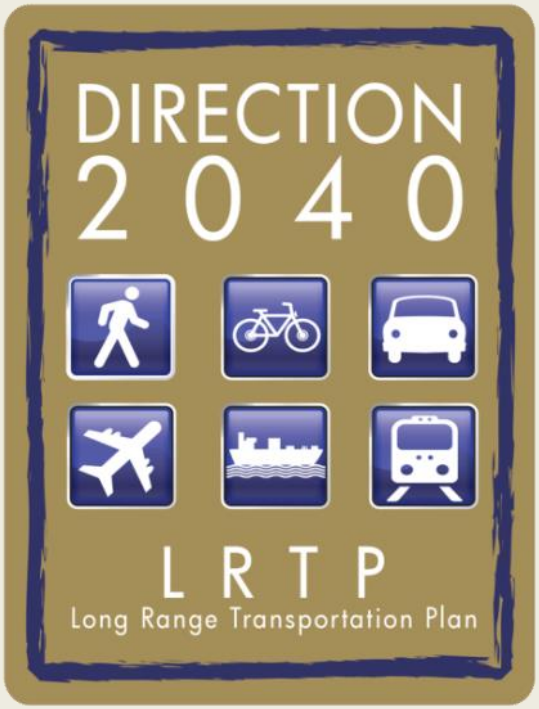
- MS Governor
- DeSoto County
  - Hernando
  - Horn Lake
  - Olive Branch
  - Southaven
  - Walls

## *Transportation Agencies*

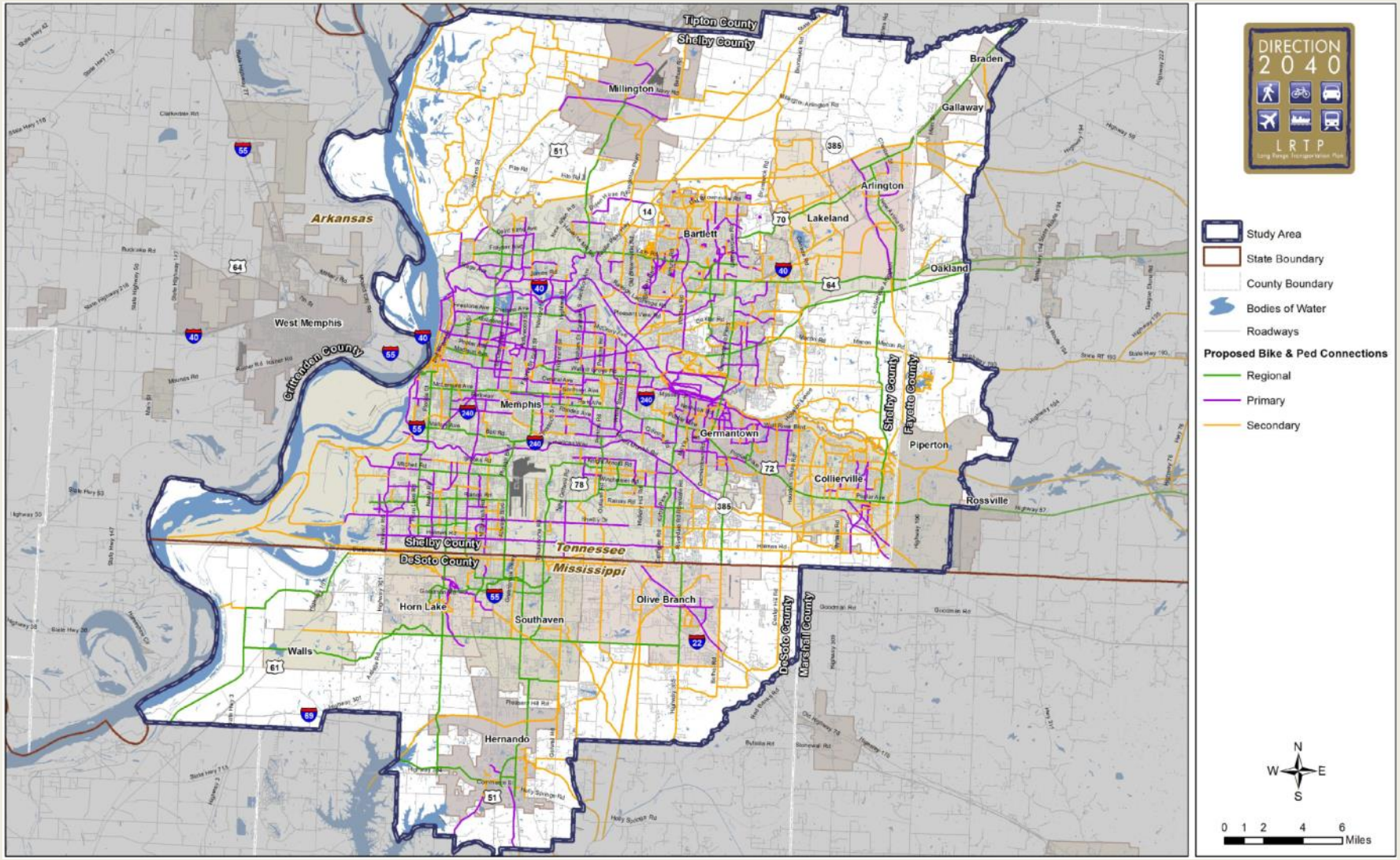
- MATA
- M/SC Airport Authority
- M/SC Port Commission

# 2040 LRTP

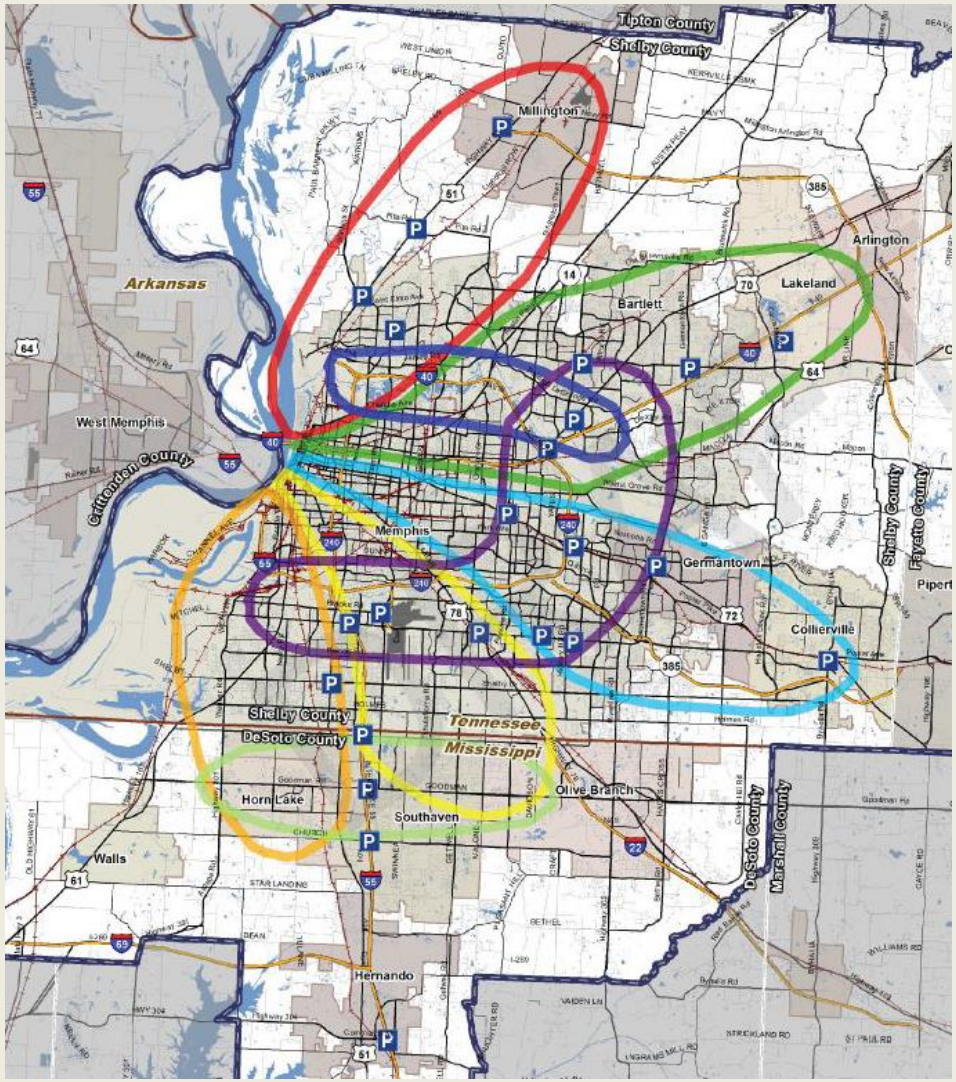
- Bicycle & Pedestrian
- Transit
  - Potential High Capacity Transit Corridors
- Freight
  - High Priority Projects
  - Intermodal Facilities
- Complete Streets
  - Community-oriented Streets
- Roadway Projects
  - Maintenance & Enhancement



# Bicycle & Pedestrian

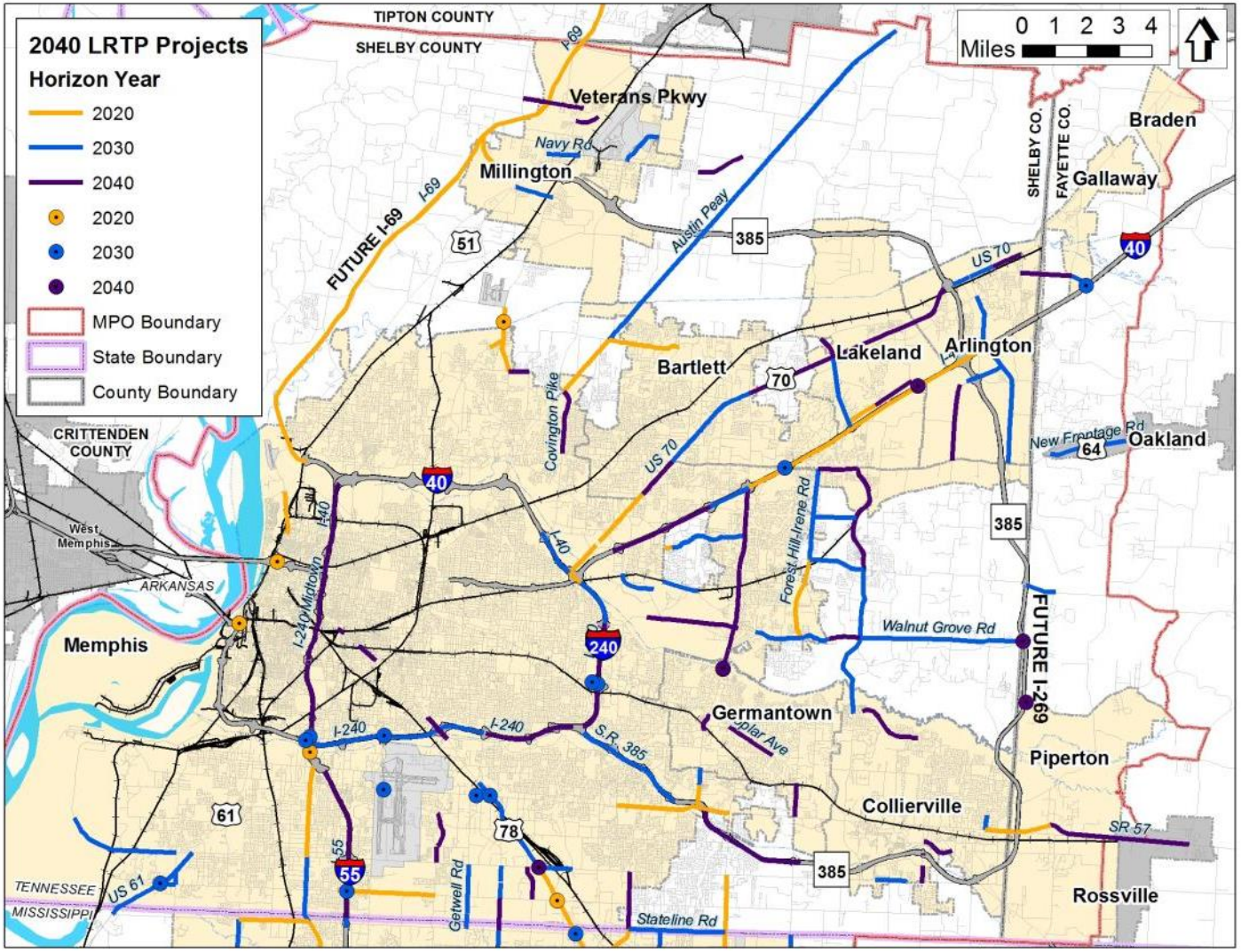


# Transit

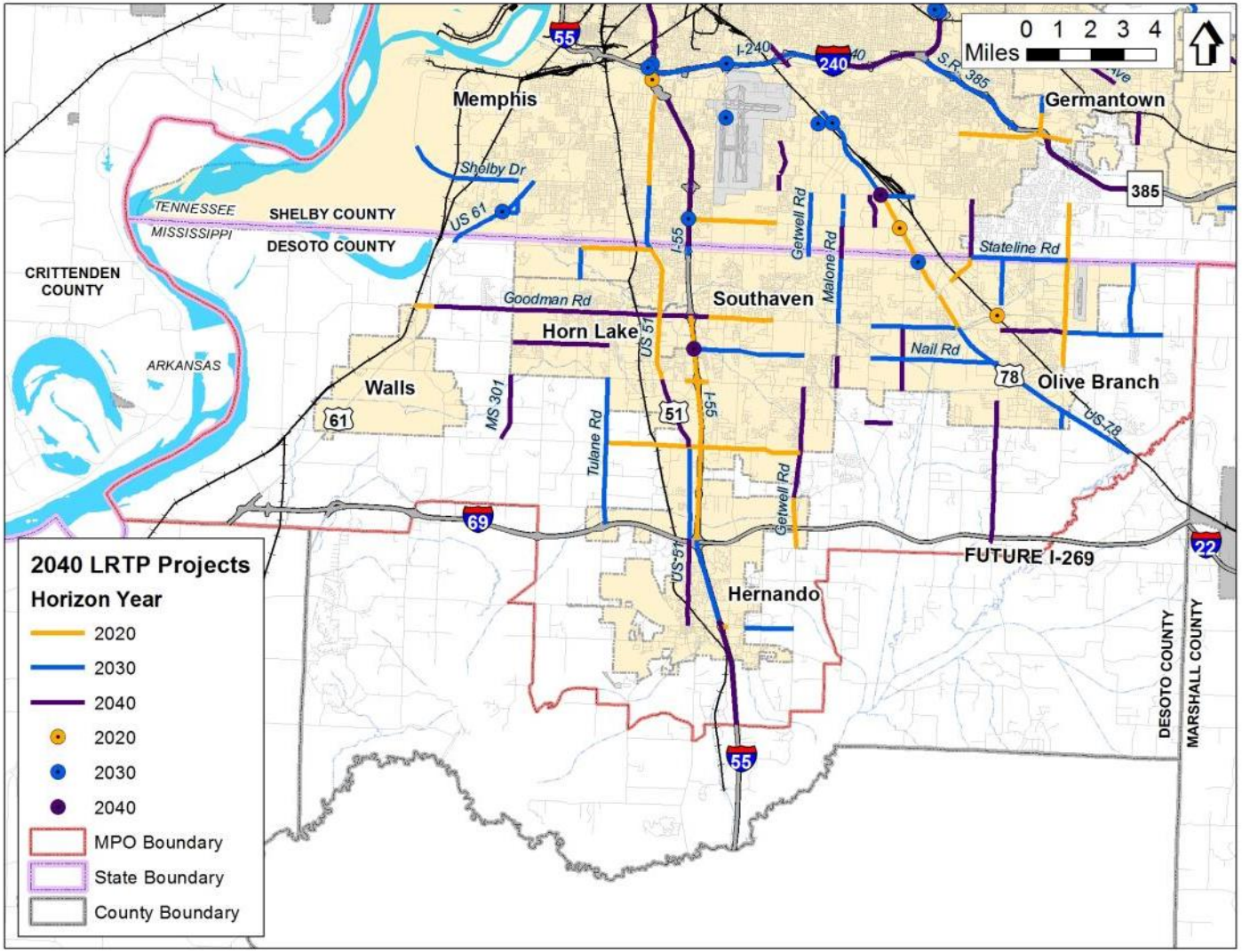



- Potential High Capacity Transit Corridors
- Describes potential transit modes for various corridors

# 2040 LRTP TN Projects

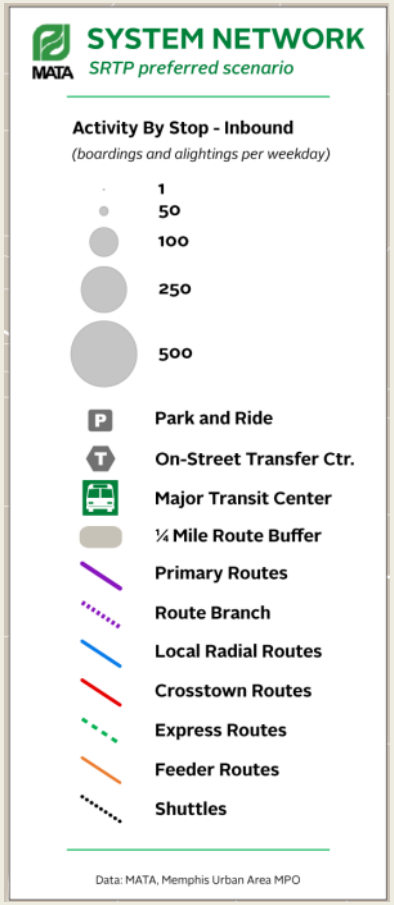


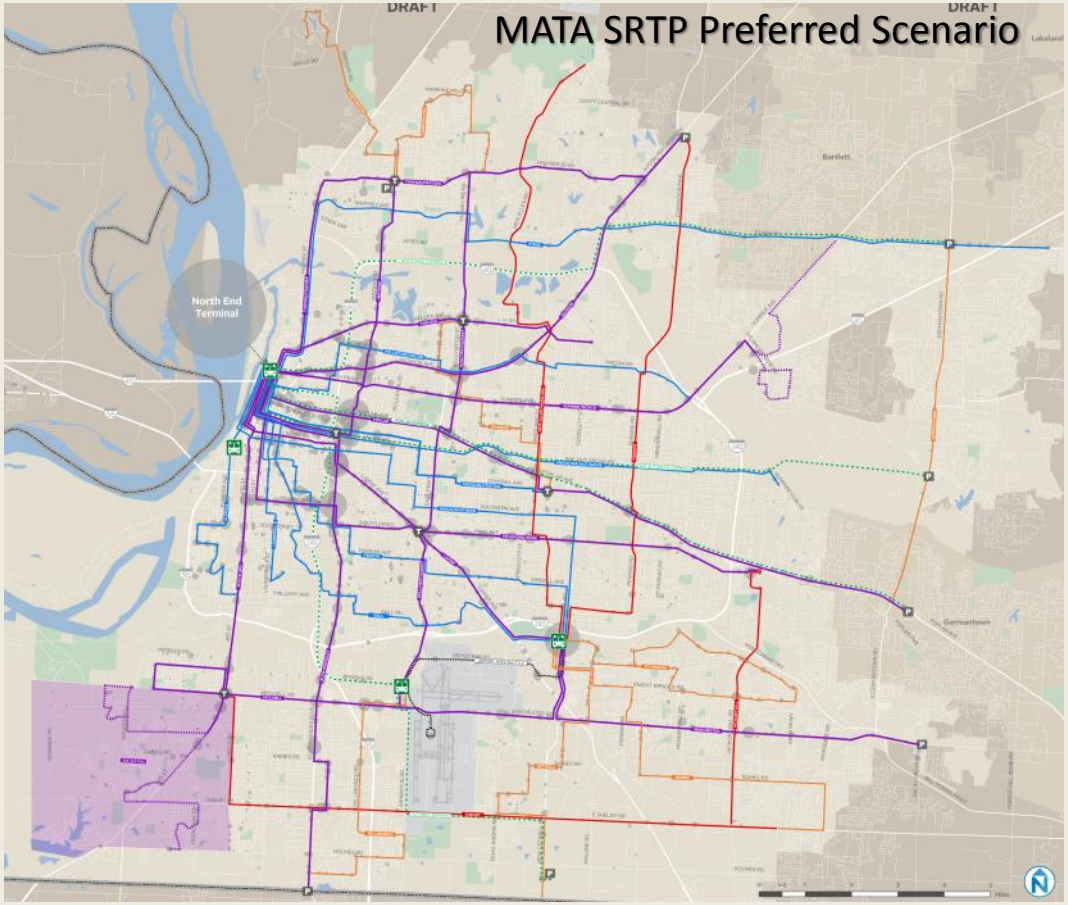
# 2040 LRTP MS Projects



# MPO & Related Plans

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

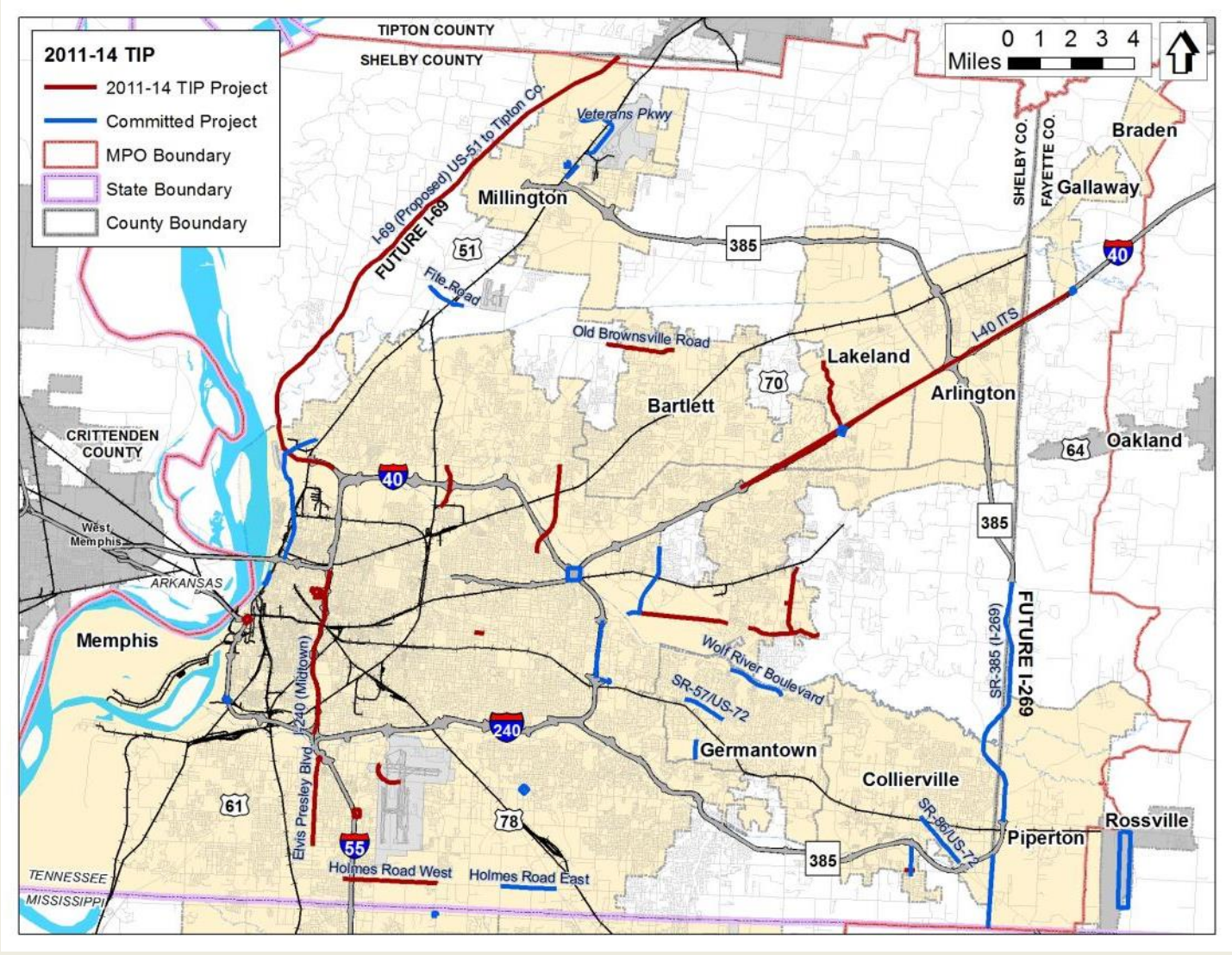


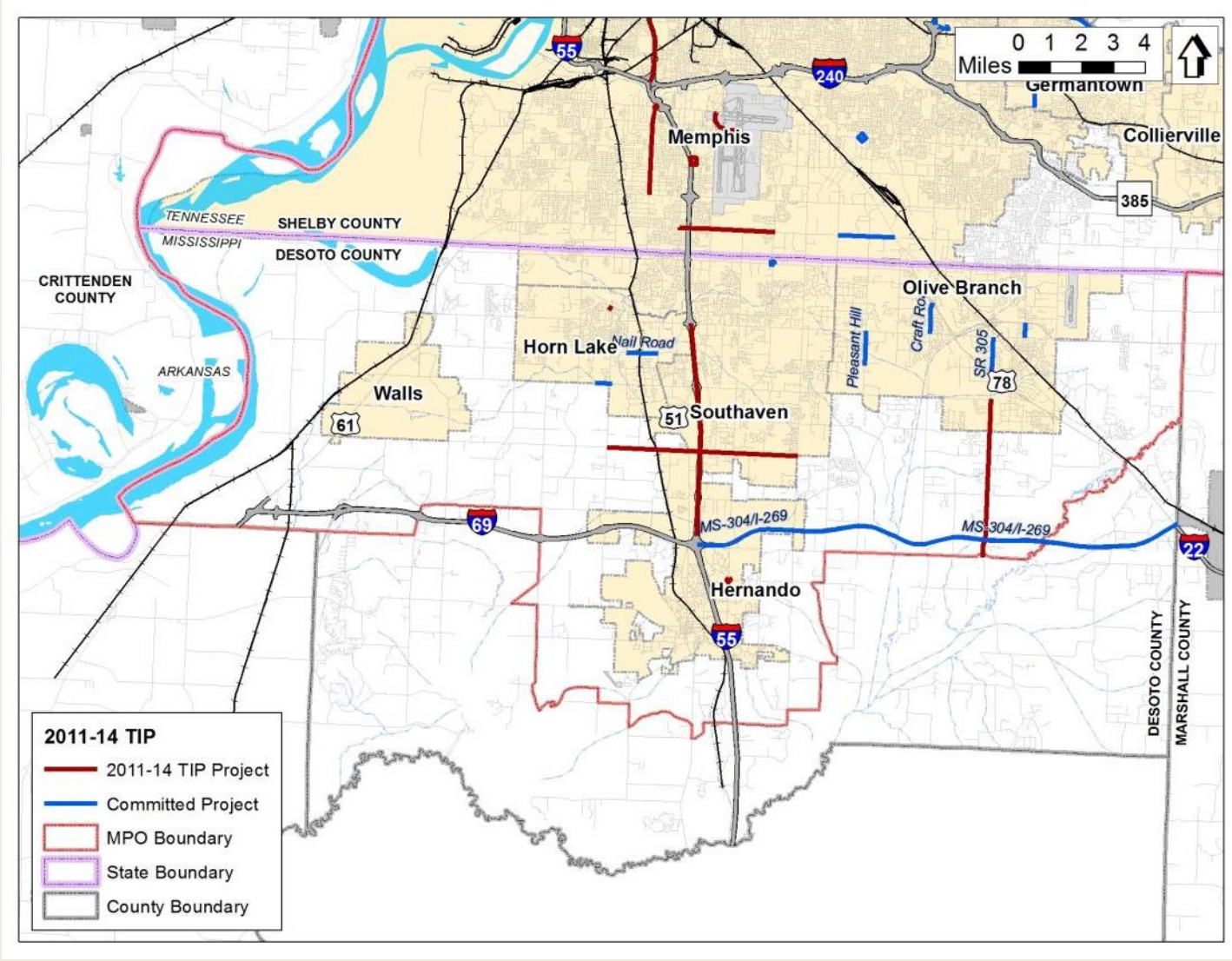
# 2011-14 TIP Projects

- **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)
  - I-40/ I-240 Interchange
  - Crump Blvd. interchange
  - I-240 Widening- underway

# 2011-14 TIP: TN Projects



# 2011-14 TIP: MS Projects



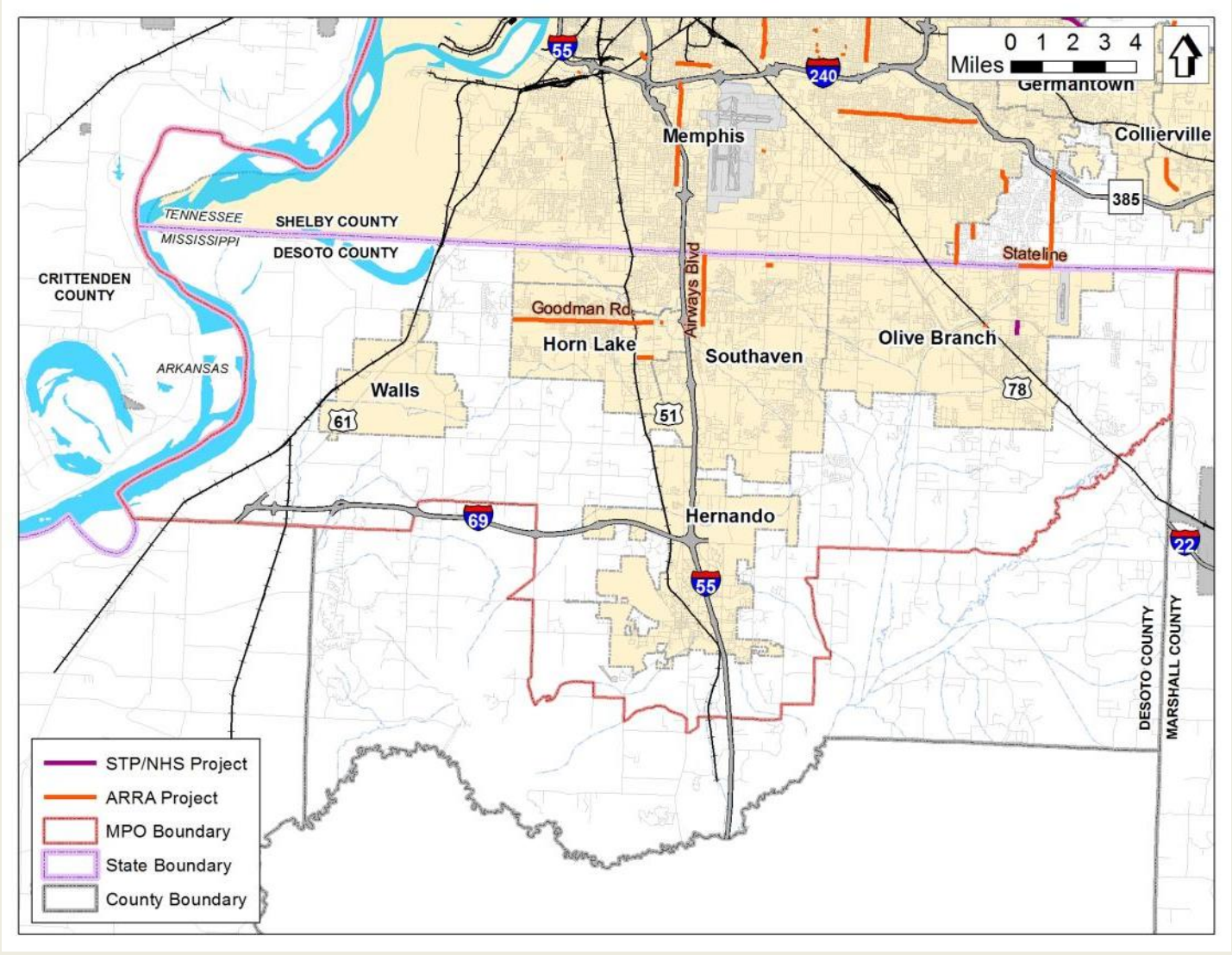
# Recent & Current Projects

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

- **STP & NHS**
  - Wolf River Blvd – June 2013
  - Alexander Rd, MS
  - Veterans Pkwy – Nov 13
  - I-269 / TN-385 - 2015
- **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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