

Future Freight Movement along Freight Alley – The Greater Chattanooga Region

Freight | Economic Development

The Greater Chattanooga Region, which spans parts of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, is known today as Freight Alley. Because of the region's strategic location, it plays a critical role in freight movement throughout the Southeast. Given the importance of freight movement to the economy and the benefits of a coordinated approach to address freight bottlenecks, this pilot is producing a study of freight movement across the multi-state megaregion. The study will forecast future freight volumes across the Greater Chattanooga region, identify regional needs and priorities, and recommend solutions. It focuses on two specific products: (1) An analysis of the future of freight flows building on an analysis of the aerospace and aviation, automotive, agri-production and food products, trucking and logistics, and flooring industries in the region; and (2) Development of an inventory of public and private truck parking spaces along all interstate corridors in the region.

Freight: The greater Chattanooga region is located in the heartland of freight movement in the Southeast and is served by several different freight modes. The study aims to provide insights to the expected growth of freight and address the crucial issue of scarce truck parking in the region.

Economic Development: The study examines the future of freight of the automotive manufacturing and advanced manufacturing industry, clusters which are vital to the region's economic engine.

OUTCOMES

- **Identification of opportunities and needs for freight**, based on an analysis of truck parking and the future of freight flows. This highlights gaps identified and opportunities to expand and invest in infrastructure.
- **Creation of a megaregion truck parking locator map** to support broad, multi-state collaboration to address the truck parking shortage.

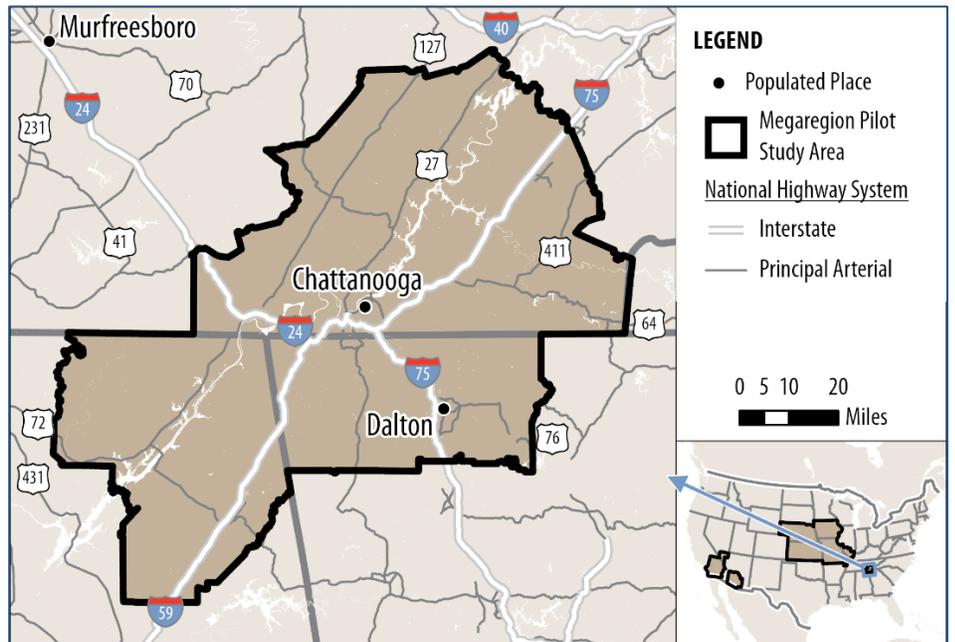
ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- **Address freight movement and truck parking** in the region to meet infrastructure needs and support the future growth of the aerospace and aviation, automotive, agri-production and food products, trucking and logistics, and flooring industries in the three states.
- **Multi-jurisdictional partnerships** facilitate stakeholder involvement and generate beneficial outcomes for the entire region.
- **Replicability** of freight and economic development solutions in other multi-jurisdictional areas. By establishing an example, this study may establish standards, best practices, and a framework that other areas can follow.

National Economic Partnerships Program

The Federal Highway Administration's National Economic Partnerships Program (NEP) provides funding to support the implementation of innovative approaches to multi-jurisdictional coordination and regional planning. The four pilots take place across the nation in "megaregions" that each encompass a collection of urban centers and their surrounding rural areas, connected by existing economic, social, and infrastructure relationships. The projects showcase innovative coordination among stakeholders across these broad, but related geographic areas, and target complex transportation issues. Further, these projects highlight transformational transportation planning approaches that can be shared and replicated nationally.

Megaregion Pilot Study Area Map



Lead Organization and Consortium Members



For more information on the FHWA National Economic Partnerships Program, visit <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/megaregions/>

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