

City of Jackson: 2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan

Issue Area: Community Planning

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Date Published: July 2004



Summary:

Jackson, Tennessee (population 60,000), located halfway between Nashville and Memphis acts as a regional center for thirteen West Tennessee counties residents. This regional hub dimension is reflected in their retail sector as they have a higher retail per square foot area than any surrounding city, attracting visitors and tourists from nearby towns. They have hence been titled “the hub of West Tennessee.” Jackson plans to study how to best improve their transportation system for 2026 by receiving funding from state and federal highway and transit authorities. Their plan is dedicated primarily to improving the transportation system to enable a safer, more efficient movement of people.

The plan was created in 2001 due to the city’s foresight of the oncoming traffic congestion that is predicted to occur in the next twenty years. The program is designed to help Jackson residents and visitors move about easier, but also to induce more cash flow into the Jackson retail sector and local businesses. The plan has outlined eight objectives, which have been incorporated into the plan. Some of the objectives relating to visitors and citizens are

- To identify the essential transportation planning activities needed to be undertaken in the study area and provide for the means for coordination in the implementation of these activities.
- To Coordinate land use and transportation activities to insure functional efficiency and a compatible relationship
- To provide the necessary framework to insure an efficient, effective, and functional transportation system to serve all persons in the Jackson Urban Area.

These three objectives focus on ideas that incorporate aging, smart growth, and economic efficiency. Jackson plans to encourage mixed-use development to enhance the residential and economic environments. By using mixed-use land they can reduce the travel demand and provide more eco-friendly means for people to travel. In addition to Jackson’s objectives seven key “planning factors” have been showcased. A few of the human relations factors are:

- Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people.
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life.
- Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes.

These “planning factors” show how the plan is an all-encompassing transportation study, not just to improve transportation for the mass transit but to improve it for all of its citizens now and the future.

The plan is a best practice because it encompasses a variety of people and aspects of human transportation. Jackson, TN seeks to improve connectivity of the transportation system, allowing people to get around to more places without driving or long-distance walking for transfers by promote transportation needs that are usually characterized more specifically as older adult transportation needs. Many of the highlighted “planning factors” and objectives focus on improving the connectivity of transportation and mixed-use development which both enable older adults to get around easier and greener.

Related Resources:

2026 Long-Range Transportation Plan

<http://www.cityofjackson.net/departments/planning/Jackson_LRTP_2026.pdf>.

“Departments and Services.” City of Jackson.

<<http://www.cityofjackson.net/departments/planning/MPO.html>>.