

M-40_75 Marine Highway Connector

Sponsor: proposed Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority

Supporters: proposed State of Tennessee, State of Mississippi, Knoxville – Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Yellow Creek State Inland Port, Ingram Barge Lines, etc.

Landside Corridor Served: I-40 & I-75

Corridor Description:

The M-40_75 Connector includes the Tennessee River from mile 215 Yellow Creek (Corinth, MS) to mile 652 Knoxville, TN. It connects the M-65 Corridor near Corinth, MS which provides access to the deep water port of Mobile south and the Mississippi River system north and south. The connector also includes all commercial navigation channels, ports, and harbors in Tennessee.

Attributes:

Interstate highways 40 and 75 connect in Knoxville with interstate 81 less than 40 miles away. Knoxville is within 300 miles of Columbus & Cincinnati, OH, Raleigh and Charlotte, NC, Atlanta, GA, Birmingham, AL, and Chattanooga and Nashville, TN and is a major transportation hub.

This Marine Highway Connector could help mitigate the traffic congestion on I-40 and I-75 and reduce pollution. On April 15, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated the counties of Anderson, Blount, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Sevier, and a portion of Cocke within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in non-attainment of the 8hour standard for ground level ozone (Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Commission). I40 and I75 are both rated over 8,500 trucks per day and speed > 55 mph by the Federal Highway Administration indicating very heavy usage and congestion induces transport speed reductions especially in the Knoxville vicinity.

