



MOBILITY 2045 PLAN

Executive Summary

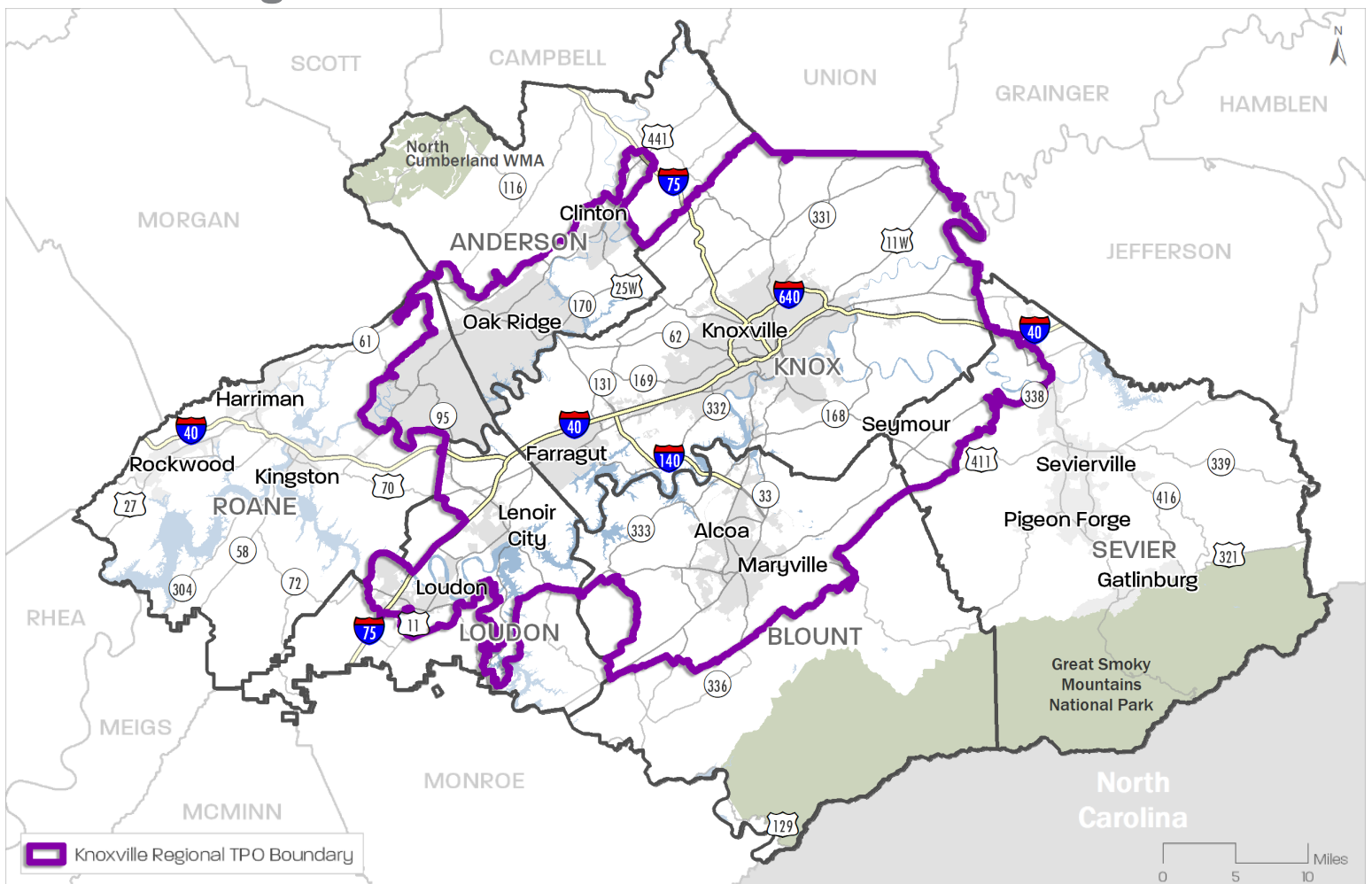
What are the TPO & MTP?



Transportation planning in the six-county Knoxville region is a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive process that promotes regional investment in sustainable growth, economic prosperity, and quality of life. The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) takes the lead on planning for the region's transportation system.

Every four years, the TPO updates its federally required Metropolitan Transportation Plan, known as the Mobility Plan, which serves as the long-range transportation plan for the Knoxville region. Input from residents, stakeholders, and elected officials provides guidance for all decisions made related to transportation throughout the region. This update, Mobility Plan 2045, identifies how we will invest available federal, state, and local transportation funds in regionally important projects and programs and ensures that we are making the best long-term decisions for residents, employers, and visitors.

TPO Planning Area



The TPO planning area encompasses the region surrounding Knoxville, including all of Knox County as well as parts of Anderson, Blount, Loudon, Roane, and Sevier Counties.

Developing the Mobility Plan relies on collaboration among local governments, stakeholders, and the public to make sure that transportation investments meet regional, state, and national goals. To that end, aligning regional transportation needs and investments with federal and state goals is a key component of Mobility Plan 2045. Based on public and stakeholder involvement, the plan is organized around eight regional goals representing the desires, needs, and priorities of the region. Each of the goals is complemented by a set of objectives and performance measures used to assess progress in achieving the goals.

TPO Mission

Advise and assist our region to improve and expand transportation choices by involving citizens and decision makers in our plans, forums, and outreach.

Regional Goals



Public and stakeholder input showed that safety and security was the most important goal, followed by public health and the environment, and maintenance of the transportation system.

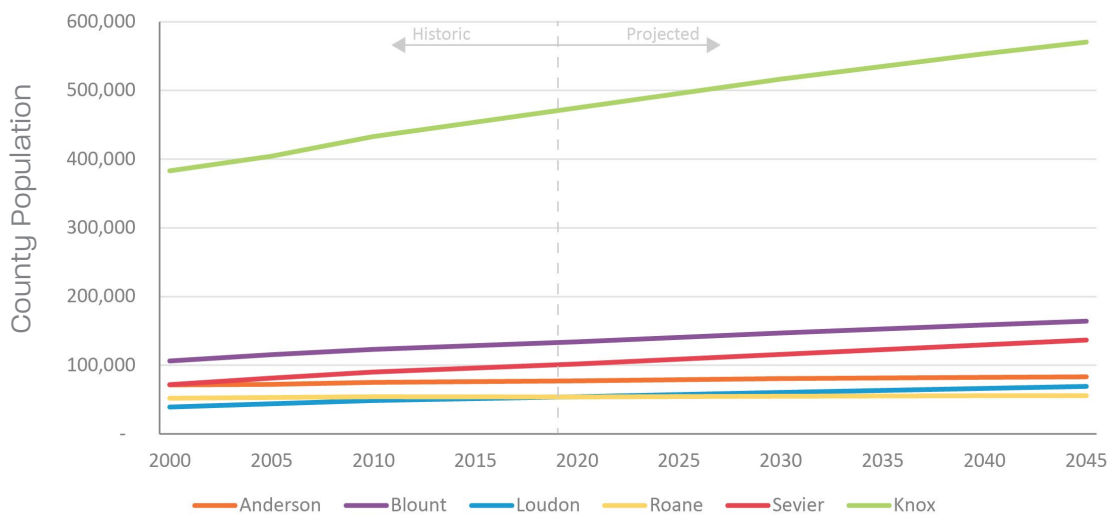
Regional Trends



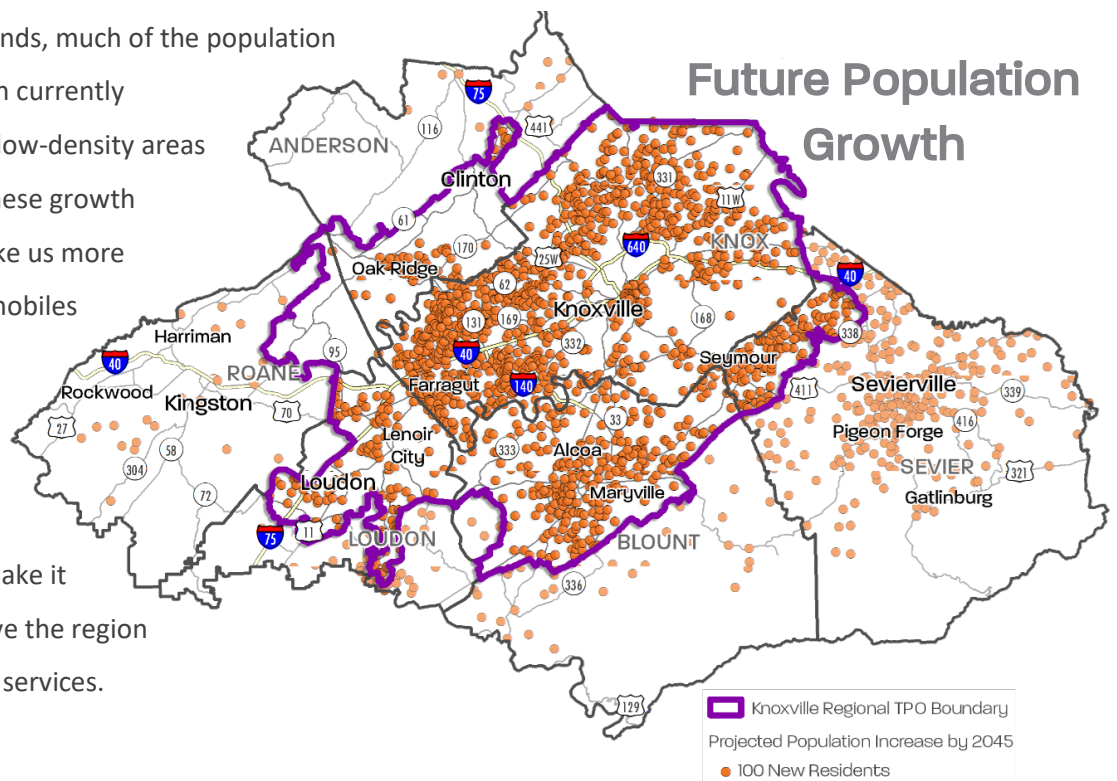
People and jobs are what drive our region's prosperity. A growing population and vibrant economy present opportunities for continued success. However, we must ensure that this success is responsibly planned and shared by all.

Historically, the six-county Knoxville region has experienced steady population growth. By 2045, the region is expected to add more than 200,000 people, putting the total population at just over one million residents. Knox County will account for approximately half of future growth, with Blount, Loudon, and Sevier counties also expected to experience significant increases.

Past & Projected Population Growth



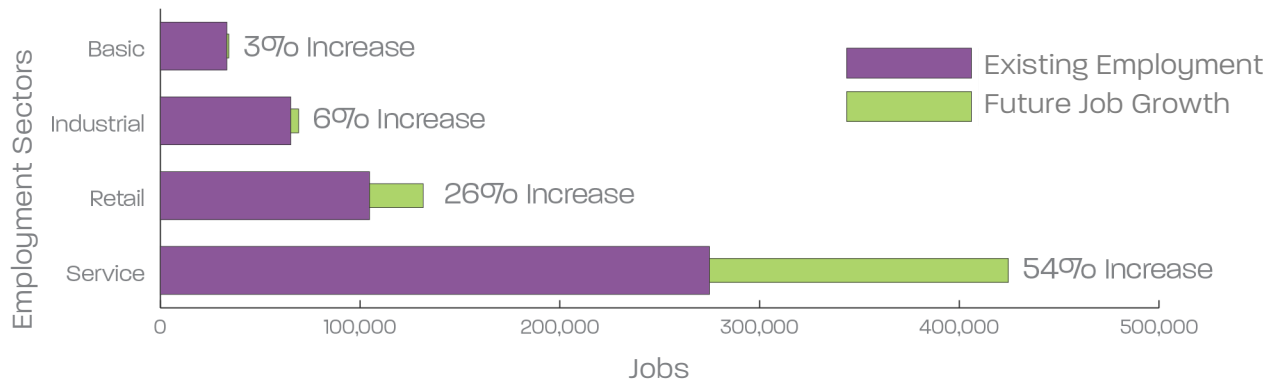
Based on historic trends, much of the population growth is expected in currently suburban and rural, low-density areas across the region. These growth patterns tend to make us more dependent on automobiles for daily trips like commuting to work, going to school, or running errands. They also make it more difficult to serve the region with efficient transit services.



In addition to population growth, the region's economy has also been expanding and changing. By 2045, the region is expected to have nearly 660,000 jobs, with major increases in and around existing employment centers. The retail and service employment sectors are expected to fuel employment growth over the next 25 years.

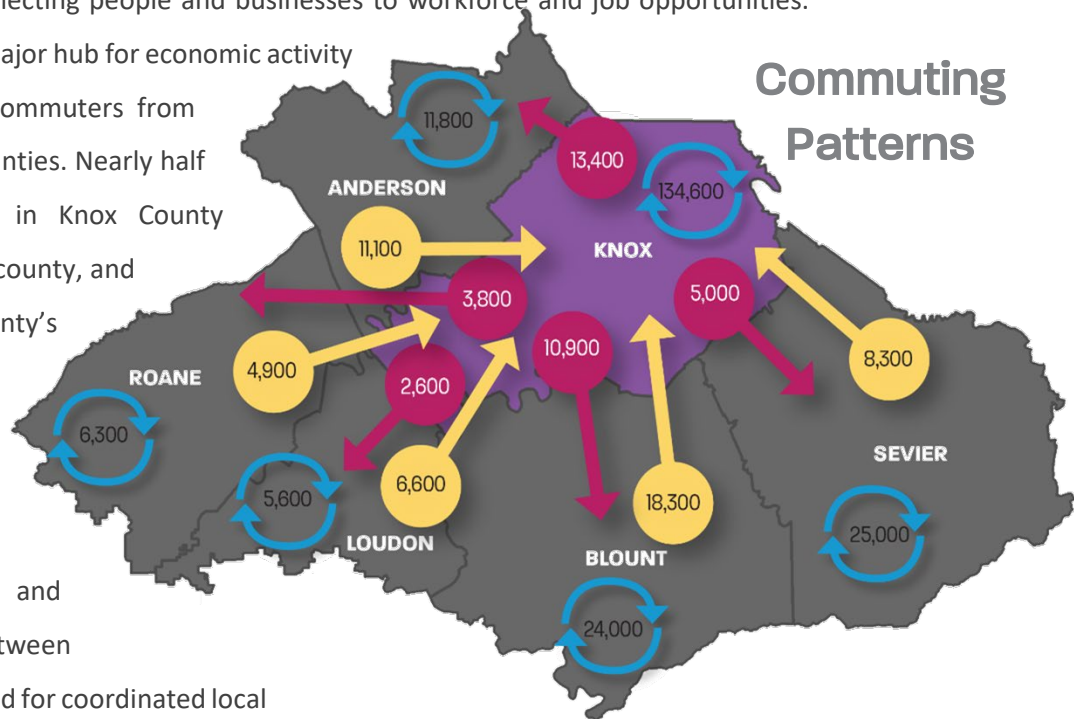


Employment Growth



Major employment centers are located throughout the region's six counties, highlighting the role transportation plays in connecting people and businesses to workforce and job opportunities.

Knox County serves as the major hub for economic activity in the region and draws commuters from each of the surrounding counties. Nearly half of all people who work in Knox County commute from outside the county, and about a third of Knox County's residents who work commute to a surrounding county for their job. The region's expected growth patterns and high rates of commuting between counties underscore the need for coordinated local and regional transportation strategies.



- Workers Leaving Knox County
- Workers Entering Knox County
- Workers Staying in the County

Existing System & Future Needs



The regional transportation system impacts economic competitiveness, quality of life, and the potential to attract new businesses and residents. Providing connected and accessible transportation options offers everyone the opportunity to live, work, learn, shop, and play where they want. In the Knoxville region, our transportation system includes highways and streets, sidewalks, bikeways, greenways, public transit, airports, rail, and waterways that all support local and regional travel and freight movement.

Based on recent traffic data we can model how our roadway system operates, expressed as a level of service (LOS), a metric that translates traffic conditions into letter grades A-F. While most of the roadways currently operate well, projected growth in population and employment will likely create more delays on the roadway system, particularly during peak commuting times.



5,500 miles of roadway



920 miles of sidewalks



42 miles of bikeways



128 miles of greenways



190 miles of transit services

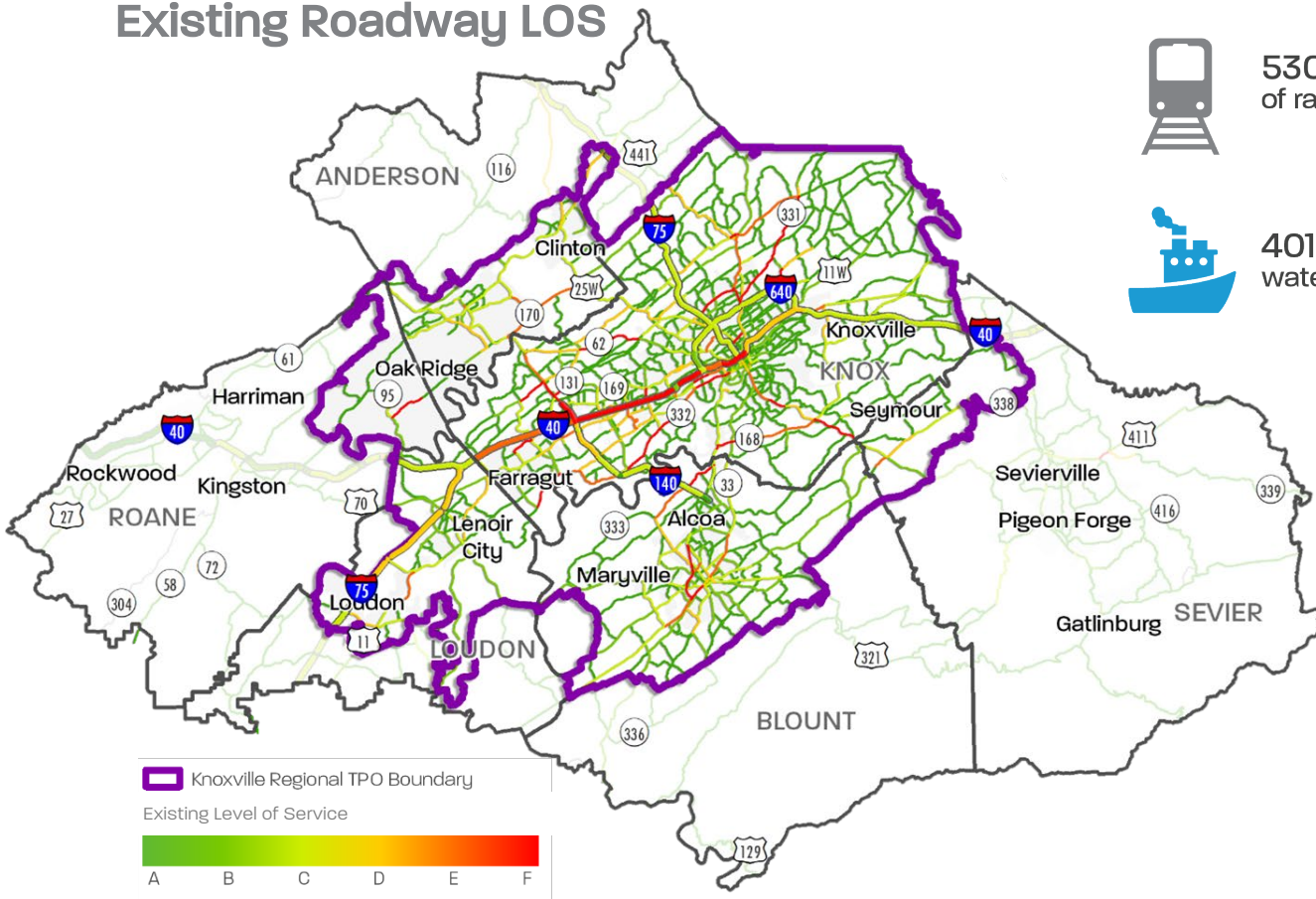


530 miles of railways



401 miles waterways

Existing Roadway LOS





Although most people will continue to rely on cars for longer trips, many other residents and visitors want and need more transportation options. Within the Knoxville TPO area, there are approximately 920 miles of sidewalks, 42 miles of bikeways, and 128 miles of greenways. Moreover, public transit agencies provide more than 3.3 million trips annually. Taken together, these all represent opportunities for safe, affordable travel without personal vehicles.

In the Knoxville region, public transit providers include Knoxville Area Transit (KAT), the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA), and Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) Transit. Each agency offers a different type of service for residents and visitors to meet the variety of transportation needs found throughout the region.



Public Priorities

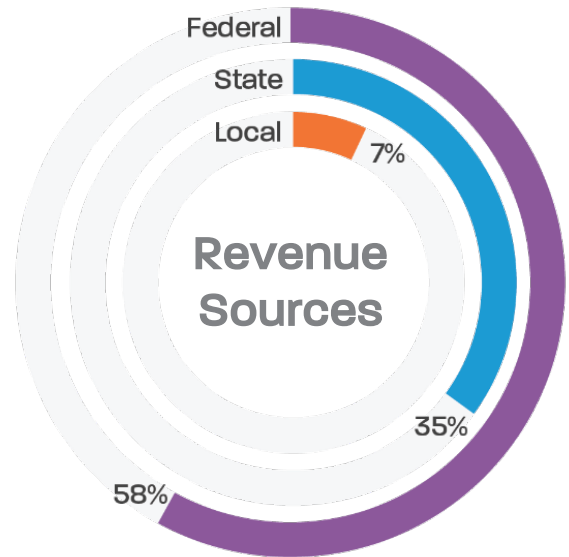
When asked to rank the type of projects needed in the region, residents prioritized maintenance needs and active transportation options.



Revenue Projections & Priorities



The TPO programs millions of dollars each year to improve transportation across the region. These funds come from a variety of federal, state, and local sources. Based on historical data, we anticipate revenue sources will be sufficient to support operating and maintaining the transportation system, making capital improvements to the roadway system, and addressing the mobility needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders over the next 25 years.



Given future growth projections, technical analysis, and public input, the TPO worked with counties, cities, and stakeholders to determine the region's future transportation needs and identified 154 potential roadway,

transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. Each proposed improvement was evaluated against the region's goals and assigned a score. Projects were classified as either supporting connections "from a community to the region" or strengthening connections "within a community," which determined its potential for points within each goal as shown in the table. This process helps ensure that available funds meet a variety of large and small transportation needs.

To meet those needs and help our region achieve its goals, Mobility Plan 2045 identifies funding for roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit system improvements. The plan itself must be fiscally constrained, meaning that its project list can only include those we can reasonably expect to fund over the next 25 years. Of the 154 potential projects reviewed, 134 transportation projects are funded in Mobility Plan 2045, amounting to \$4.5 billion after accounting for inflation.

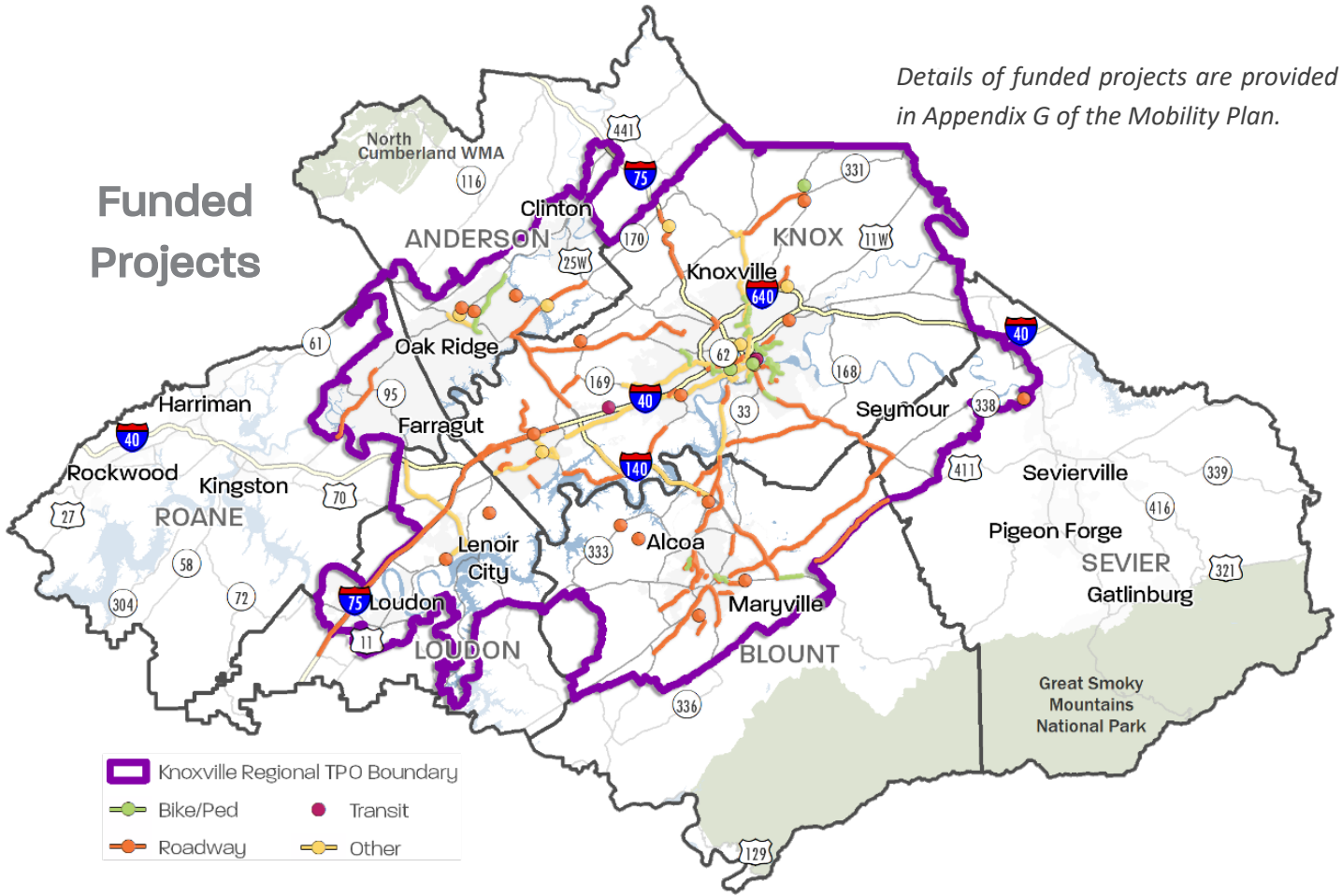
Implementation of these 134 projects will improve conditions on many of the region's major roads. The funded projects will also increase transit service across the region and advance the availability and connectivity of active transportation facilities including sidewalks, bikeways, and greenways. As a next step, the first group of projects can now be included in the TPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the region's short-term investment plan, and enter into the project development process.

Investment Plan & Implementation



Details of funded projects are provided in Appendix G of the Mobility Plan.

Funded Projects



More information on Mobility Plan 2045 can be found on the TPO's website at <https://knoxmobility.org>.

