Tennessee is centrally located on the nation’s inland waterway system. This system connects terminals on the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mississippi Rivers, and their tributaries, with river ports in 21 states and ocean ports in Houston, New Orleans and Mobile.

Tennessee enjoys the benefits of more than 1,062 miles of navigable waterways.

Memphis is the 2nd largest inland port on the Mississippi River and the 4th largest inland port in the United States.

Special-purpose terminals are used by more than 200 existing Tennessee industries.

General-purpose terminals handle cargo of all types and can accommodate the interchange of traffic and freight between barge and rail.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway provides Tennessee with direct access to the Gulf of Mexico harbors and international markets. This is the largest water resource project ever built in the United States.

Currently under construction is the Port of Cates Landing in Lake County. Facilities and capabilities will include a 9,000 linear feet of slack water harbor operable year round (already completed), expandable Intermodal Port Dock and transload facility serving barge, rail, and truck and rail access to Canadian National Railroad.