

## Alabama Transportation

Alabama's comprehensive multimodal transportation network offers the easy interfacing of all means of travel and shipping through five interstate highways, seven commercial airports, five Class I railroads, a deepwater port, one of the largest inland waterway systems in the nation, and ten inland docks.

No matter what an industry's needs might be, Alabama presents a selection of locations offering the right mix of convenience and cost-efficiency.

### **Air Transportation System**

Alabama has 89 public use airports. Through the Alabama Airport Improvement Program and the Federal Aviation Authority Airport Improvement Program, cities can develop airports for industrial and other civil use. Most public use airports are lighted and can accommodate corporate aircraft.



Alabama is served by six major commercial airlines and seven commuter airlines operating through seven airports. International flights are easily accessible via direct flights from major connecting cities. In addition, Alabama is located between two of the country's largest air freight centers - Memphis and Atlanta.

Five Alabama cities – Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery - have foreign trade zones with direct access to their air transportation system. Each foreign trade zone has been designated for the promotion of international commerce through the duty-free, quota-free entry of foreign goods under U.S. Customs supervision.

### **Highway System**

Alabama lies at the crossroads of the Sunbelt. Five interstate highways converge in Alabama and a sixth interstate highway is near completion. The interstates are part of a network of over 74,000 miles (119,091 km) of paved public roads in Alabama.

The state is served by many interstate and intrastate commercial motor carriers and more than 2,300 truck and warehousing firms, providing competitive and cost-effective logistics alternatives. Birmingham serves as a hub for one-day shipping to most of the Deep South. An 11-hour drive time from the center of Alabama reaches west to Dallas/Fort Worth, north to Chicago, east to Charleston, and south to Fort Lauderdale.

### **Railroad System**

In Alabama, 25 freight railroad companies serve the state, carrying more than 170 million tons of cargo annually over 3,332 miles (5,362 km) of track. Excellent main line connections give shippers good access to all major market centers.

Five Class I railroads operate in Alabama: BNSF Railway Company, Canadian National Railway Company, CSX Transportation, Inc., Kansas City Southern Railway Company, and Norfolk Southern Corporation. The remaining Class III, or short-line, railroads connect with the main line routes.

## Waterway System

Alabama has **one of the longest inland waterway systems in the nation**, with nearly **1,300 miles of navigable inland waterways** along six corridors. These commercially navigable systems connect to more than 15,000 miles of inland waterways in 23 states via the Tennessee-Tombigbee and the Gulf Intracoastal water systems. Eleven state-managed dock facilities are located along these water corridors. All waterways and the associated locks and dams, which are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provide cost-effective and energy efficient transportation for shippers.

The six navigable waterways in Alabama are:

- **Alabama-Coosa Waterway** – links Montgomery and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (and subsequently the Port of Mobile, Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico) via the Alabama River.
- **Chattahoochee-Apalachicola Waterway** – links the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway / Gulf of Mexico and Phenix City via the Chattahoochee River (known as the Apalachicola River within Florida).
- **Tennessee Waterway** – links Knoxville, Tennessee and the Ohio River (and subsequently the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico) via the Tennessee River.
- **Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway** – links Port Birmingham and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway at Demopolis (and subsequently the Port of Mobile, Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico) via the Black Warrior River.
- **Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway** – links the Tennessee River in the northwest corner of the state (and subsequently the Ohio River and the Mississippi River) and the Gulf of Mexico via a manmade canal, the Tombigbee River, the Mobile River, the Port of Mobile and Mobile Bay).
- **Gulf Intracoastal Waterway** – serves the Alabama coast, extending from Texas to Florida, where it connects with the intracoastal waterway serving the Atlantic coast of the United States.



### The Port Of Mobile

At Mobile, the Alabama State Port Authority operates Alabama's full-service, deepwater port on the Gulf of Mexico. The Port of Mobile offers terminal services from 100 overseas shipping lines and a dozen towing companies. Five major railroads and 75 trucking companies also serve its facilities. Two Interstate systems are found within one-half mile of the port. Brookley Airport Complex, located adjacent to the port, offers immediate access to freight forwarding transportation services. The Port of Mobile provides complete service for shippers,

including intermodal transfer and handling, warehousing, and security.

At 45 feet, the port's main channel is one of the deepest permanently navigable channels in the South. With a long history as a bulk handling port, the \$600 million port complex has transitioned to a distribution center for numerous general cargoes, including forest products, iron and steel cargoes, grain, cement and aluminum and alloy products. The port is undergoing a \$300 million modernization program, including the development of a world-class container and intermodal terminal at Choctaw Point, as well as value-added warehousing and distribution areas.

The Port of Mobile's facilities provide a compact arrangement of piers and warehouses with shipside railway tracks connecting to an adjacent interchange yard. There are 36 cargo piers including a bulk material handling plant, grain elevators, a container port, a modern roll-on/roll-off dock, and one of the finest coal exporting/importing facilities in the world. The port offers complete terminal services for shippers, including intermodal transfer and handling, warehousing and security. Through its Inland Docks Division, the Port Authority also operates terminals at ten locations along the state's waterways. Among the inland water systems, Alabama's Tombigbee, Black Warrior and Tennessee rivers connect shipping companies with major U.S. waterway systems. Additionally, Port of Mobile customers find accessibility to the Intracoastal Waterway off Mobile Bay, which provides shippers protected water routes from Texas to Maine.

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