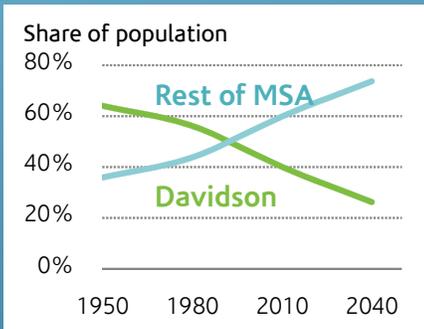


REGIONALISM

DID YOU KNOW?

- » The 10-County Middle Tennessee region is expected to add an additional 1 million new residents over the next 25 years.
- » Middle Tennessee is leading the nation in job growth, according to newly released 2012 figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- » Coordinating regionally has long been a priority in Middle Tennessee. The first major step toward regional cooperation was the consolidation of Nashville and Davidson County in 1963.
- » Since then, the region has expanded far beyond Nashville. The map at right shows some of the many different regional players in Middle Tennessee. Icons show how the different groups relate to NashvilleNext plan elements.
- » Davidson County is at the center of the region, with the largest population and employment base. However, Nashville has a declining share of the region's population and employment, a trend projected to continue into the future.



The 10-County Region

Multiple organizations cooperate across the ten counties included in the solid black outline below.

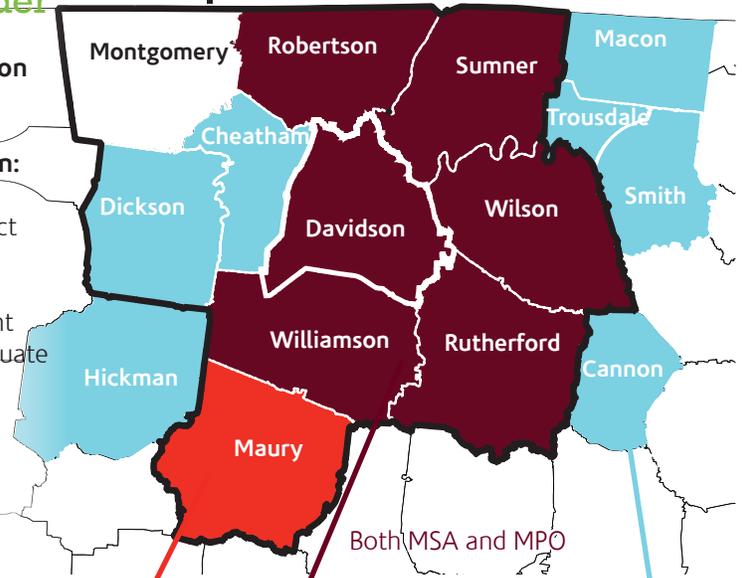


Mayors Caucus, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Regional Transit Authority, Leadership Middle Tennessee, Transit Alliance

A statewide leader

Middle Tennessee outperforms the state on several measures. The Nashville MSA ranks number 1 in the state in:

- Population & growth
- Gross domestic product
- Employment & wage growth
- Educational attainment
- Undergraduate & graduate enrollment
- University research & development
- State tax revenue
- Per capita income



Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Nashville Area MPO leads in the development of the region's long-range transportation plan and short-range transportation improvement program.



Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN Metropolitan Statistical Area

The MSA is our closest approximation of the Middle Tennessee counties with a single, interlocking economy.

Other opportunities for Middle Tennessee cooperation

Greater Nashville Regional Council (13 counties), Workforce Investment Areas 9 (four counties) and 10 (nine counties), the Partnership 2020 Economic Market (10 counties), and Nashville Area Ozone Monitoring Site (8 counties).

REGIONALISM

Fifty years ago, Nashville made national history when it consolidated the city and county governments. This model has worked well through the decades as services became more effective, efficient, and equal in Davidson County. Over this time, this one-county region grew to include 13 counties with 1.6 million residents. Counties around Davidson have become more economically robust, with leaders who understand the need to address issues from a regional perspective. Davidson County has continued in its role as the region's economic, civic, and cultural center.

The Middle Tennessee region is connected through a variety of frameworks. While the MSA is the primary definition used by the region to define itself, there are other regional frameworks under which the region operates (see the map, opposite page). These different frameworks accentuate the challenge of working as a regional unit to address common issues when diverse boundaries exist for different services and with different jurisdictions.

Some key recent regional dynamics include:

- » Population growth is shifting to surrounding counties. While Nashville continues to grow, surrounding counties are growing even faster. By 2040, Rutherford and Williamson Counties will be almost as large as Nashville is today.
- » Employment trends mirror population growth. While Nashville will continue to be the economic center of the region, more workplaces are shifting to surrounding counties.
- » Davidson County has a declining share of families in the region, but is home to more young adults.
- » Davidson County is at the core of substantial transportation infrastructure that connects the region together, including the convergence of I-24, I-65, and I-40, multiple freight train lines, an international airport, and transit service.

The report examines key issues for regional cooperation, along with best practices from other communities, related to five NashvilleNext plan elements:



Demographics
Socioeconomics



Economics
Workforce development



Transportation & land use
integration
Infrastructure
Jobs and housing balance



Housing availability & choices



Open space conservation
Air & water quality & quantity



Educational attainment

Leadership
Fiscal equity