Fairview — #1 of 10: Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Fairview Leads TN in Mean Commute Time

37.1 minutes — ranked within Nashville metro and state

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THE DATA

37.1

Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Fairview has the longest average commute in the Nashville metro, based on 2024 U.S. Census data.

This 37.1-minute average reflects a growing spatial disconnect between residential development and employment centers. As the city expands outward, workers in Fairview face longer daily travel times, signaling a shift in where people live relative to where they work. The data reveals that infrastructure and transit planning have not kept pace with population growth in the outer ring.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-27-nashville-commute-place-long

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Commute length as a proxy for growth imbalance

This imbalance may deter future talent from relocating to the area, even as housing supply grows. It also underscores a risk: if commute times continue rising, the long-term sustainability of suburban sprawl in the Nashville region could be called into question, especially as workforce mobility becomes more critical.

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The invisible cost of decentralization

This creates a feedback loop: as more people move to satellite communities like Fairview, the demand for regional infrastructure declines, making public transit less viable. The result is a deeper entrenchment of car dependency, even as climate and congestion pressures mount.

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