

WELCOME

ELLIS COUNTY REGIONAL TRAIL

MIDLOTHIAN TO WAXAHACHIE

PUBLIC MEETING



October 13, 2014



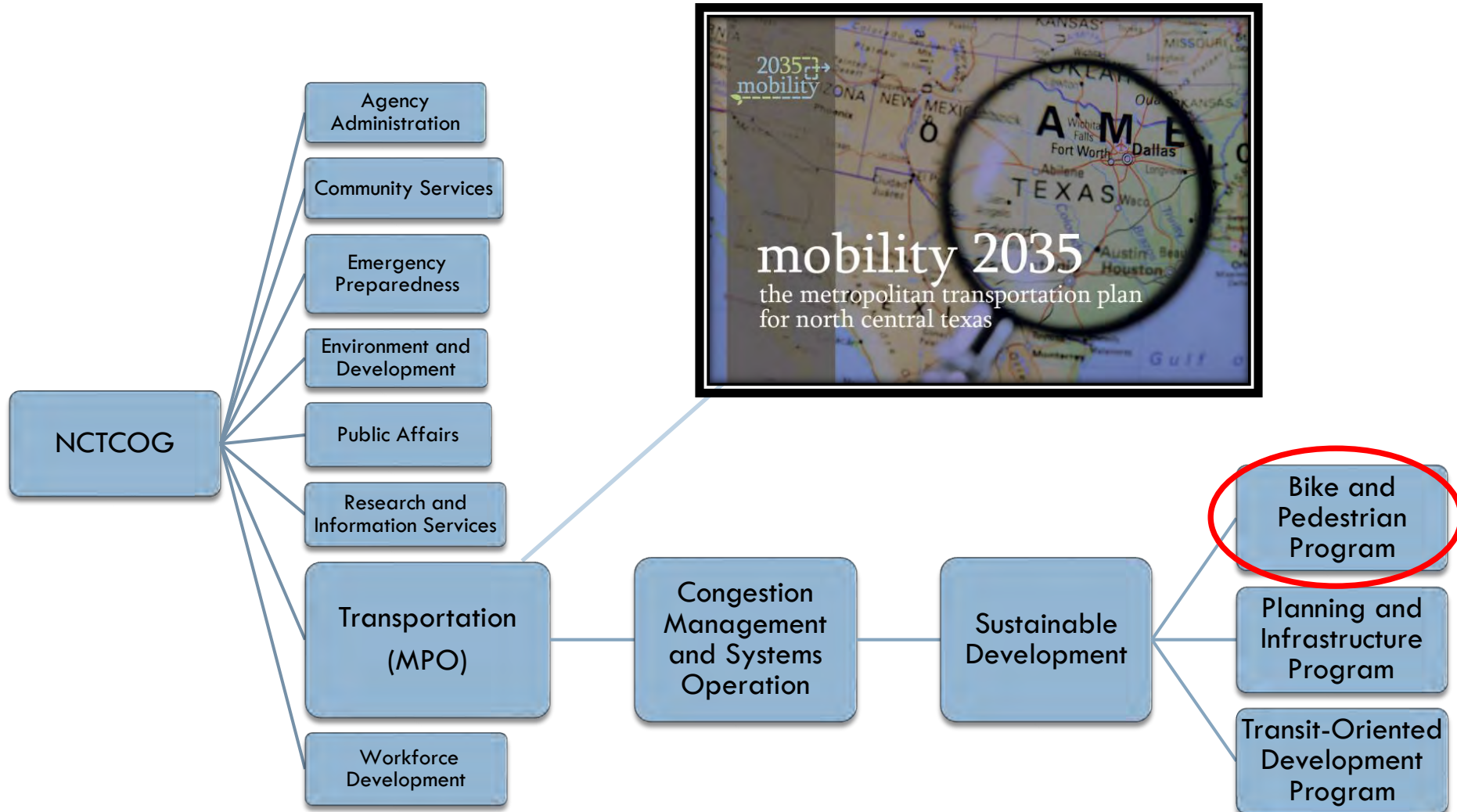
Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

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- *Overview of Regional Planning*
- *Assisting the Cities of Midlothian and Waxahachie, and Ellis County for Planning*
- *Review Alignment Options for a Regional Trail Between the Cities*
- *Obtain Feedback about Alignment Options*

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

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North Central Texas Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)

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Land Area / Population

Region

16 Counties = 12,800 sq. mi.

MPA

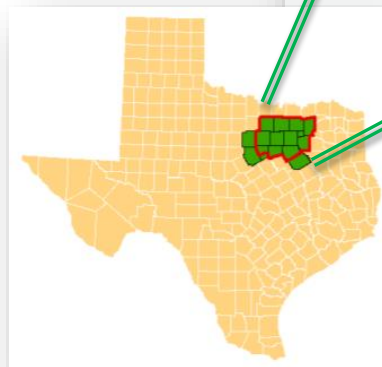
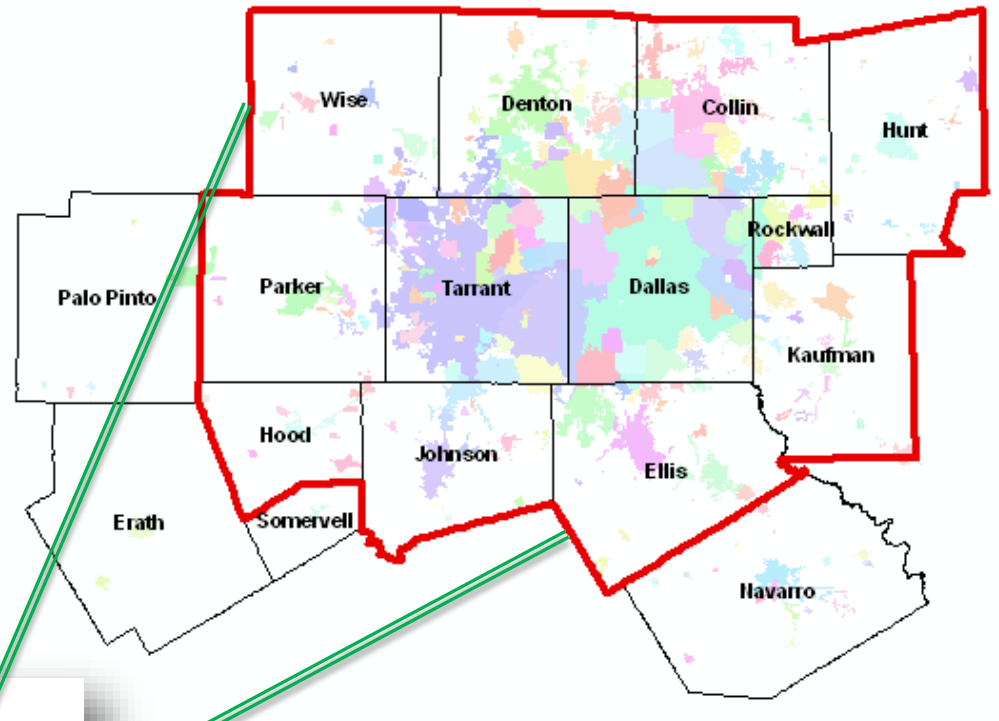
12 Counties = 9,441 sq. mi.

209 cities

MPA Population

2013 = 6,778,201

2035 = 9,833,378



**12-County
Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary**



**16-county
NCTCOG Region**

What is Active Transportation?

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Human-Powered (Non-Motorized) Transportation

- ***Active Transportation includes many active modes of travel:***
 - *Walking/Jogging/Running*
 - *Cycling*
 - *Skating*
 - *Skateboarding*

- ***Active Transportation Facilities Include:***
 - *Off-street Paths (Trails) and Sidewalks*
 - *On-street Dedicated Bikeways*

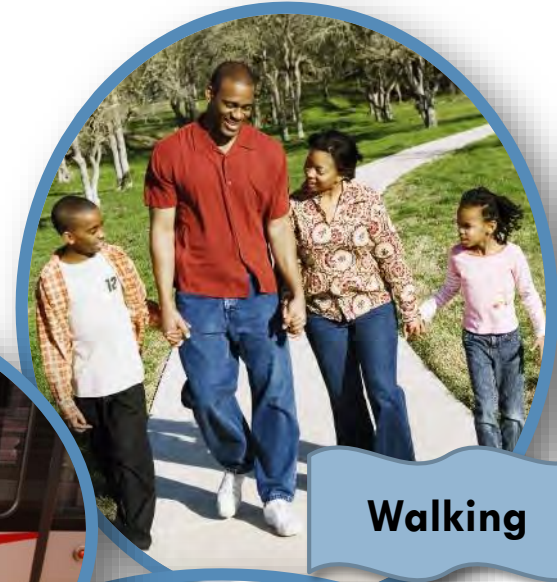
Active Transportation Users

All Ages and Abilities

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**Safe Routes
to School**



Walking



Commuting



Cycling



**Recreation
and Exercise**

What is a Shared-Use Path (Trail)

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Examples

Photo: White Rock Lake Trail, Dallas



Photo: River Legacy Trail, Arlington



Photo: Bluebonnet Trail, Plano

Planning for Regional Active Transportation Facilities

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Regional 'Veloweb' Overview

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- ***Regional Expressway for Bicycle Transportation***
- ***Off-street shared-use paths (trails)***
designed for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized forms of active transportation.
- ***Transportation Mobility:***
Provides access to neighborhoods, schools, transit stops, employment centers, shopping, entertainment, parks, and other common daily trip destinations.

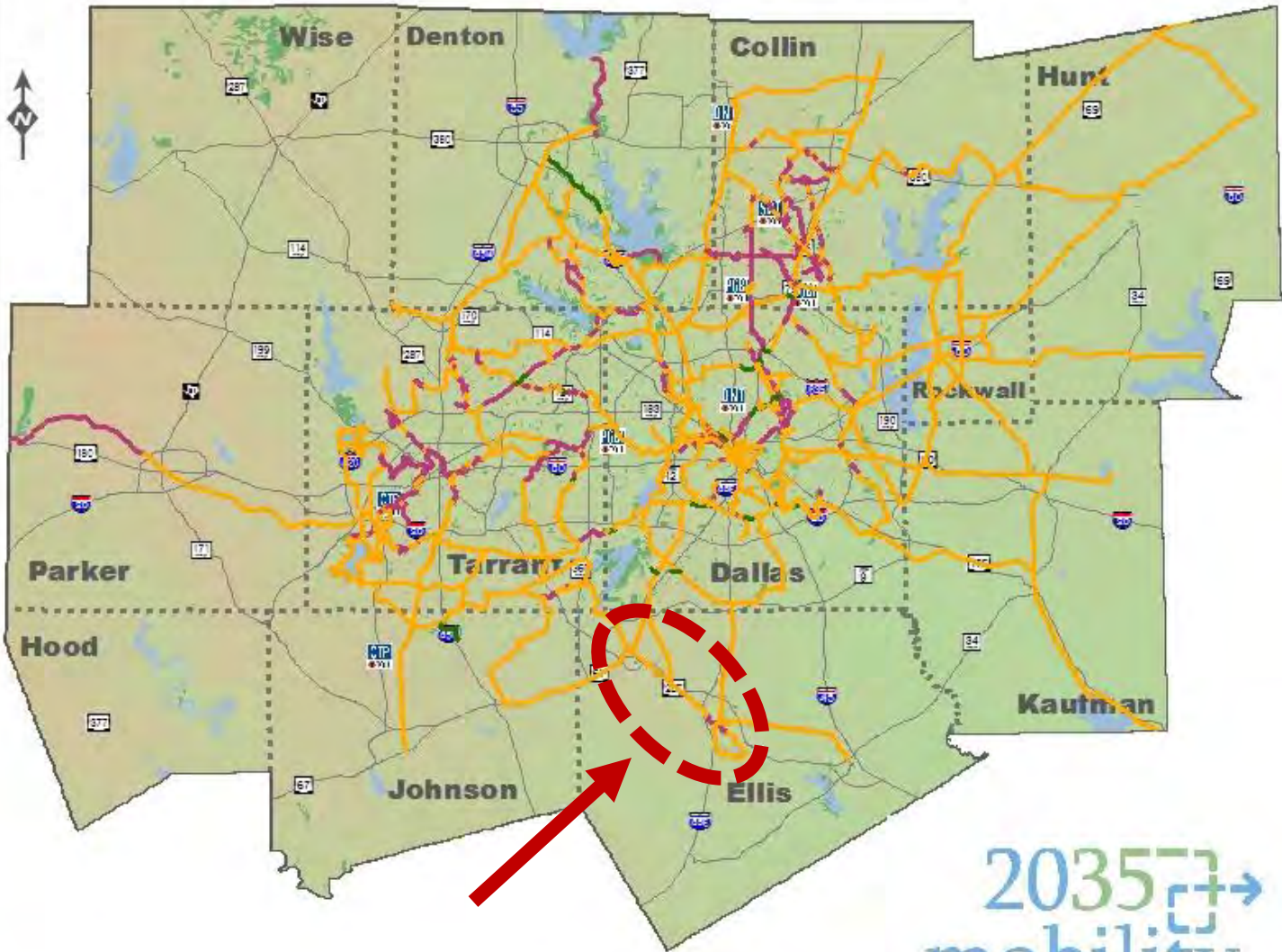
Bicycle and Pedestrian Off-street Facilities

Legend

Regional Veloweb

- Existing 318 miles
- Funded 33 miles
- Planned 1,377 miles

- Major Roads
- + + + + Rail Lines
- Parks



Facility recommendations indicate transportation need. Corridor specific alignment, design, and operational characteristics for the Regional Veloweb system will be determined through ongoing project development.

2035 mobility
2013 amendment



Regional 'Veloweb' Overview

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- Design Considerations
 - ▣ Off-Street Shared-Use Paths
 - ▣ Long-lasting Impervious Surfaces
 - ▣ Recommended Width of 12' (min)
 - ▣ Easy Access from Roadways, Especially On-Street Bikeways
 - ▣ Easy Access to Common Trip Destinations
 - ▣ Few, if any, Signalized Stops or Intersections

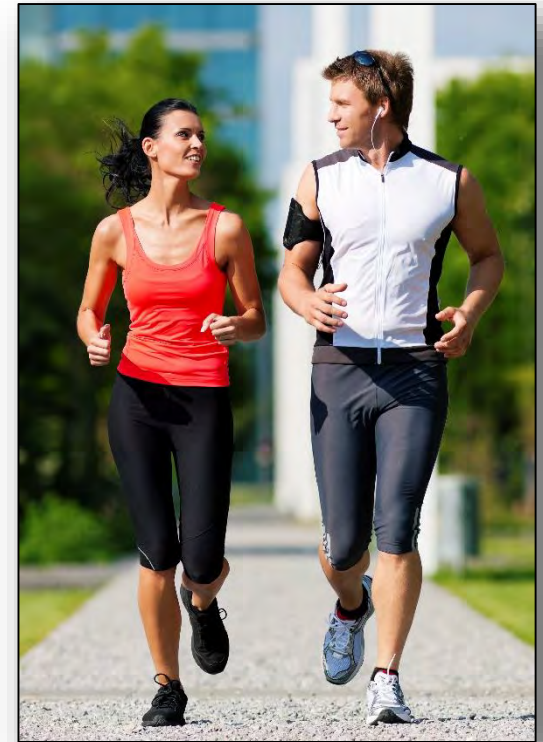


Photo: Cotton Belt Rail Trail,
North Richland Hills

Active Transportation Benefits: Health and Air Quality

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- ❑ **Transportation Alternative:**
Short trips (1 mile or less) account for 28 percent of all trips and are the easiest to take on foot or by bike. ¹
- ❑ Reduced car trips can improve the region's air quality (reduced vehicle emissions).
- ❑ Improved air quality can improve cardiovascular and respiratory health, both long-term and short-term.
- ❑ Facilities encourage exercise and improved physical fitness.



¹ Source: National Household Travel Survey

Active Transportation Benefits: Economic Development

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- Studies have shown:
 - ▣ Developers promote trails as a neighborhood amenity.
 - ▣ Out-of-town visitors using trails spend on average \$18 - \$80 per day in the community.



Active Transportation Benefits: Safety

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- Studies have shown:
 - ▣ Trails do not increase crime, and are commonly regarded as improvements by adjacent property owners.¹
 - ▣ Unlike automobile commuters, cyclists travel at slower speeds and provide an ‘eyes on the street’ presence in a neighborhood.
 - ▣ Trails can foster citizen engagement, increasing safety.
 - Friends of Katy Trail
 - Friends of Santa Fe Trail
 - Friends of the River, Fort Worth

¹ Source: National Park Service,
Trails and Conservation Assistance Program



Photo: City of North Richland Hills

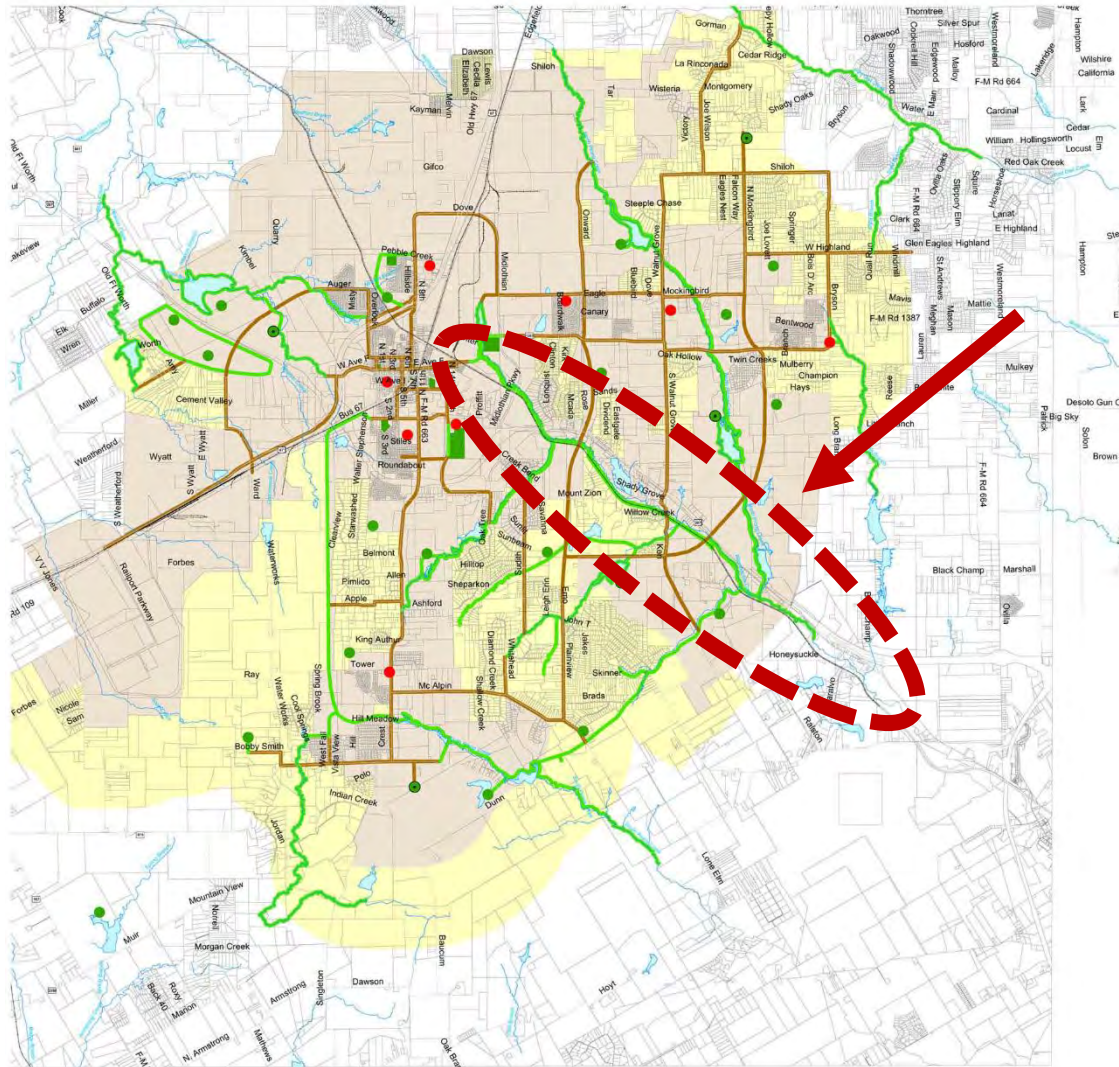


Photo: Dan Burden

Local Trails Plans - Midlothian

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The 'Veloweb' consists of Key Corridors in Local Trail Plans



MIDLOTHIAN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

THOROUGHFARE
PLAN
PANEL 1 : TRAILS
ELEMENT

Legend

- Schools
- Proposed Neighborhood Parks
- Proposed Community Parks
- Railroad
- Open Area Trail
- Roadside Trail
- Existing Parks
- City Limits
- Extrajurisdiction

HNTB
TEAM
URBAN DESIGN • PLANNING

1 square mile
100 acres

0 2,500 5,000 7,500

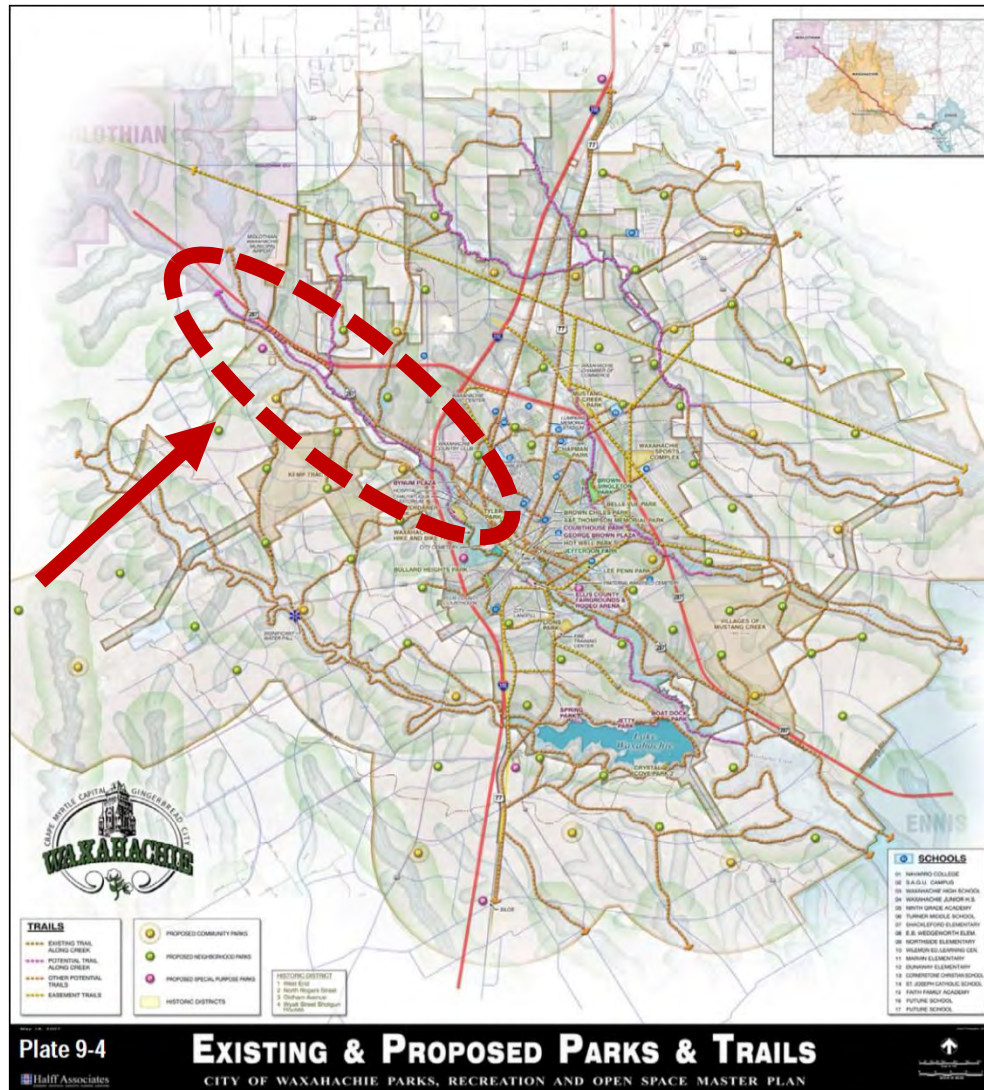
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Local Trails Plans - Waxahachie

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The 'Veloweb' consists of Key Corridors in Local Trail Plans

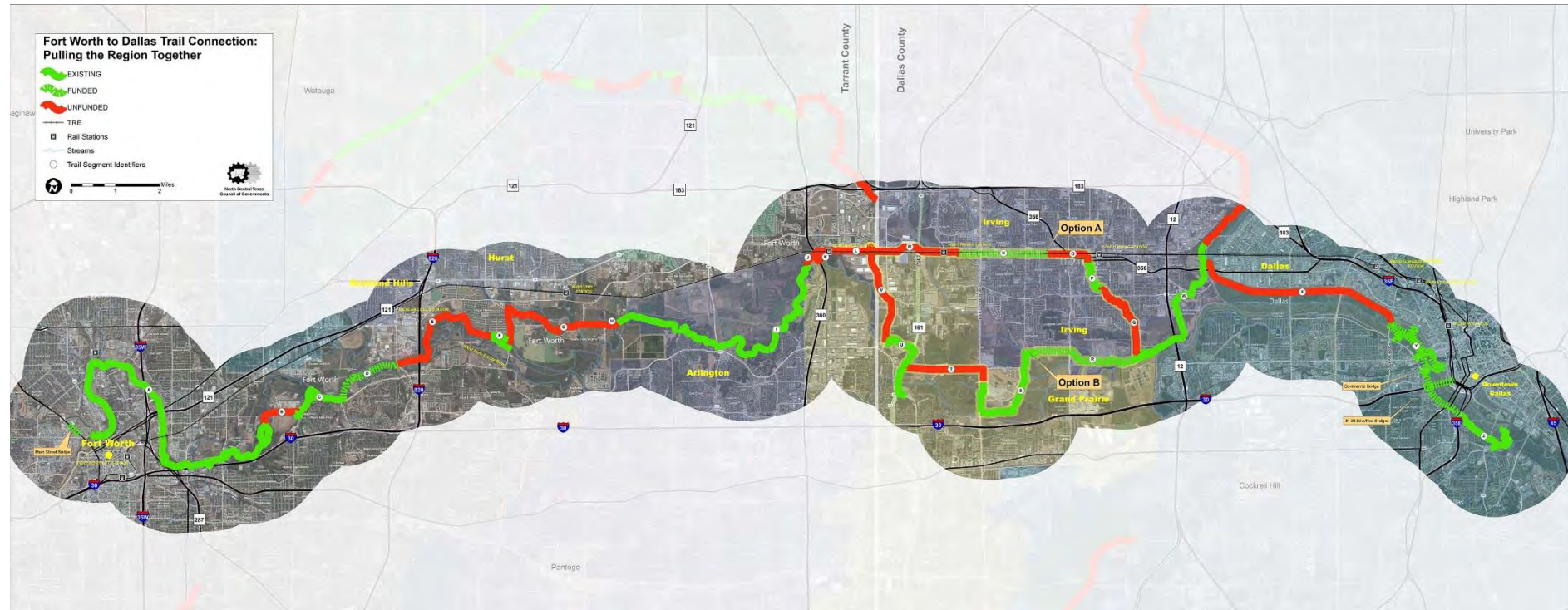


Other Regional Trails

Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail Corridor

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Examples



- Downtown Fort Worth to Downtown Dallas
- Five Cities (Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving, Dallas)
- Combined Route (total distance): 64 miles

Active Transportation Funding Opportunities

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- Federal/State/Regional
 - ▣ Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Regional Call for Projects (\$28.4 Million TAP, \$9.8 Million CMAQ)
 - Statewide Call for Projects
 - ▣ Bike/Pedestrian Projects are Eligible Under All Federal Aid Highway Funds

- Local Funds and Contributions
 - ▣ Capital Improvement Programs
 - ▣ Dedicated Local Funding Source (Parks, Streets, etc.)
 - ▣ 'Friends of the Trail' Non-Profit Organizations
 - ▣ Other Private Contributions (Developers, Donations, etc.)

Next Steps

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- Community Feedback
- Refine Trail Alignment Concept
- Cities and County Implementation
 - ▣ Continue Dialogue
 - ▣ Finalize Alignment
 - ▣ Identify Funding Sources
 - ▣ Preliminary and Final Engineering
 - ▣ Construction