



A quarterly report on the pursuit of a COMMON VISION for the Trinity River in North Central Texas.

Winter 2009

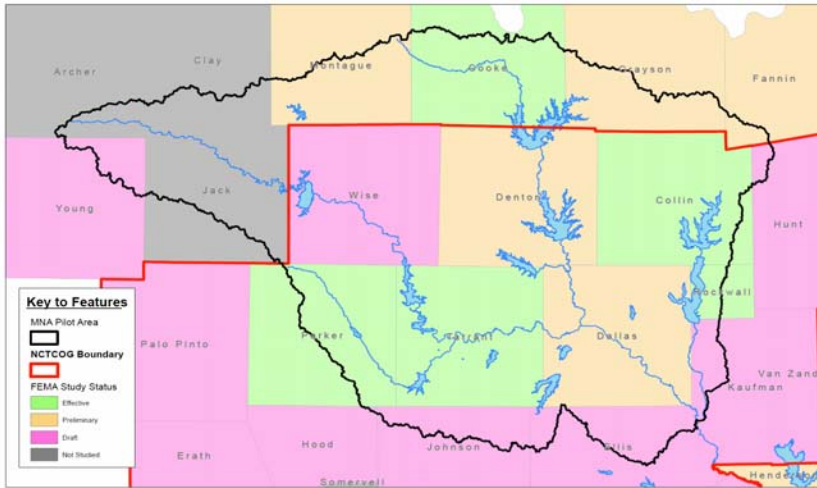
Final Mapping Plan Identifies Local Mapping Needs

NCTCOG teamed up with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) this summer to assess flood mapping needs in the Upper Trinity River Basin within the North Central Texas region. This Upper Trinity River Basin Map Needs Assessment (MNA) project entailed the compilation of local mapping needs, the establishment of prioritization criteria in order to compare and rank identified mapping needs, and the creation of a Final Mapping Plan. The Mapping Plan depicts prioritization criteria, financial information, and a Prioritized List of Qualified Map Needs by stream and watershed in a variety of ways (based on weighted prioritization criteria elements and collected needs). These products are available at <http://floodmap.nctcog.org>.

identify mapping needs remaining after Map Mod, serve as a pilot project to kick off the Texas State-wide Map Needs Assessment, define the MNA procedures and process for Texas, and improve efficiencies for future projects in other regions or watersheds.

once their online collection system has been finalized. The process of assessing, prioritizing, seeking funding, and mapping will continue as more mapping needs are collected and updated.

For more information, visit



MNA Project Area Map

The recently completed FEMA Map Modernization (Map Mod) program that resulted in new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps focused on converting existing flood maps and data into a digital form. Given funding constraints, this FEMA project was unable to address new flood mapping needs. The MNA project goals were to

NCTCOG is continuing efforts to coordinate with the TWDB and FEMA in order to seek funding to finalize detailed studies of stream corridors and to generate better flood maps for areas identified in this Map Needs Assessment. Mapping needs will continue to be collected by the TWDB

<http://floodmap.nctcog.org> or contact Jack Tidwell, Environment and Development Manager, at (817) 695-9220 or jtidwell@nctcog.org or Audra Valamides, NCTCOG Public Works Coordinator, at (817) 608-2341 or avalamides@nctcog.org.



Inside this issue:

Building on a COMMON VISION	2
EPA Announces Plan to Retool and Reinvigorate Clean Water	2
Other Programs Around NCTCOG	2
Building a Future That is Better Than Business As Usual	3
New Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) Manual	3
Local Information Section	3

Call for Articles!

Are you a participating Trinity River COMMON VISION local government or a professional with a topic you would like to share with the rest of the region? Contact Audra Valamides at avalamides@nctcog.org

FEMA RAMPP's Up for New Mapping Cycle in Risk MAP

As part of its activities related to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began the transition from Map Modernization to Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The vision for Risk MAP is to work collaboratively with State, local, and tribal entities to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and lead to action that reduces risk to life and property.

The Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Planning

Partners (RAMPP) will provide comprehensive floodplain mapping, GIS, and hazard risk mitigation services for FEMA Region VI (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX). RAMPP is also responsible for operating the Regional Support Centers (RSCs) located near the FEMA Region VI offices, processing Letters of Map Correction, and providing production and technical services for flood insurance studies as well as digital flood insurance rate map production, studies, hazard risk assessment and mitigation planning, outreach, and other services.

In October, the FEMA and the RAMPP team held meetings in Dallas, Collin and Tarrant Counties to discuss their specific mapping goals. Presentations from these meetings can be found on their website at <http://www.rampp-team.com/tx.htm>.

They announced that activities in Dallas County will focus on levee issues while the activities in Collin and Tarrant Counties will utilize information from the recently completed Upper Trinity River Basin Map Needs Assessment to determine mapping priorities.

Building a Future That is Better Than Business As Usual

More than 300 regional stakeholders participated in the “North Texas Alternative Futures” event held Friday, September 18 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving to discuss the future of North Texas. The various individuals and organizations in attendance recognized that the best future for our region is one that reflects the interests, goals, and aspirations of our diverse residents, businesses, and stakeholders. This event offered an opportunity for participants to examine the alternatives to “business as usual.”

Mayor Herbert Gears of the City of Irving kicked off the event. Three guest speakers then provided their perspectives on the region’s future. Ebby Halliday, Ebby Halliday Realtors, stressed the importance of water, while Michael Berry, Hillwood Development, and Lois Finkelman, The National Recreation and Park Association, stressed the importance of mobility and natural features. After a brief overview of the four alternative scenarios (Connected Centers, Return on Investment, Diverse, Distinct

Communities, and Green Region), participants broke out into smaller groups to provide feedback on two of the four scenarios. The discussions were interesting and lively.

The groups then convened to hear highlights of the views and opinions shared in the scenarios’ discussion sessions. Mayors Tom Leppert, City of Dallas, and Mike Moncrief, City of Fort Worth, opened the results session, reflecting on their communities’ experiences and the changes they expect in their cities’—and the region’s—future. Finally, Karen Walz, Vision North Texas Project Manager, and Fernando Costa, City of Fort Worth, wrapped up the morning session with a polling exercise and an outlook to the future.



The day’s discussions will help create a valuable new guidebook for our region, “North Texas 2050,” which is scheduled to be presented to the region’s stakeholders at the Regional Summit scheduled for January 22, 2010. The North Texas Alternative Futures Executive Summary was made available to participants and presented key findings from an extensive and collaborative research effort. These key findings were the focus for the discussion sessions that were grouped according to the Alternative Futures.

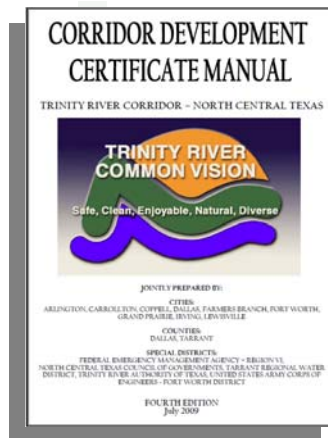
The summaries and reports from the day’s events are available at www.visionnorthtexas.org. For more information, contact Rob Seeds, Environment and Development Planner, at (817) 695-9224 or rseeds@nctcog.org.

New Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) Manual

As part of the Trinity River COMMON VISION Program, the NCTCOG and the Floodplain Management Task Force composed of local communities and interested parties have been working to update the Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) Manual over the last two fiscal years. The need for this revision of the CDC Manual from the 3rd to 4th Edition was identified to address technological advances as well as a few out dated items including the Regulatory Zone map, exemptions, hydraulic model, and other topics.

Major changes resulting from this update process include:

- Clarification of the required analysis of



the Standard Project Flood

- Clarification as to the Regulatory Zone being the 100 year FEMA floodplain as identified by the local floodplain administrator
- Notes that the purpose of CDC is not to override city development authority or to replace any state of federal program
- Clarification of definitions, significant

digits in certain calculations and permit criteria

- Addition of Significant Temporary Construction to the Common Regional Criteria
- Modification of application data requirements
- Updated structure and revised cost recovery fees for applications

The new CDC Manual was approved by the Trinity Steering Committee in July 2009. The Floodplain Management Task Force is currently working towards approving updated flow models developed by the USACE through Fort Worth.

For more information, contact Audra Valamides, Public Works Coordinator, at (817) 608-2341 or avalamides@nctcog.org.

Recent Publications

Draft Executive Order for Floodplain Management (click [here](#) to view)

Flood Management Handbook by the Regional Flood Management Council in the Houston-Galveston Area, July 2009

Mapping the Zone: Improving Flood Map Accuracy by the National Research Council

Local Staff Changes

Joe Sherwin, P.E., C.F.M., previously the Floodplain Administrator in Grand Prairie, is now the City Engineer for Hurst.

Gabe Johnson, P.E., P.H., C.F.M., is now the Floodplain Administrator for the City of Grand Prairie.

Rob Connell is now the local NFIP representative for FEMA.

Upcoming Events

Floodplain Management Seminar and CFM Exam in Fort Worth—Dec 9 (email tfma@verizon.net to register)

10th Annual Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment in Washington D.C. —Jan 20-22 (visit <http://ncseonline.org/conference/greenecology/> for more info)

9th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Seattle, Washington—Feb 4-6 (visit <http://www.newpartners.org/> for more info)

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Trinity River COMMON VISION

a **SAFE** Trinity River, with stabilization and reduction of flooding risks,

a **CLEAN** Trinity River, with fishable and swimmable waters,

an **ENJOYABLE** Trinity River, with recreational opportunities linked by a trails system within a world-class greenway,

a **NATURAL** Trinity River, with preservation and restoration of riparian and cultural resources,

a **DIVERSE** Trinity River, with local and regional economic, transportation and other public needs addressed.

For additional information regarding the COMMON VISION contact:

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