

# NCTCOG FACT SHEET

August 2023

## QUICK TAKE

### What:

Freight North Texas 2022 is the freight plan for the nation's fourth-largest region, outlining the freight movement planning efforts for the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth area, policies and programs laid out in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Mobility 2045 Update) and how they are being used. The Freight North Texas 2022 update includes policies, programs and projects that have been developed to assess, understand and improve regional freight movements.

### Significance:

The goal of Freight North Texas is to enhance the safety, mobility, efficiency and air quality associated with freight movements in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

### By the Numbers:

The freight industry (manufacturing, transportation and warehousing) in North Texas accounts for a combined \$84 billion in gross domestic product (GDP). The region is home to four foreign trade zones (FTZ). Three Class I railroads (BNSF Railway, Kansas City Southern Railway, and Union Pacific Railroad) and two regional railroads (Dallas, Garland and Northeastern Railroad and the Fort Worth and Western Railroad) operate within the region. The regional railroads interchange with the Class I railroads.

## Freight North Texas Guides Regional Freight Planning

Freight North Texas 2022 outlines the freight movement planning efforts in the region, including the goals, policies and programs laid out in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and how they are being used in Dallas-Fort Worth. The plan lays out the freight resources and assets of the region, and discusses issues and elements of the freight system in the region. Finally, it concludes with recommendations for policies, programs, projects and studies to help improve the freight movement in the region. The 2022 Freight North Texas plan is organized into four sections. Along with the introduction, there are three main sections:

**Freight in North Central Texas** – This section outlines the status of freight at the regional, state and national levels. It examines the different elements of the freight system as they are currently aligned in the region. Approximately 85% of goods shipped to and from the region are transported on trucks. But freight is moved in many ways in Dallas-Fort Worth, including by air, rail and pipeline.



Photo: Getty Images

*Trucks move a majority of freight to and from North Texas. But freight is moved in many ways in Dallas-Fort Worth. Freight North Texas provides guidance to ensure the industry can operate efficiently.*



Photo: Getty Images

Containers of freight wait to be transported to their destination.

**Freight Planning in North Central Texas** – As the largest section in the plan, it outlines and shows analysis that has been done by NCTCOG by dealing with different freight-related transportation issues throughout the region. This section includes NCTCOG Freight Initiatives, and policies related to freight on a regional, state or national level. Performance measures related to these policies are also included. The majority of the section is devoted to discussing and analyzing the region’s freight systems elements. These include:

- Freight and the Environment
- Freight and Equity
- Truck Parking
- Freight Congestion and Delay
- Freight and Land Use
- The Economics of Infrastructure Projects and Freight
- North Texas MOVES – Freight and Railroads in North Texas
- Critical Urban Freight Corridors
- Hazardous Material Routing
- Freight and Technology
- Corridor Studies
- Freight and Safety

The discussion of these elements includes the studies and analyses that have been conducted for the region over the past few years.

The final portion of Section 3 is a connectivity report on how the region interacts with the rest of the state

of Texas, surrounding states and Mexico. This is to better understand the relationship between these areas and the North Central Texas region in the context of freight.

**Recommendations for North Central Texas** – The last section of the plan details the results of the data collection and analysis done within the Freight North Texas Program. This section discusses the results in the form of recommendations for policies, programs and projects, which are placed under consideration for acceptance in the future MTP. It is important that any new policy, program or project recommendation is in line with the current MTP. The section also outlines new studies and analyses that will be done as follow up for this plan. These studies include:

- Truck Bottleneck Study
- Rail Pathing Study
- Air Cargo Analysis
- Truck Routing Study
- Rail Crossing Analysis
- Truck Safety Analysis
- Commodity Flow Model
- First- and Last-Mile Improvement Study

These studies will address freight needs and concerns throughout the region, leading to increased freight safety, mobility and efficiency and better freight movement.