Quick Take

What:

Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas, which projects $135.4 billion be provided for improvements to the region's transportation system to address the mobility needs of current and future residents through 2045.

Significance:

A broad, innovative approach to improving the transportation system is necessary to modernize the way residents travel as they go about their lives. Mobility 2045 builds on the successes of past plans, while embracing new and emerging technologies that could help improve the reliability and provide choices for the transportation system.

By the Numbers:

11.2 million

The Dallas-Fort Worth population is expected to increase 57 percent by 2045, to roughly 11.2 million people. While the region's population expands, the additional 4 million people will add more than 2 million jobs to boost employment to almost 7 million.
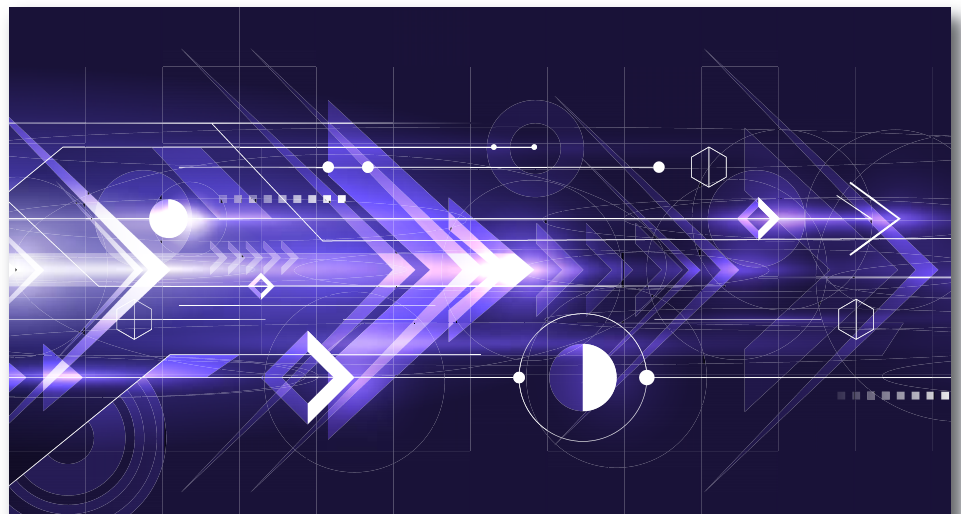
Moving North Texans with an Eye on Tomorrow

The Regional Transportation Council approved Mobility 2045 in June 2018. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth area is put in place to identify and address improvements to the current transportation system. Mobility 2045 suggests different strategies and tactics that will accommodate the specific needs of the region's transportation system to ultimately improve the overall travel experience throughout North Texas.

The plan includes recommendations from regional planners and transportation providers, who took input from the users of the system via extensive public outreach opportunities. This helped them develop the transportation blueprint through 2045. An area as large and diverse as Dallas-Fort Worth requires a multimodal approach to improving transportation, relying on roadway, rail and active transportation system improvements. Mobility 2045 will continue to build for the future and incorporate technological initiatives like high-speed rail, modern people movers and automated vehicles. These potential options build on the Mobility 2040 plan, emphasizing sustainability and quality of life, increasing transportation options and helping the region prepare for an estimated increase of 4 million people.

The plan proposes $135.4 billion be provided for the transportation system through 2045. It is important to note that Mobility 2045 is a list of projects and programs that can be afforded for the life of the plan.

Because of the intense population growth and the limited funds available, the Mobility Plan recognizes which projects and investments will benefit the region's transportation system most effectively.

Planners have taken a comprehensive approach in the development of the region's next Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Allocation of Funds

To ensure the existing transportation system can serve the ever-growing region for 25-plus years, Mobility 2045 includes a mix of strategies to maximize current assets. Those include:

- Infrastructure maintenance to continue necessary improvements to current facilities **($37.5 billion)**.

- Strategies to build on the efficiency of management and operations **($9.5 billion)**.

- Growth, development and land-use strategies to improve the balance between land use and transportation **($3.2 billion)**.

In addition to these lower-cost priorities, the region's transportation system still requires major infrastructure investments to add necessary capacity.

Mobility 2045 focuses on:

- Rail and bus to enhance the availability of transit options and induce the switch to transit. **($33.3 billion)**.

- HOV/managed lanes to increase auto occupancy as well as freeways, tollways and arterials to add additional roadway capacity for a more efficient travel experience **($52 billion)**.

While this may seem like a lot of money, the reality is that this is only about one-third of the funding needed to keep pace with the rapidly gowing region.

Operations and infrastructure are important components of a transportation system. But other factors must be considered when seeking solutions for tomorrow.

Air Quality
With nine North Texas Counties in nonattainment for ozone pollution, efforts to improve the transportation system must consider air quality. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan includes a broad approach to moving people, with a keen eye on air quality.

Environmental
Major infrastructure improvements such as highways and transit lines can impact habitat and ecosystems. Similarly, many small improvements can have cumulative effects. Creating infrastructure more sensitive to wildlife and ecosystems through integrated planning and interagency cooperation is important to the transportation system's future.

Social
Meeting the mobility needs of today and tomorrow requires coordination and collaboration from transportation system users at all levels of the process. Nondiscrimination also plays a vital role in the transportation planning process. Through public outreach and analysis, the Regional Transportation Council seeks to understand and address the needs of the region, including individuals who have historically been underserved.

Tomorrow's Transportation System
DFW continues to face transportation challenges related to construction, safety, cost and access. Technology could help alleviate some of these issues. Through its automated vehicle program area, NCTCOG looks to partner with local governments and developers to create innovative solutions to these challenges.

This is just one area where NCTCOG and its partners are looking to use technology to improve system reliability. North Texas has welcomed developers seeking a test market for their automated technology. For more on Mobility 2045's embrace of technology and innovation, visit **www.nctcog.org/mobility2045**.