



# mobility 2035

the metropolitan transportation  
plan for north central texas

## executive summary



## A New Approach to Transportation

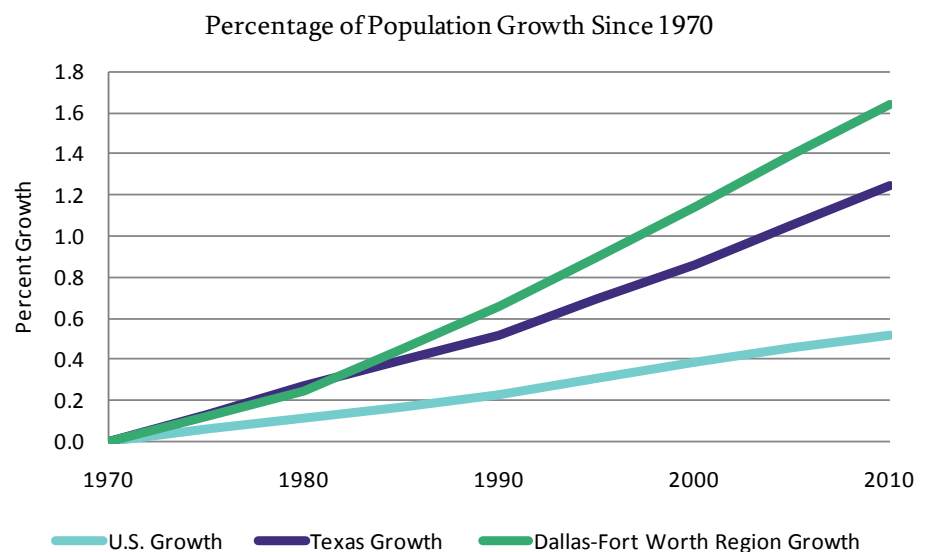
Mobility 2035 is the defining vision for the region’s multimodal transportation system. Serving as a blueprint for the region’s transportation system, Mobility 2035 represents a balanced approach to the way North Central Texas plans for and implements transportation improvements. This plan provides for increased mobility and accessibility while addressing the demanding financial constraints. Mobility 2035 focuses on first making the most efficient use of the existing transportation system by coordinating land-use and transportation strategies to accommodate for anticipated growth, then making strategic decisions in major transportation investments with the remaining available resources.

## A Growing and Diverse Region

The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area continues to be one of the most rapidly growing areas in the country. Since the 1970s, the region has grown by more than 150 percent, and is now the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the country with a population of more than 6.5 million. The area covers nearly 9,500 square miles, making it larger in total area than five states. Dealing with such a large area and so many people presents a variety of challenges. The region varies greatly in terms of its demographic composition and geography, ranging from dense urban to rural settings. This means a one-size-fits-all transportation system will not work for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Understanding the existing demographic makeup of the region and how growth is anticipated to change over time is key to planning a transportation system that meets current and future needs.

The region is expected to continue growing as a result of a favorable economic climate, low cost of living and other quality-of-life factors that make North Central Texas attractive to new residents and businesses. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan seeks to meet the needs of the current population while accommodating future system demand from a population approaching 10 million by 2035.

The goals defined in Mobility 2035 guide efforts that aim to accommodate the multimodal mobility needs of a growing region. These goals support and advance the development of a transportation system that contributes to improvement in the region’s mobility, quality of life, system sustainability and continued project implementation.



*The Dallas-Fort Worth region has grown faster than the state and nation. Over time, the demographic composition of the region is expected to change.*



# Goals of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan

## mobility

- Improve the availability of transportation options for people and goods.
- Support travel efficiency measures and system enhancements targeted at congestion reduction and management.
- Assure all communities are provided access to the regional transportation system and planning process.

## quality of life

- Preserve and enhance the natural environment, improve air quality and promote active lifestyles.
- Encourage livable communities that support sustainability and economic vitality.

## system sustainability

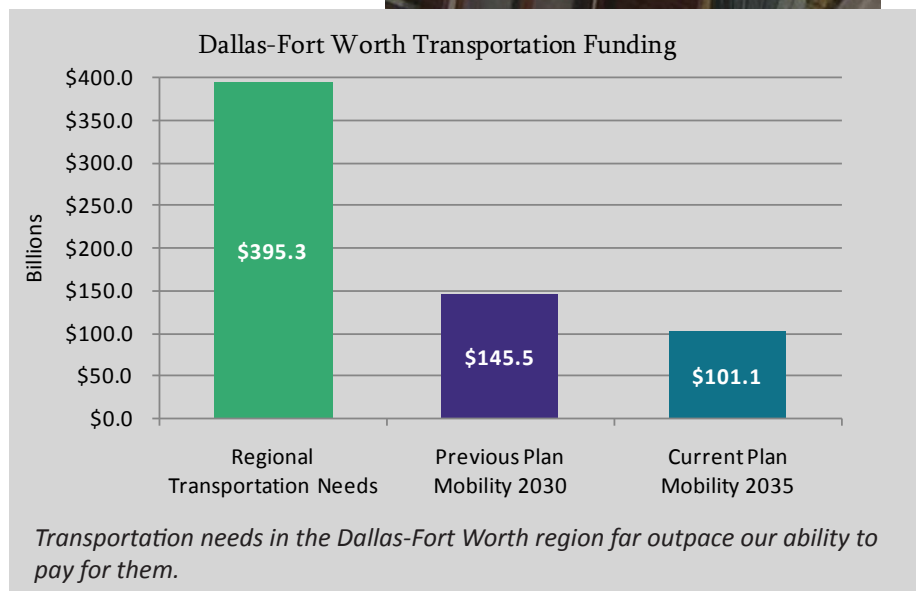
- Ensure adequate maintenance and enhance the safety and reliability of the existing transportation system.
- Pursue long-term, sustainable revenue sources to address regional transportation system needs.

## implementation

- Provide for timely project planning and implementation.
- Develop cost-effective projects and programs aimed at reducing the costs associated with constructing, operating and maintaining the regional transportation system.

## Dallas-Fort Worth Financial Picture

While the creation of a world-class transportation system that accommodates all mobility needs of the region would be ideal, the reality is that such a system cannot be afforded under current economic conditions. Current estimates put Dallas-Fort Worth regional transportation needs at \$395.3 billion to eliminate all but the worst levels of congestion in the region between now and 2035. This would require spending nearly \$16.5 billion annually. Mobility 2035 is required to be financially constrained to resources that are reasonably expected to be available over the life of the plan. Mobility 2035 identifies \$101.1 billion in transportation projects and programs. While this seems like a great deal of money, it is approximately \$45 billion less than the region's previous plan, Mobility 2030. This reduction in anticipated funding for transportation is the result of stagnant or declining revenues for transportation. These revenues and the associated buying power have been negatively impacted by a number of factors including decreased fuel consumption and high inflation in construction expenses. Likewise, state and federal motor fuel taxes have not increased since 1991 and 1993, respectively. These factors have resulted in less money to build and implement much-needed transportation improvements. The expenditures identified in Mobility 2035 reflect this concept.





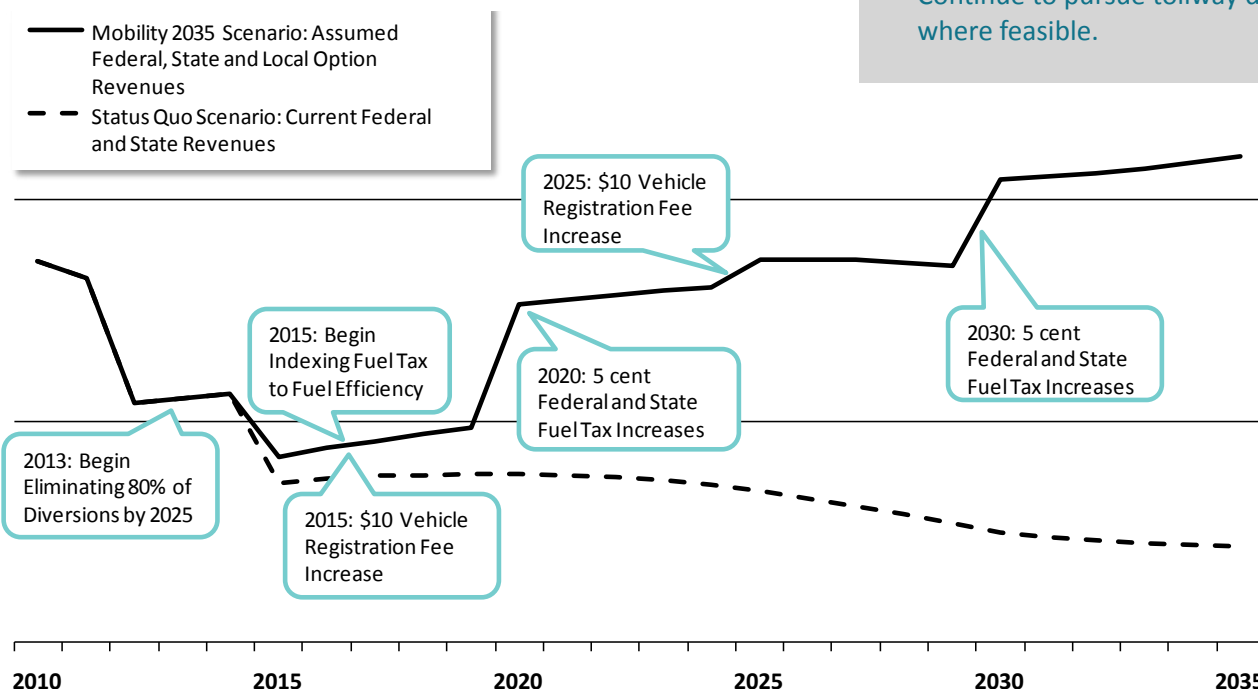
## Legislative Strategies Identified in Mobility 2035

*The RTC has an active legislative program. These proposed strategies should be pursued to ensure the region receives the revenue that has been projected.*

- Continue RTC/Texas Transportation Commission Partnership Program to leverage available funding.
- Pursue innovative project financing using tools made available by the state legislature.
- Pursue congestion pricing opportunities through managed facilities in specific corridors identified through planning studies.
- Decrease project costs through streamlining the project development process and value engineering initiatives.
- Continue to pursue legislative actions aimed at increasing revenue through additional initiatives identified by the RTC.
- Continue to pursue tollway development where feasible.

Mobility 2035 relies on a set of legislative financial strategies. Without these, a number of critically needed improvements would be left out of the plan. These strategies are not prescriptive, but instead are an example of the level of investment required to fully implement the recommendations contained in Mobility 2035. Because of the Regional Transportation Council’s active legislative agenda, it is reasonable to assume that the projects contained in the plan will move forward. Without action by state and federal elected officials, the gap between the region’s transportation needs and what it can actually fund will continue to grow.

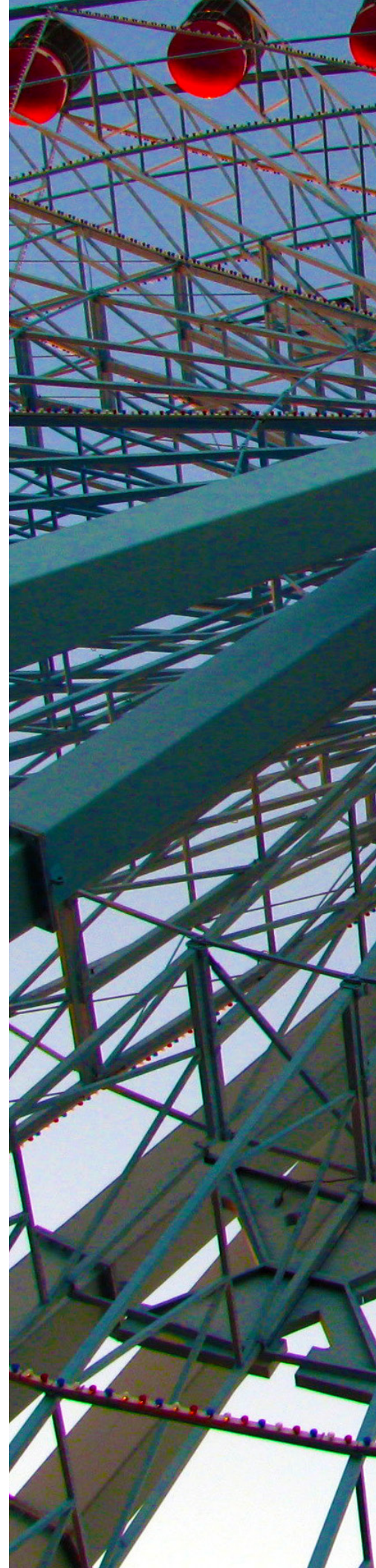
## Mobility 2035 Revenue Enhancements



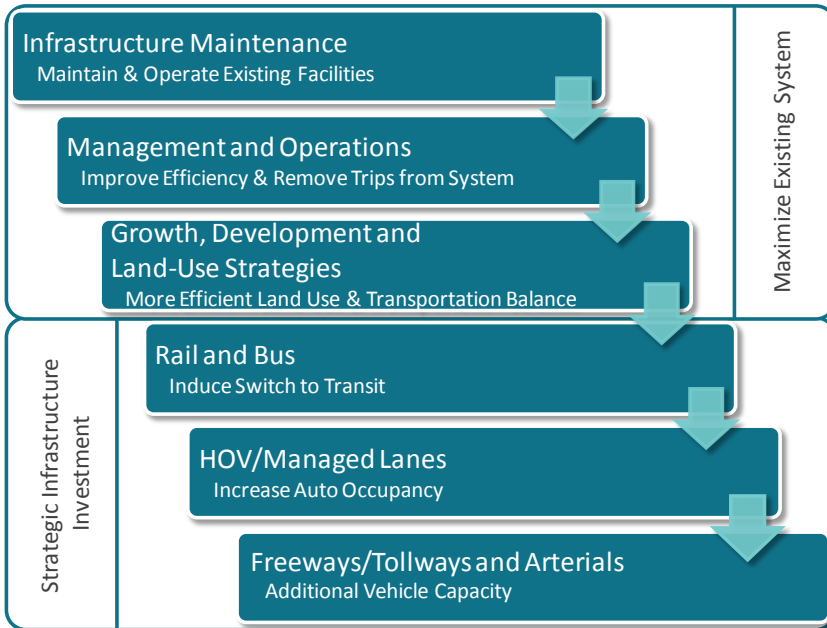
*Long-range planning is anything but certain, and assumptions have to be made about what can reasonably be expected to happen over the life of the mobility plan.*



Because there is not enough funding available to meet all of the region’s transportation needs, projects and programs must be prioritized. Mobility 2035 was developed around the idea that the existing transportation system would first be maximized through low-cost, highly effective improvements, and then strategic infrastructure improvements would be made. The expenditures identified in Mobility 2035 reflect this concept.



## Prioritization of Improvements



*Mobility 2035 was built around the idea of first maximizing the existing transportation system then strategically investing in infrastructure. Throughout the planning process, consideration is given to social, environmental and quality-of-life factors.*

## Mobility 2035 Expenditures

Infrastructure Maintenance	\$27.3
Management and Operations Strategies	\$4.8
Growth, Development and Land-Use Strategies	\$3.9
Public Transportation	\$18.9
Freeway, Tollway, HOV/Managed Lane and Arterial System	\$46.2
<b>Total (Actual \$ Billions)</b>	<b>\$101.1</b>

*Mobility 2035 recommends \$101.1 billion worth of transportation improvements over the life of the plan.*

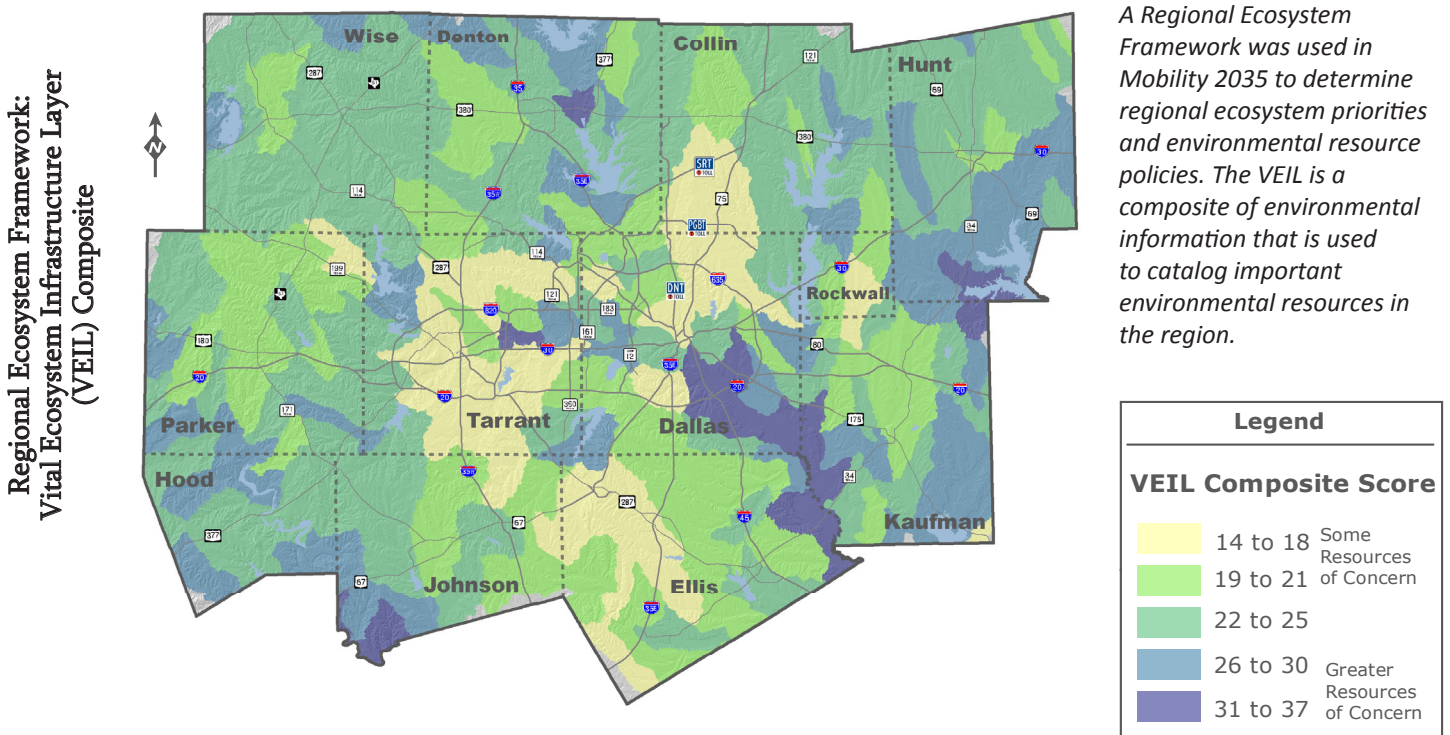




## Environmental Strategies

Not only has there been a move from building as much capacity as possible to more efficiently using what currently exists, but Mobility 2035 seeks to be an increasingly sustainable and environmentally conscious plan.

Clean air, clean water and the availability of open space for recreation and wildlife habitat are central quality-of-life considerations for residents of North Central Texas. Considering the impact of the transportation system on environmental resources and outlining system-wide mitigation options are important in developing quality transportation projects. Mobility 2035 supports a broad approach to assessing conservation goals and opportunities to improve the transportation decision-making process. Mobility 2035 supports a transportation system that maintains and enhances the environment, considers and accommodates conservation priorities, and improves the decision-making process, which will lead to high quality transportation projects.



Clean air is a vital environmental resource. Air quality is particularly important in the Dallas-Fort Worth area because the region is classified as a nonattainment area for the pollutant ozone. Because of this designation, the region must identify measures and implement improvements that will not negatively impact air quality. The region must demonstrate that over time air quality will improve with the programs and projects included in Mobility 2035.

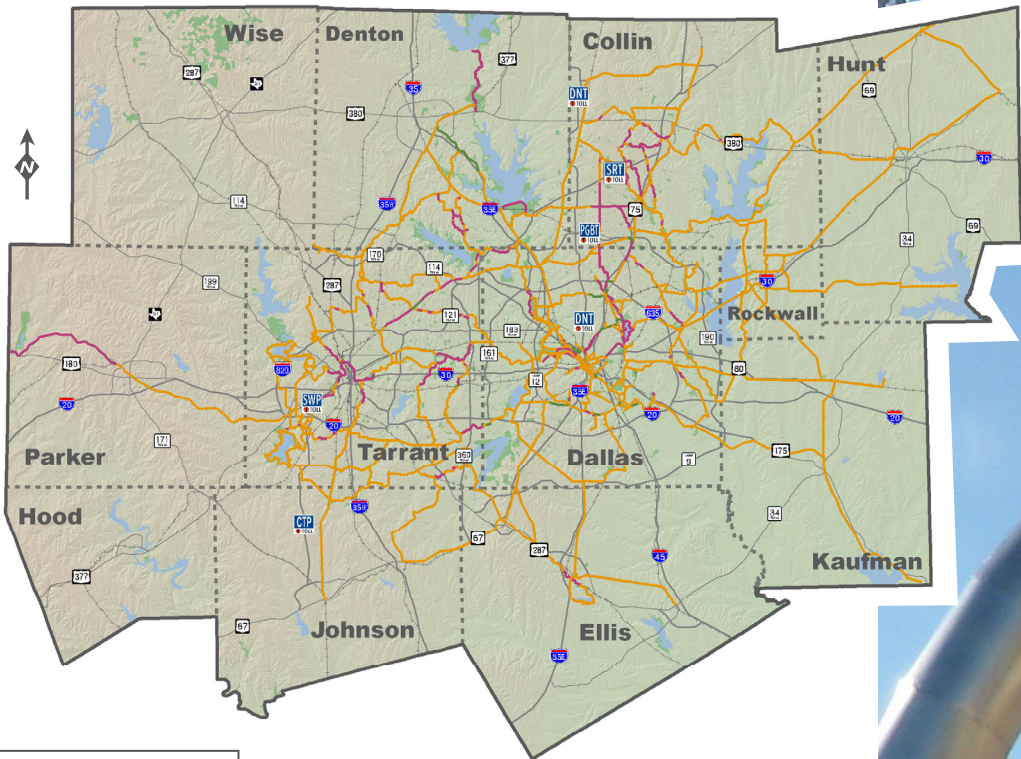


## Quality of Life

Mobility 2035 aims to provide a high quality of life for the residents of North Central Texas. Creating livable communities, encouraging sustainable development and providing transportation choices aid in this effort.

The relationship between transportation and land use plays an important role in creating livable communities. When transportation and land use are balanced mobility improves, allowing increased access to housing, employment, retail, education, health and recreational opportunities. As the region continues to grow, encouraging sustainable development through land-use strategies will support more efficient use of the existing and future transportation system. This allows for better use of limited resources.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Off-street Facilities



Legend	
<b>Regional Veloweb</b>	
	Existing
	Funded
	Planned
<hr/>	
	Major Roads
	Rail Lines
	Parks

*The Regional Veloweb is a network of off-street, shared-use paths designed for bicyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorized forms of transportation.*

Active transportation, composed of bicycle and pedestrian elements, plays an important role in improving quality of life and congestion. Because 33 percent of the trips made within the region are three miles or less, these trips are well-suited for biking or walking. Improving bicycle and pedestrian access, facilities and safety are investments that Mobility 2035 supports to reduce congestion and improve mobility.

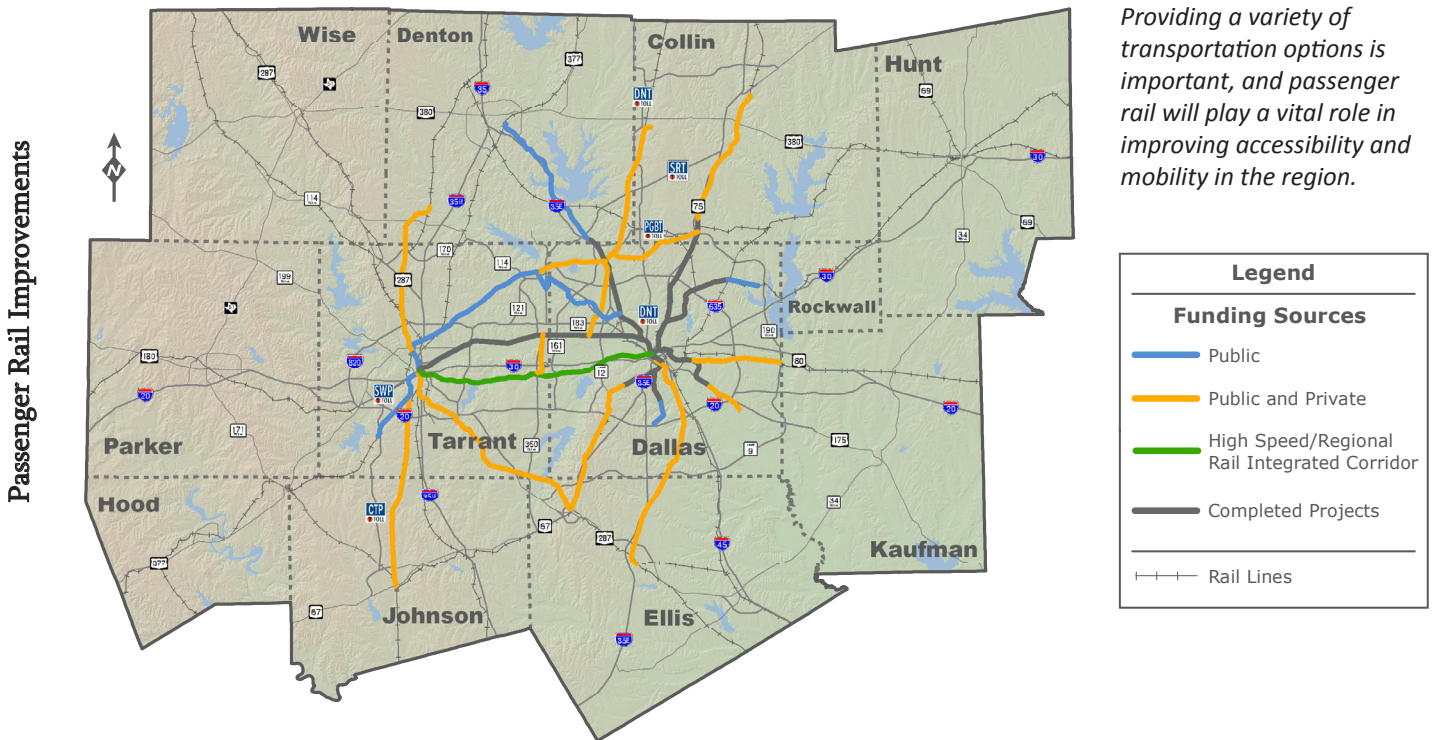






## Improving Mobility

Accommodating the multimodal mobility needs of a growing region is a primary purpose of Mobility 2035. While Mobility 2035 has a stronger focus on sustainable development and low-cost operations and management strategies than previous plans, the region will continue to grow. While strategic infrastructure investments such as expansion of roads or rail lines are prioritized after other improvements, these investments will still be needed to accommodate future growth. Mobility 2035 recommends a number of strategic infrastructure investments that will seek to meet the region's transportation needs and provide a variety of transportation options for residents.

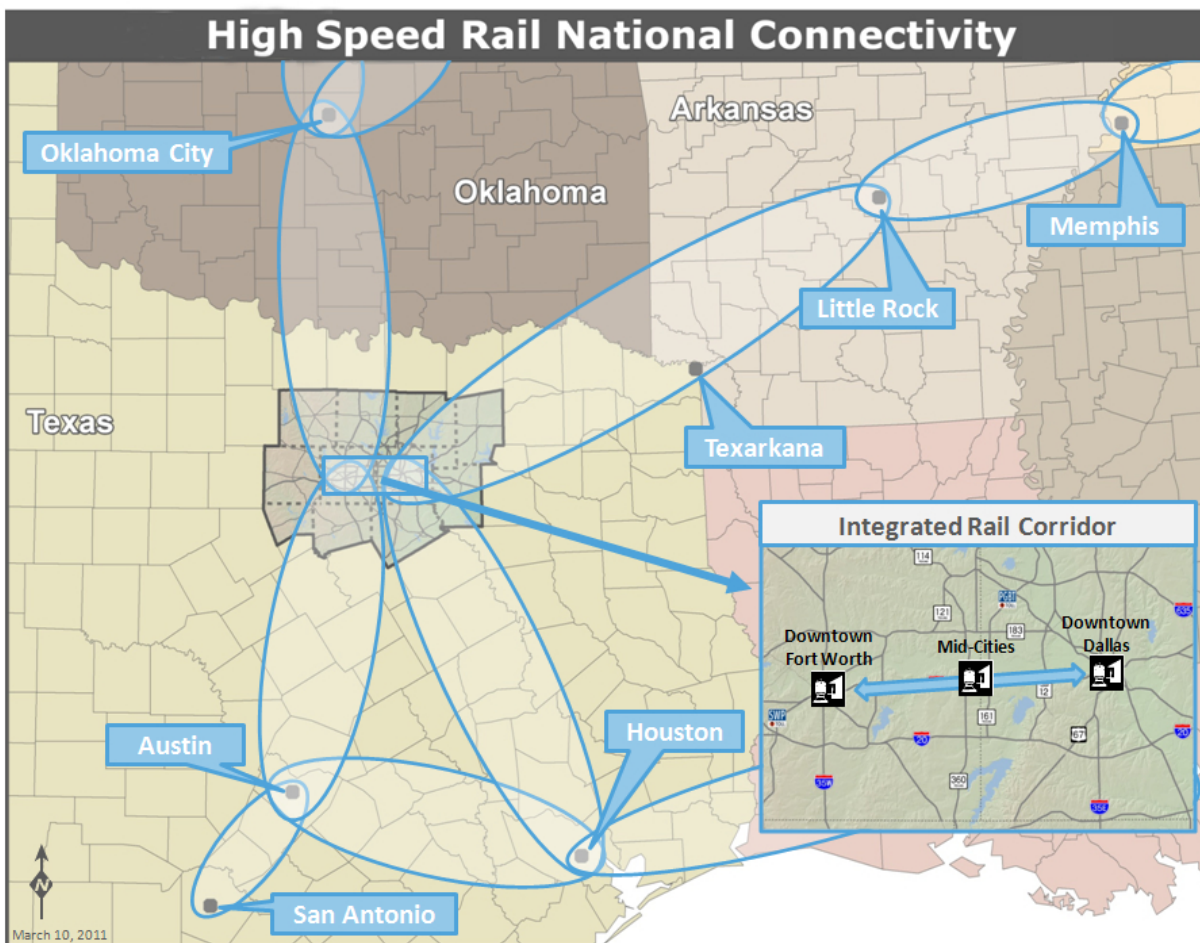


Providing additional public transportation options will play a central role in the transportation system and could impact how the region grows in the future. Mobility 2035 recommends nearly 460 miles of passenger rail. Rail will be a crucial element in reducing congestion, improving commute times and providing more reliable travel. In addition to passenger rail, Mobility 2035 recommends continuing to look for opportunities to support other public transportation options such as streetcars and bus rapid transit. These systems move people in an efficient way and can foster economic development.



The Dallas-Fort Worth area is poised to benefit from the vision of High Speed Rail outlined in Mobility 2035. The RTC anticipates High Speed Rail as yet another component to the regional transportation system. The vision was created in a way that connects major regions inside and outside of Texas to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Not knowing the specific alignment for High Speed Rail routes, Mobility 2035 illustrates potential links to Houston, Austin, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Little Rock, Arkansas.

While the RTC is highly aware of the future need to connect distant regions to North Central Texas, it also required that accessibility within the region was not marginalized. Mobility 2035 outlines the need for three major High Speed Rail stations in the region located near downtown Dallas, Mid-Cities and downtown Fort Worth. The three-station concept provides regional access to High Speed Rail through an integrated corridor option while still holding to the High Speed Rail concept. The integrated corridor would serve both out of region demand and would provide for another east-west rail transit option for DFW commuters.



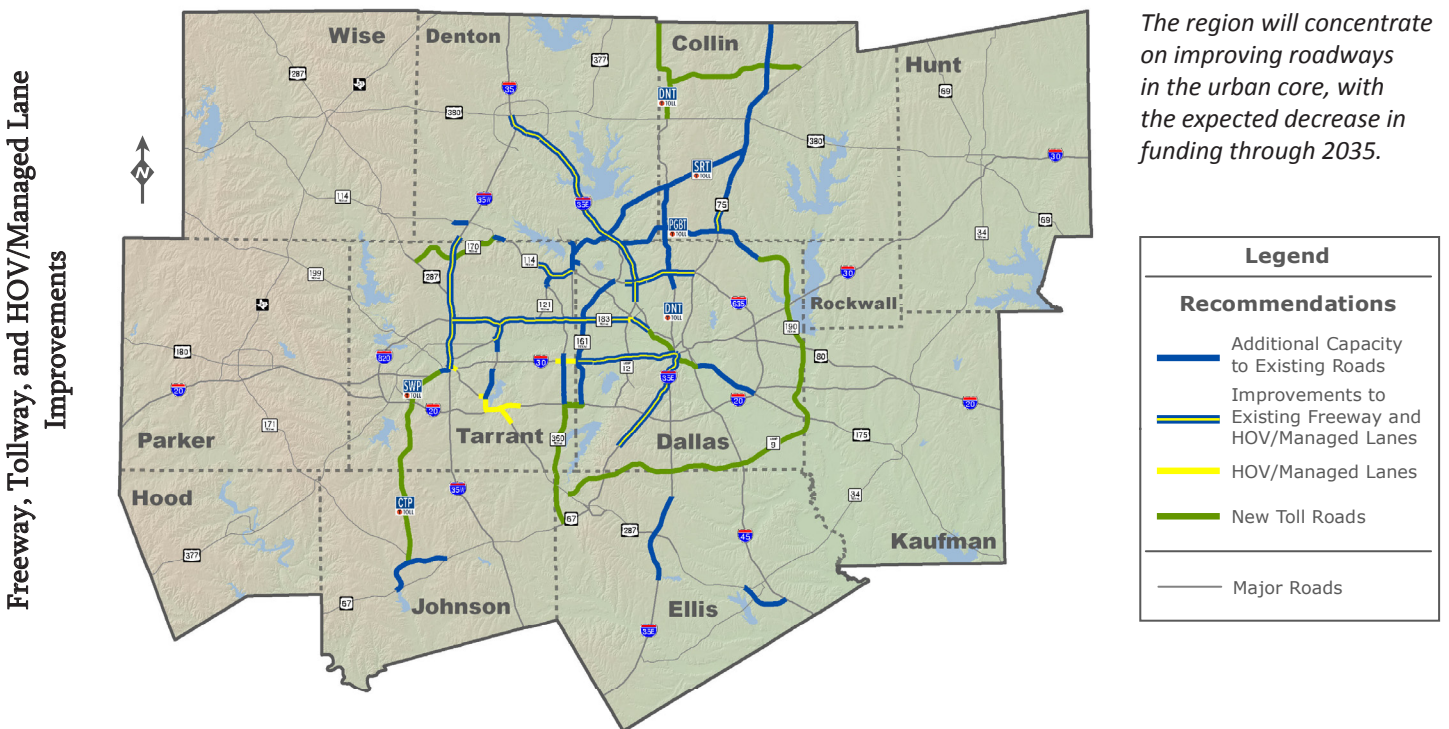
*High speed rail will provide an opportunity to connect the region to other parts of the state and beyond. Planning for high speed rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is in the early phases and will continue to be refined as the region prepares for this new service option.*





The plan includes a variety of roadway recommendations. They range from relatively localized improvements to major regional projects. Because of financial constraints, a number of warranted roadway projects were deferred until after 2035. Recommended roadway projects in Mobility 2035 tend to be located in the urban core and areas of high population growth.

A number of major corridor improvements will have user-fee components, or tolls. In an ideal world, there would be ample funds to add improvements without having to toll facilities. However, this is not the reality the region faces. The region has resolved to implement these types of facilities because they can be built more quickly and because collected tolls are used to pay back the funds used to construct and maintain. This allows critically needed projects to be built in a timely manner. Without these types of facilities, a number of projects that are important to meeting the region’s mobility needs would be unfunded. Mobility 2035 also includes recommendations for other transportation improvements such as aviation, freight and management and operational strategies. The recommendations outlined in Mobility 2035, strike a balance between meeting the most critical mobility needs and making a variety of transportation options available for a growing region.

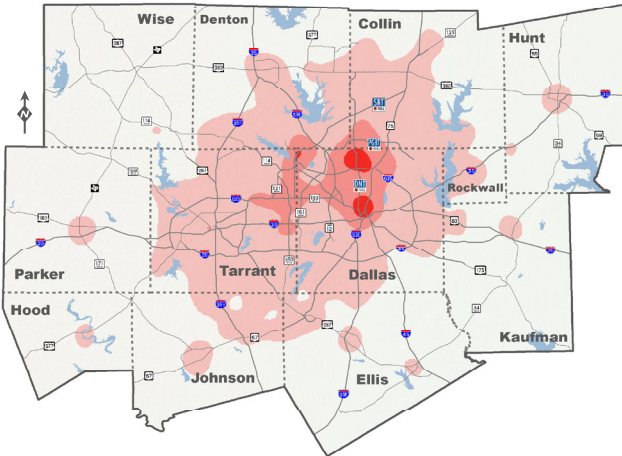




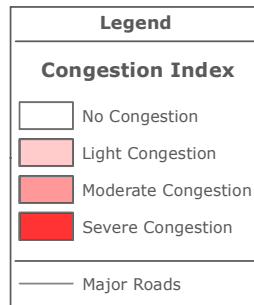
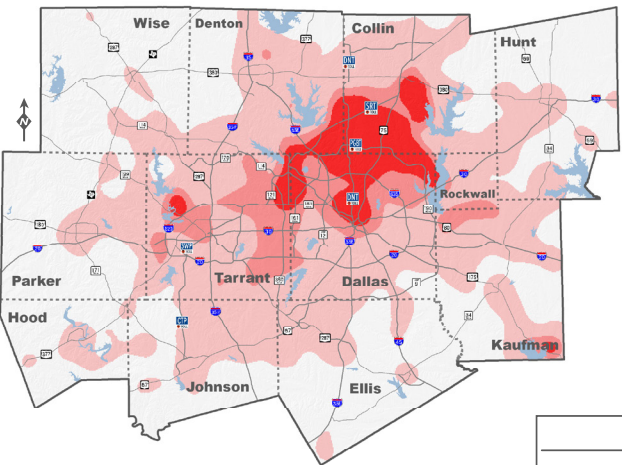
## Regional Congestion

Congestion is and will continue to be a significant concern for the region. Growth in population, coupled with decreased revenue, means congestion experienced in the region today will remain an issue for many years. Because congestion will continue to increase, transportation system management and operational strategies will play an important role in mitigating impacts on residents.

Levels of Congestion 2012



Levels of Congestion 2035



*Congestion in the region will increase over time due to continued growth and a lack of funding for needed transportation improvements.*

## Management & Operations Strategies

*Mobility 2035 includes policies, programs and projects. These are just a few of the programs aimed at improving efficiency and removing trips from the transportation system.*

### system management

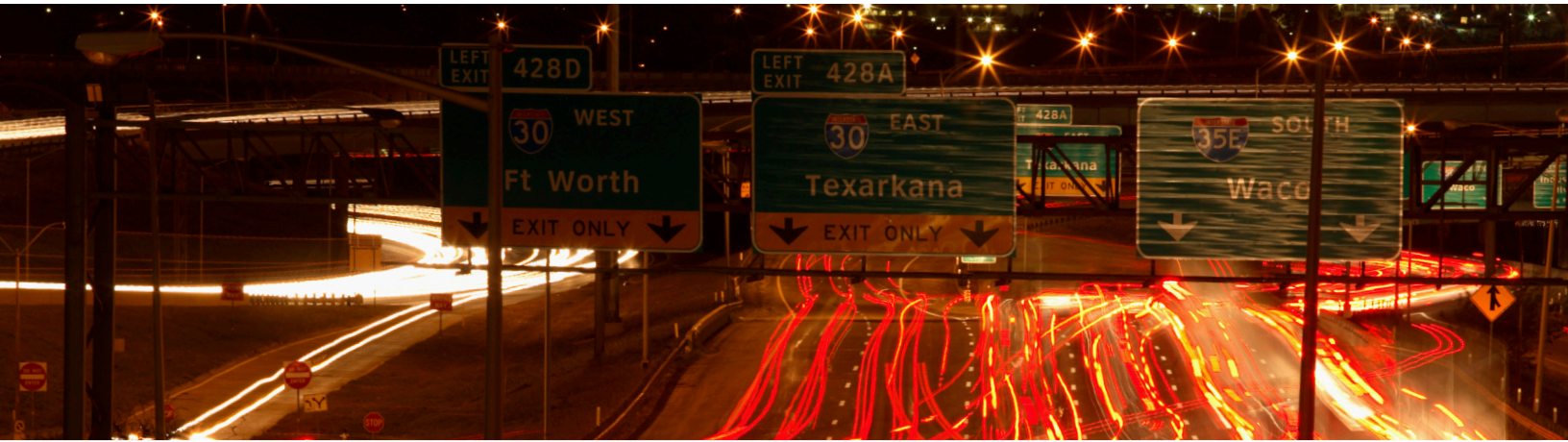
- Intersection improvements
- Traffic signal improvements
- Freeway and arterial bottleneck removal
- Work zone and special-event management

### demand management

- Employer Trip Reduction program
- Vanpool, park-and-ride facilities and transportation management associations

### safety

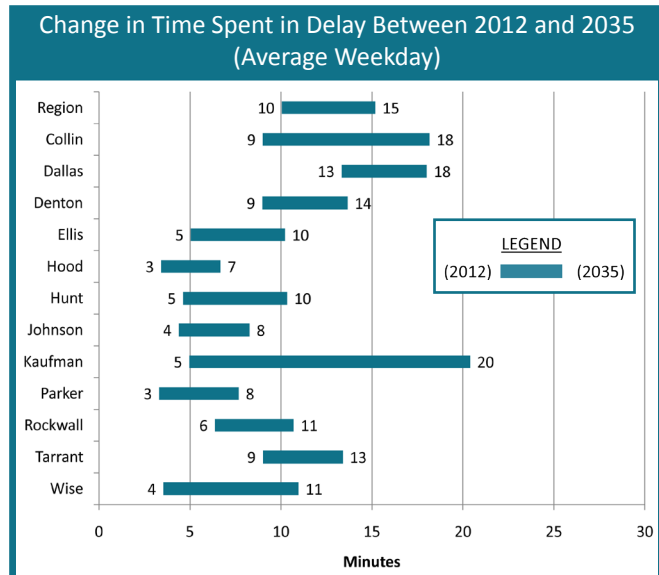
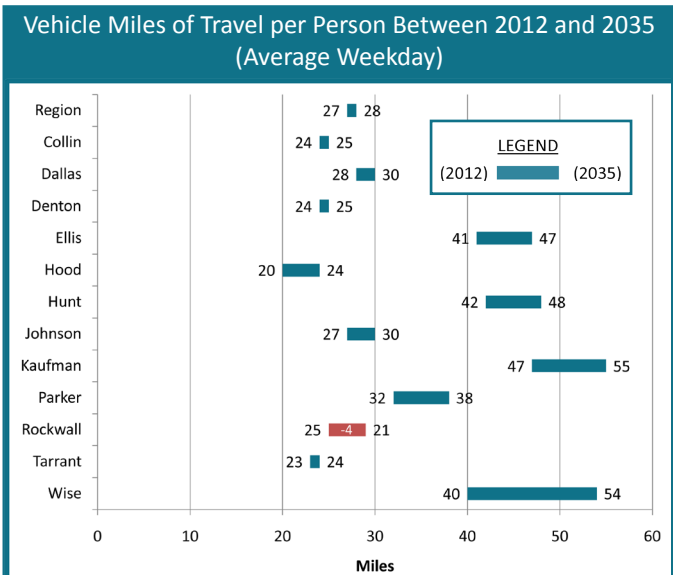
- Freeway Incident Management program
- Regional Mobility Assistance Patrol program



## Regional Performance Measures

To measure the impacts transportation recommendations have on the region, performance measures are identified. A forecast of future population and employment changes for each county in the region is utilized to estimate future miles of travel and hours spent in delay for all of the vehicles in the region. This can be calculated on a per person basis to measure individual impacts.

Population			County	Employment		
2012	2035	% Change		2012	2035	% Change
806,400	1,404,100	74.1%	Collin	380,200	628,300	65.3%
2,443,100	3,125,300	27.9%	Dallas	2,146,800	2,854,300	33.0%
660,900	1,053,900	59.5%	Denton	233,200	406,100	74.1%
162,400	252,800	55.7%	Ellis	63,300	116,100	83.4%
67,700	97,800	44.5%	Hood	21,000	37,000	76.2%
98,800	148,500	50.3%	Hunt	48,100	78,200	62.6%
173,700	272,100	56.6%	Johnson	70,300	132,900	89.0%
111,300	193,500	73.9%	Kaufman	42,600	81,600	91.5%
122,400	193,700	58.3%	Parker	49,400	91,700	85.6%
86,200	172,600	100.2%	Rockwall	25,900	53,900	108.1%
1,848,800	2,823,500	52.7%	Tarrant	1,099,000	1,644,500	49.6%
70,200	95,600	36.2%	Wise	30,400	52,300	72.0%
6,651,900	9,833,400	47.8%	Region	4,210,200	6,177,000	46.7%







## Summary

The region is no longer in a situation where business as usual can continue. Because of the long-term outlook of transportation funding, the continued growth of the Dallas-Fort Worth region and the need to provide a transportation system that is accessible and improves residents' quality of life, a continued focus on regional transportation priorities and innovative ways of delivering transportation projects is required. The policies, programs and projects recommended in Mobility 2035 are the product of a comprehensive, cooperative and continuous planning effort. The recommendations reflect a shift in how the region will strive to meet the mobility, quality of life, system sustainability and implementation goals that will lead to continued economic development, a competitive business climate and a better quality of life.

## Mobility 2035 Adoption

Mobility 2035 was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council in March 2011. The Plan received a favorable Air Quality Conformity determination from The Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations in July 2011. The approval of Mobility 2035 allows crucial programs and projects that seek to meet the region's transportation goals to move forward to implementation.



## We Need Your Help to Build a 21st Century Transportation System

This report is a blueprint for the multimodal transportation system through 2035, outlining roadway, rail and quality-of-life projects intended to accommodate the public well into the future. Mobility 2035 lays out many potential solutions, but is heavily dependent on the collective wisdom of the region's 6.5 million residents to bring its plans to fruition.

Residents and businesses are an integral part of the process. We invite you to help us develop these plans into projects that make your commutes more reliable so you don't have to waste so much time stuck in traffic.

Even if you have a complaint about the system, don't be afraid to speak up. Knowing what is troubling you will help us better serve you and could even become the foundation of the next great transportation idea.

We have a few questions that will help you become part of the solution.

1. Is it easy for you to participate in the transportation planning process?
2. What changes could we make to better serve you?
3. Are there specific transportation improvements that would enhance your quality of life?
4. How would these improvements make your commute more reliable?
5. How could transportation and development be better integrated to ensure the Dallas-Fort Worth area's continued prosperity?

Let us know how you would answer these and submit questions you have about the process. It is easy to get involved through either traditional or new channels. Visit a public meeting to voice your opinion about a project in your neighborhood. The Regional Transportation Council conducts these meetings regularly at locations throughout the region to encourage wider participation and attract residents who would be most affected by proposed projects. This is where we outline plans, projects, programs, policies and partnerships that will improve transportation. We use data to ensure the system's performance meets expectations. Where changes need to be made, the region's partners respond. Information on upcoming meetings is available at [www.nctcog.org/meetings](http://www.nctcog.org/meetings).

We understand it may be difficult to set aside the time to attend a morning or evening meeting, even if the topic is relevant to your personal or business life. So we offer several other options for sharing your opinions.

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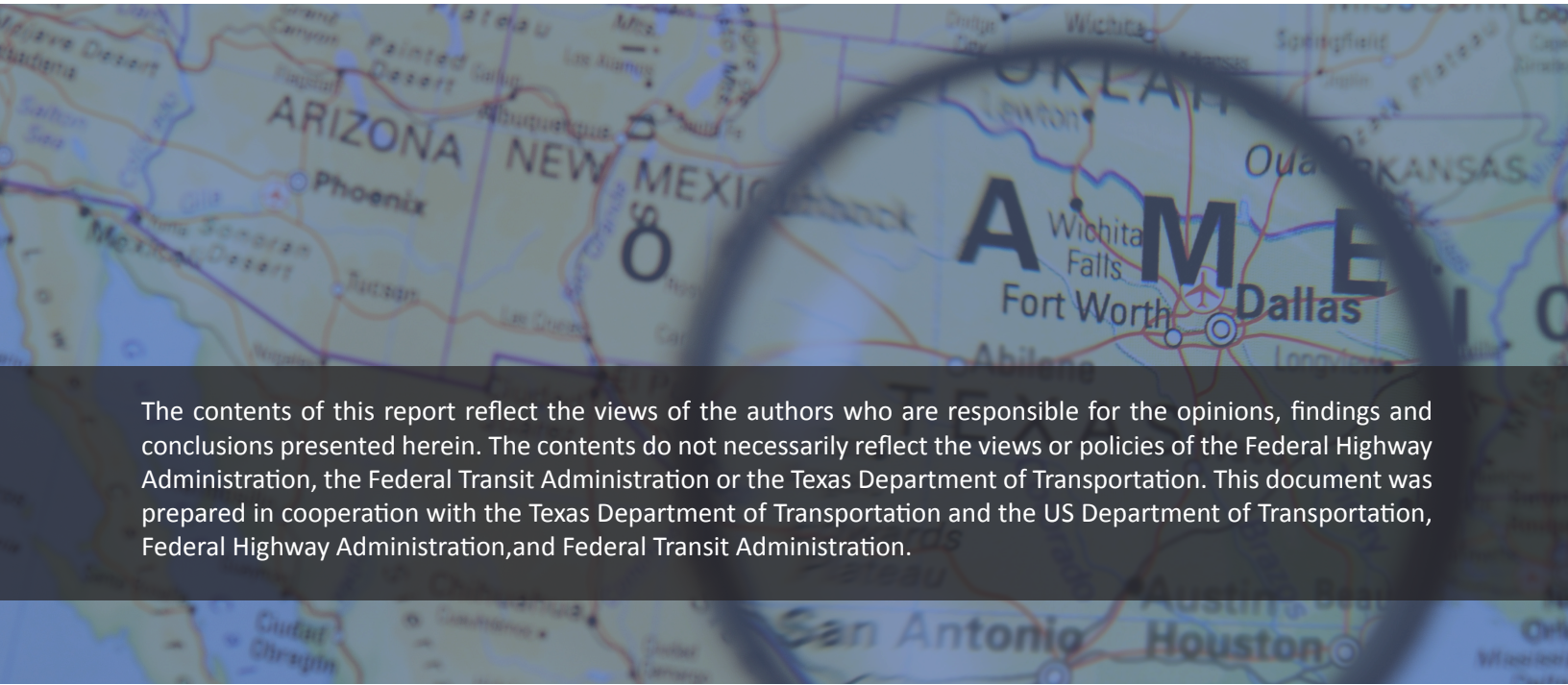
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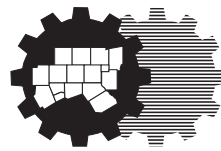
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Council of Governments

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**Image Sources**

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