



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

INAUGURAL EVENT | MAY 14, 2026

Regional AI Roundtable

Bringing the North Central Texas region together to share, learn, and lead on AI.

Tim Howell

Chief Innovation Officer | North Central Texas Council of Governments

WELCOME

You are not in this alone.

Every agency in our region is facing the same AI questions, the same challenges, and the same opportunities. NCTCOG started this group to bring us together — to share what's working, what isn't, and what we're learning along the way.

 **Connect**

Build a regional network of AI leaders.

 **Share**

Trade successes, lessons, and missteps.

 **Navigate**

Move forward with support and confidence.

“

Together we can help lift each other up, and navigate this exciting new frontier with support and confidence.

— **Today's purpose**

TODAY'S SESSION

Agenda

1	Introduction & NCTCOG Overview	Tim Howell	<i>NCTCOG</i>
2	Teams AI Survey & Results	Michael Bort	<i>NCTCOG</i>
3	TxDOT AI Strategic Plan	Benjamin McCulloch	<i>Texas Dept. of Transportation</i>
4	TxShare	Craigan Johnson	<i>NCTCOG</i>
5	Governance & Policy	Chris Klaus	<i>NCTCOG</i>
6	Operational Technology Enhancements	Kami Webb	<i>Rockwall County</i>
7	Feedback & Open Discussion	All Attendees	

AI AT NCTCOG

An AI-forward journey since 2023

YOUR HOST

Tim Howell

Chief Innovation Officer

North Central Texas Council of Governments

- Chair, Agency AI Committee (since 2023)
- Leader of NCTCOG's AI strategy & initiatives
- Focused on innovation across the agency

Our approach so far



Experimental

Started exploring AI in 2023 with a learn-by-doing mindset.



Open Access

Opened many AI tools to NCTCOG staff to discover real use cases.



Light Governance

Kept early governance light so experimentation could move quickly.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Establish a solid AI baseline

Give every staff member the resources to use AI safely and effectively. Not everyone will become an expert — but everyone should have the opportunity.



Secure AI Tool

Provide a vetted, secure AI platform that staff can use with confidence.



Training for All

Offer accessible training so every staff member can build foundational AI skills.



High-Level Governance

Set clear, lightweight policies that protect the agency without slowing it down.



Metrics & KPIs

Establish meaningful measures so you can track adoption, value, and learning over time.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Focus on four strategic pillars

Rather than tackling AI all at once, break it into four areas. Each has its own risks and opportunities — and a clearer path to action.

01



Individual Productivity

Help every staff member work smarter with AI in their daily tasks.

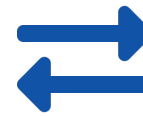
02



Internal Automation

Streamline internal processes and workflows across the agency.

03



External Automation

Apply AI to services and interactions with partners and the public.

04



New Services

Build entirely new AI-enabled offerings for the region.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Address governance and security from day one

Start on day one — and expect it to keep evolving. Here are three things we've learned:

1



Not one-size-fits-all

You'll need agency-level governance plus additional layers for departments or areas that require it. Build for flexibility from the start.

2



The tools are still evolving

Enterprise-grade governance and security tools are still catching up. Balance progress with capability — but anticipate your future state so you don't create roadblocks later.

3



Governance lives at the edge

You can't govern AI by funneling everyone into one tool. AI is proliferating into every application and device. Govern at the user and device level.

THE TAKEAWAY

AI is not a project. It is a transformation.

It's organizational change management — made of a lot of small (and sometimes not so small) projects.

UP NEXT

Michael Bort, NCTCOG Transportation

Teams AI Survey & Results

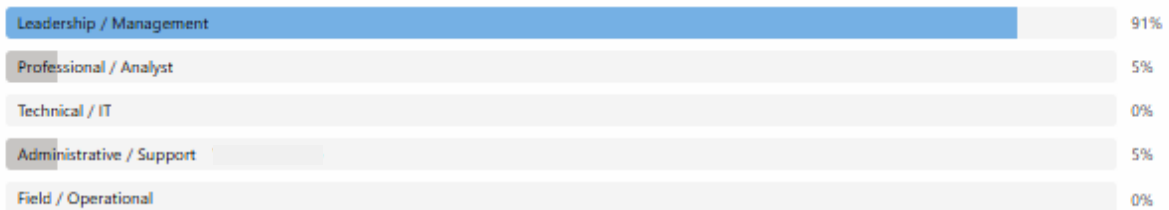


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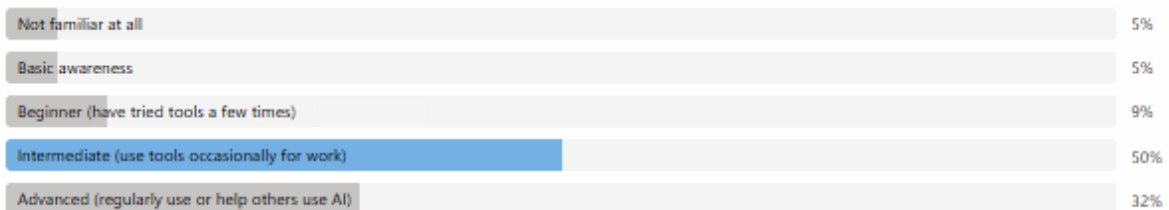
1. Which best describes your organization



2. Which best describes your role?



3. How familiar are you with AI tools?



4. Which AI tools are being utilized at your work? (Select all that apply)



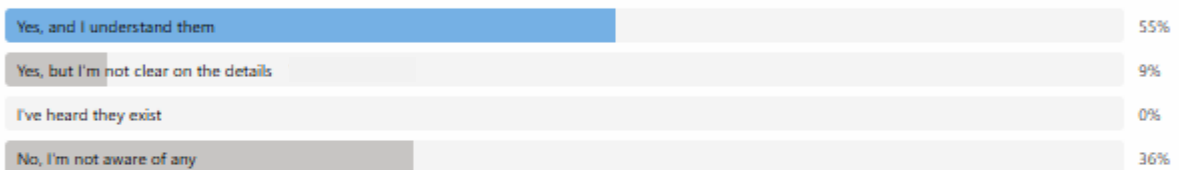
5. What type of tasks at work have utilized AI or see potential value? (Select all that apply)



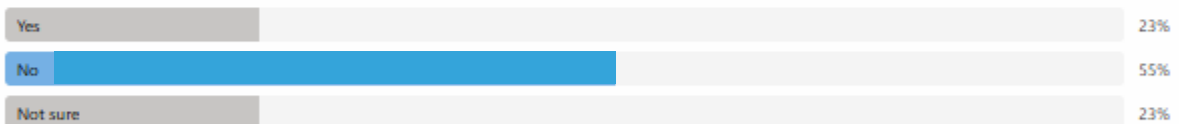
6. What concerns (if any) limit use of AI at work? (Select all that apply)



7. Are you aware of any guidelines or policies related to AI use at your organization?



8. Are you aware of any AI use cases at work that have been integrated into daily tasks?



9. What type of support would be most helpful in your office environment? (Select all that apply)





Data Governance and AI: Key Takeaways from TxDOT



5/27/2026

AI Strategic Plan

- **Establishes** a vision, principles, and roadmap.
- **Integrates** advanced analytics and intelligent systems into TxDOT's operations and transportation system.
- **Strategy.** The plan includes strategic priorities, use cases, best practices, and recommendations to guide TxDOT's adoption of AI over the next 3 years.
- **Focus** is on high-impact applications that enhance human decision-making, streamline processes, and provide new insights from data.



AI Guiding Principles

SECURITY

AI systems should be designed, tested, and deployed to ensure security as part of the function and performance of the application. Staff should be aware of threats, risks, and security benefits and trade-offs should be critically evaluated. The confidentiality, integrity, and availability of TxDOT data should be safeguarded with any tool implementation.

TRANSPARENCY

AI applications must be transparent about how data is used and must provide users and key stakeholders insights into how decisions and outcomes are produced.

ACCURACY

AI applications must produce verifiable results. Users must provide clear communication regarding uncertainties and take appropriate measures to rectify inaccurate data.

ACCOUNTABILITY

TxDOT must establish governance, oversight, and monitoring of AI systems to ensure that they are operating as intended and not causing unintended harm. This includes ensuring there is human responsibility in reviewing and approving AI recommendations that impact internal and external stakeholders.

TRUSTWORTHY

AI applications must include checks and balances to ensure results are unbiased and that there is fair representation across users.

PRIVACY

AI applications must respect user privacy. Data must not be used outside of agreed upon terms and must be compliant with TxDOT's privacy policies and applicable state or federal requirements to which TxDOT must adhere.

SAFETY

TxDOT prioritizes the well-being of the public, partners, and employees through dependable, trustworthy AI technologies that enhance infrastructure integrity and service quality.

TxDOT Data Governance Goals



Establish a strong data governance and procurement framework.



Ensure high-quality, accurate, and trusted data.



Standardize data and improve interoperability across systems.



Modernize data tools, infrastructure, and practices.

Making Data Available at TxDOT

- TxDOT's enterprise data platform (EDP) built on Snowflake.
- Includes data from 30+ key systems: financial, project development, construction, pavement, consultant contracts, crash reports.
 - In progress: average annual daily traffic count, bridge, traffic management center, utility, and maintenance data.
- **Unified datasets help unlock AI capabilities.**



Agency Challenges

- 25 districts and 32 Divisions statewide using a variety of tools or purchasing data to meet their needs.
- As legacy systems are replaced there is inconsistent quality of data and metadata in the new systems.
- Business rules are not consistently applied during data entry.



Lack of Data Governance Leads to AI Risks

- Misinformed asset and safety prioritization.
- Incorrect predictions for costs and schedules.
- Dependence on vendors, no ability to audit AI models, lack of transparency.
- Higher risks due to unjustifiable or biased decisions.
- Pilot projects failing to scale, low adoption



Image by DALL-E 3

Key Takeaway

AI is not a software deployment,
it is a data maturity program.

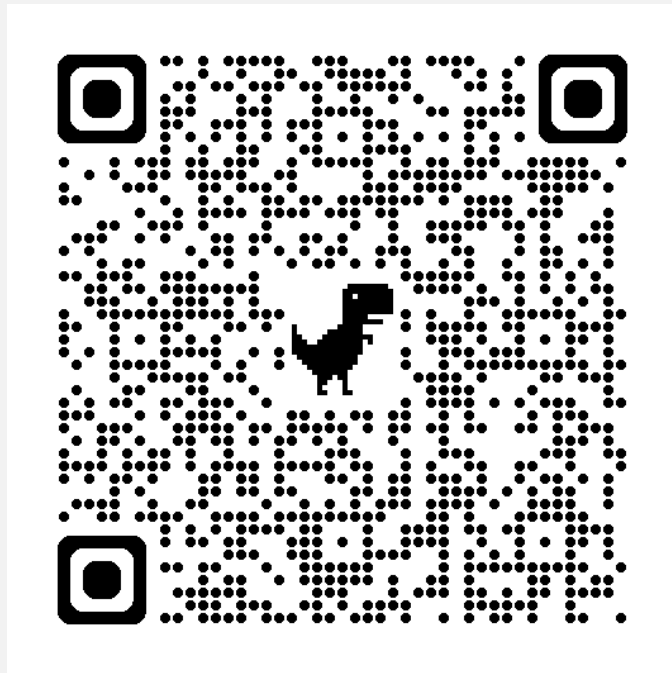
Thank you!

Ben McCulloch

Texas Department of Transportation

Strategic Data Scientist

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AI Solutions Through TXShare

AI Regional Roundtable – May 2026



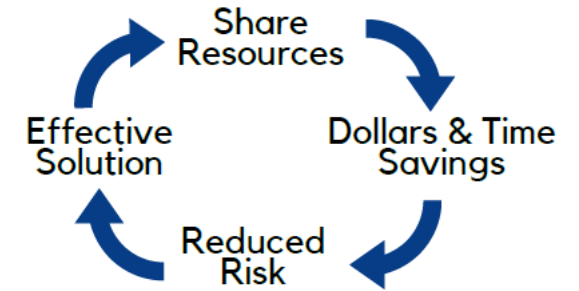
Agenda

- TXShare Overview
- Current AI Opportunities and Contracts
- Questions



Overview: What is TXShare?

- **Mission:** To solve common regional Procurement needs as defined by TXShare Members and delivered by NCTCOG's TXShare program.
- We are a direct outcome of municipal governments partnering together to identify common needs for public entities across and beyond the State of Texas
- Our contracts are administered by a single entity while leveraging the purchasing power of many for a validated, confident solution.
- Each contract is competitively sourced in a sealed-proposal method and independently evaluated by subject matter experts under strict Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200).



AI Contracts

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Translation, Transcription, and Quality Control Services (9-1-1)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Based Building and Plan Review Software
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Consultancy Services
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Solutions
- Roadway Workzone Data Reporting Services



Contracts in Action

- The City of Ferris
 - Vialytics Americas' AI-Powered Road Assessment tool helped build a preservation & resurfacing plan.
 - The plan is projected to help the city avoid **\$5.72M** in reconstruction costs over 10 years.
 - Procured via TXShare's cooperative contract.

TXShare Your Public Sector Solutions Center www.TXShare.org

FERRIS TEXAS Distinct By Design

vialytics

The Impact - Key Results

- Just 60 hours**
to set up, capture and analyze roads, with 29 road miles captured in just 6 hours of drive time.
- 78% of roads**
within the optimal window for lower-cost preventative treatment.
- \$5.72 million in savings**
Implementing lower-cost preservation and resurfacing strategies could help avoid at least \$5.72 million in reconstruction expenses over the next decade.

The Solution

The City of Ferris implemented Vialytics' AI-powered road assessment tool to automatically detect and classify 15 types of road damage using smartphones mounted on vehicle dashboards.

The Challenge

- Increased traffic volumes**
Ferris' population has doubled to 5,000 over the past four years.
- A comprehensive assessment**
The City wanted to achieve a complete picture of its road infrastructure for the first time, but lacked the staffing capacity for a full manual, visual inspection.

How to Leverage These Contracts

- Open to all public-sector entities.
- Entities execute a one-time, no-cost Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with TXShare.
- Entities are now TXShare Members, and are able to leverage all existing and future contracts found on [TXShare](#).
- Members engage with vendors with their own subsequent agreements to capture specific deliverable details. It is a client/provider relationship from this point forward.
- Pricing listed on TXShare Master Services Agreements with vendors are maximum prices. Members are able to negotiate more competitive rates at their discretion.

Thank You

Questions?



Artificial Intelligence Governance

Structured framework, including policies, processes, legal guardrails, and ethical standards, to ensure AI systems are researched, developed, and deployed safely and responsibly.

WHAT:

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Fairness & Bias Mitigation
- Privacy
- Security
- Safety & Reliability

HOW:

- Adopting agency policy
- Internal oversight
- Procurement guardrails
- Public disclosure rules
- ...