

# Public and Agency Engagement Plan

Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed  
Transportation Connections Study

July 2020



## Table of Contents

|        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| 1.0    | Introduction .....                                       | 1  |
| 1.1    | Project Overview.....                                    | 1  |
| 1.2    | Study Area .....   | 2  |
| 1.3    | Study Area Demographics .....                            | 3  |
| 1.4    | Project Schedule.....                                    | 5  |
| 1.5    | Public Involvement and Project Contact Information ..... | 6  |
| 2.0    | Agency Roles and Responsibilities .....                  | 6  |
| 3.0    | Public and Agency Engagement Plan Goals .....            | 6  |
| 4.0    | Communication Protocols .....                            | 8  |
| 4.1    | Release of Information.....                              | 8  |
| 4.2    | Media Relations .....                                    | 8  |
| 4.3    | Review of Meeting Materials.....                         | 9  |
| 5.0    | Public Engagement.....                                   | 9  |
| 5.1    | Methods of Public Engagement.....                        | 9  |
| 5.1.1  | Project Website .....                                    | 9  |
| 5.1.2  | Project Email Account .....                              | 9  |
| 5.1.3  | Branding .....   | 9  |
| 5.1.4  | NCTCOG Publications.....                                 | 10 |
| 5.1.5  | Video .....  | 10 |
| 5.1.6  | Social Media .....                                       | 12 |
| 5.1.7  | Presentations and Briefings.....                         | 12 |
| 5.1.8  | Language Assistance .....                                | 12 |
| 5.1.9  | Public Involvement Management Application.....           | 12 |
| 5.1.10 | Surveys.....   | 13 |
| 5.1.11 | Additional Methods .....                                 | 13 |
| 5.2    | Stakeholder Identification and Database .....            | 13 |
| 5.2.1  | Mailing and Email List.....                              | 14 |
| 5.2.2  | Stakeholder Interviews .....                             | 14 |
| 5.2.3  | Industry/Technology Forum.....                           | 14 |
| 5.3    | Public Meetings/Hearings .....                           | 15 |
| 5.3.1  | Content of Meetings .....                                | 16 |
| 5.3.2  | Locations .....  | 16 |
| 5.3.3  | Notification Process .....                               | 16 |
| 5.3.4  | Advertising.....   | 17 |
| 5.4    | Meeting Materials .....                                  | 17 |
| 5.5    | Commenting .....   | 17 |
| 5.6    | Public Meeting/Hearing Documentation.....                | 18 |
| 6.0    | Agency Identification and Engagement.....                | 18 |
| 6.1    | Federally Recognized Tribal Nations.....                 | 18 |
| 6.2    | Technical Work Group .....                               | 18 |
| 6.3    | Cooperating Agencies .....                               | 19 |
| 6.4    | Agency Scoping Meeting .....                             | 19 |
| 7.0    | Updates to Public and Agency Engagement Plan .....       | 19 |

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Demographic Information

Appendix B – Media List

Appendix C – Public Engagement Calendar

**List of Figures**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Figure 1. Study Area .....              | 2  |
| Figure 2. Project Logo and Colors ..... | 11 |

**List of Tables**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Table 1. Race or Ethnicity.....                              | 3  |
| Table 2. Limited English Proficiency .....                   | 4  |
| Table 3. Languages/Language Group Spoken in Study Area ..... | 4  |
| Table 4. Project Timeline .....                              | 5  |
| Table 5. Revision History .....                              | 19 |

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Public and Agency Engagement Plan was developed by The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) in support of the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study between Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. This plan outlines public and agency engagement activities, tools, and a schedule needed to support the development and analysis of alternatives and preparation of an environmental document in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and applicable federal and state laws. NCTCOG will implement this Public and Agency Engagement Plan by working with federal transportation partners and the consultant selected to provide technical support for the study.

### **1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Dallas-Fort Worth area has a population of 7.5 million today and is anticipated to be home to more than 11 million by 2045. As the region continues to grow, there is a need to study high-speed transportation choices in North Texas. The NCTCOG long-range metropolitan transportation plan, *Mobility 2045*, includes high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth as a future transportation choice, as well as other high-speed modes of travel, such as magnetic levitation and hyperloop.

High-speed service between Dallas and Fort Worth would potentially connect to a separate high-speed passenger rail service being planned between Dallas and Houston, Texas and high-speed passenger rail services linking Fort Worth to south Texas metropolitan areas. A high-speed transportation service would improve mobility by providing more choice and could reduce congestion by providing an alternative to driving between two major cities.

This study will review high-speed options in the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth corridor by analyzing potential routes, alternatives, operations/service planning, and preparing preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for high-speed passenger service. At a minimum, conventional, higher speed, and high-speed passenger rail, magnetic levitation, and next generation magnetic levitation will be considered. The project scope of work is made up of two phases. Phase 1 will develop and evaluate technologies and alignments. Phase 2 will refine and evaluate the reasonable alternatives recommended in Phase 1 and document these efforts in the NEPA process.

NCTCOG will work collaboratively with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) during Phase 1 to define service characteristics, such as alignment, station locations, service speed, and technology type. The first phase will also identify the lead federal agency for Phase 2 by determining if the proposed service aligns with the characteristics of intercity rail or transit operations.



The proposed study area is approximately bounded by Interstate Highway (IH) 35E, IH 35W, State Highway (SH) 183, and US 287/Spur 303/Loop 12. It traverses Dallas and Tarrant counties and the cities of Dallas, Irving, Cockrell Hill, Grand Prairie, Arlington, Pantego, Dalworthington Gardens, Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, Haltom City, and Fort Worth, a distance of approximately 31 miles. Figure 1 shows the study area that covers over 230 square miles.

- Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study Corridor, South Texas to Oklahoma City – Service Level Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (<https://railroads.dot.gov/environment/completed-environmental-reviews/texas-oklahoma-passenger-rail-study-corridor-south>)
- Dallas-Fort Worth Core Express Study Alternatives Analysis (<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/statewide/dfw-core-express.html>)
- Supplemental Alignment Alternative Analysis for Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Core Express Service ([https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Plan/Transit/DFW\\_HSR\\_AA\\_CO\\_G.pdf](https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Plan/Transit/DFW_HSR_AA_CO_G.pdf))

Based on technology requirements and previous studies, new routes and revised previously considered routes will be developed. Additional route/technology options may be developed based on public and agency comment.

### 1.3 STUDY AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

Approximately 859,000 people live within the study area. Minority populations comprise almost 75 percent of the population; almost half of the population is Hispanic or Latino (see Table 1). Census block groups with a median household income below poverty comprise nearly six percent of block groups in the study area. Maps of these populations are included in Appendix A.

**Table 1. Race or Ethnicity**

| Race or Ethnicity                                | Percent of Population |
|--|-----------------------|
| Hispanic or Latino                               | 49%                   |
| Non-Hispanic White                               | 27%                   |
| Total Black or African American*                 | 19%                   |
| Total Asian*                                     | 4%                    |
| Total American Indian or Alaska Native*          | 1%                    |
| Total Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander* | 0%                    |
| <b>2018 Study Area Population: 858,828</b>       |                       |

Source: American Community Survey 2018 Five-Year Estimates

\* Total race numbers include individuals who have identified themselves as a race plus individuals who have identified themselves as a race and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

The study area demographics indicate 53 percent of residents age five and over speak English, 41 percent speak Spanish, two percent speak Asian or other Pacific Islander languages, two percent speak other Indo-European languages, and two percent speak some other language. Available data indicates a high presence of individuals with limited English proficiency. Twenty-three percent of residents in the study area who are age five and over speak Spanish and have limited proficiency in English (see Table 2). An additional three percent of residents age five and over speak other languages and have limited proficiency in English.

**Table 2. Limited English Proficiency\***

| Language  | Percent of Population |
|---|-----------------------|
| Speak Spanish and speak English less than “very well”                                   | 23%                   |
| Speak Asian or Other Pacific Islander languages and speak English less than “very well” | 1%                    |
| Speak other Indo-European languages and speak English less than “very well”             | 1%                    |
| Speak other languages and speak English less than “very well”                           | 1%                    |
| <b>2018 Study Area Population Age Five and Over: 790,067</b>                            |                       |

Source: American Community Survey 2018 Five-Year Estimates

\*Limited English proficiency population includes any person age five years or older who speaks a non-English language as his/her primary language and who reported being able to read, speak, write, or understand English less than “very well.”

Following the US Department of Transportation Safe Harbor Provision described in the Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients' Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons (<https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/civil-rights-library/policy-guidance-concerning-recipients-responsibilities-limited>), NCTCOG analyzed which language groups exceed the 1,000 persons or five percent threshold in the study area (see Table 3). Five language groups meet the Safe Harbor threshold; however, given the small population size and financial burden it is not feasible to translate documents into all languages/language groups. Therefore, NCTCOG will focus translation efforts on Spanish, which is the largest language group in the region other than English. NCTCOG will provide translation or interpretation into another language upon request (see Section 5.1.8, Language Assistance). Maps of limited English proficiency populations are included in Appendix A.

**Table 3. Languages/Language Group Spoken in Study Area (in 2015)**

|                                  | Study Area Population | Spanish or Spanish Creole | Chinese | Vietnamese | Arabic | African Languages |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------|--------|-------------------|
| Individuals                      | 731,192               | 162,882                   | 1,224   | 4,701      | 1,789  | 1,877             |
| Percent of Study Area Population |                       | 22.28%                    | 0.17%   | 0.64%      | 0.24%  | 0.26%             |

Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates for Census Tracts, 2011-2015. The 2015 data is used because in 2016 the American Community Survey discontinued reporting specific language data at a scale finer than the county level.

## 1.4 PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project is based on a 36-month schedule. It is anticipated Phase 1 will be completed in 12 months and Phase 2 will be completed in 24 months. Based on the recommended alternative in Phase 1, the FRA and FTA will determine the Class of Action and type of environmental document required (i.e., Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement). Phase 2 will adhere to Presidential Executive Order 13807 and Council of Environmental Quality rules, both include the goal of completing environmental reviews within an average of two years for an Environmental Impact Statement and one-year for an Environmental Assessment. Table 4 provides an estimated timeline of events based on and Environmental Impact Statement. The schedule will be updated as needed throughout the project.

**Table 4. Project Timeline**

|         | Project Milestone                             | Estimated Timeframe        |
|---------|---|----------------------------|
| Phase 1 | Develop Draft Preliminary Purpose and Need    | July 2020                  |
|         | Public Meeting #1                             | September 2020             |
|         | Develop and Evaluate Route/Technology Options | Summer thru Fall 2020      |
|         | Public Meeting #2                             | Fall 2020                  |
|         | Develop and Evaluate Conceptual Options       | Fall 2020 thru Winter 2021 |
|         | Public Meeting #3                             | Winter 2021                |
| Phase 2 | Recommendation and final report               | Spring 2021                |
|         | Scoping Meetings                              | Summer 2021                |
|         | Develop 15% Design                            | Fall 2021                  |
|         | Draft NEPA Document                           | Spring 2022                |
|         | Public Hearings                               | Spring 2022                |
|         | Develop 30% Design                            | Spring 2023                |
|         | Final NEPA Approval                           | Spring 2023                |

Three series of public engagement meetings are scheduled during Phase 1. Meetings will begin in Fall 2020 and continue through Spring 2021. As part of NEPA documentation, four scoping meetings will be held at the beginning of Phase 2. These scoping meetings will be held in 2022 and include three public meetings, one public agency scoping meeting, and any necessary follow-up meetings. Following the publication of the draft NEPA document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement), three public hearings will be scheduled; tentatively scheduled for Spring 2022.



## **1.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION**

The following is the contact information for key NCTCOG staff:

Kevin Feldt, AICP  
Program Manager  
Office: 817-704-2529  
Email: [kfeldt@nctcog.org](mailto:kfeldt@nctcog.org)

Amanda Wilson, AICP  
Program Manager  
Office: 817-695-9284  
Email: [awilson@nctcog.org](mailto:awilson@nctcog.org)

Rebekah Hernandez  
Communications Supervisor  
Office: 682-433-0477  
Email: [rhernandez@nctcog.org](mailto:rhernandez@nctcog.org)

Carli Baylor  
Communications Specialist  
Office: 817-608-2365  
Email: [cbaylor@nctcog.org](mailto:cbaylor@nctcog.org)

Sandy Wesch, PE, AICP  
Engineering Support  
Office: 817-704-5632  
Email: [swesch@nctcog.org](mailto:swesch@nctcog.org)

## **2.0 AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

NCTCOG will serve as the local agency sponsor managing and overseeing the project and serve as a liaison between the consultant and other partners. FTA will serve as the grant administrator and both FTA and FRA will provide technical oversight to the project for Phase 1. At the conclusion of Phase 1, FRA, FTA, and NCTCOG will coordinate to determine the type of NEPA document needed and establish the lead federal agency for NEPA in Phase 2. A consultant team has been hired to conduct the technical analyses and develop engineering drawings and the required NEPA documentation. The project team is defined as FTA, FRA, NCTCOG, and the HNTB consultant team.

## **3.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY ENGAGEMENT PLAN GOALS**

This Public and Agency Engagement Plan will identify public engagement activities and address how information about the study will be relayed to the public and stakeholders. The purpose of the public engagement activities is to solicit feedback regarding the recommendations on potential routes, alternatives, environmental effects, and operations/

service planning for high-speed passenger service. Not only will information be provided to the public, but engagement with the public is encouraged.

This Public and Agency Engagement Plan has been developed based on the ability to conduct meetings in-person. However, if conditions do not allow for in-person meetings/hearings due to, but not limited to, a threat to public health, natural disaster, a hazardous situation, or other reason, technology may be used to hold the meetings virtually. Additionally, the number of meetings, format, schedule, and/or comment periods may also need to be adjusted.

The Public and Agency Engagement Plan will accomplish the following:

- Provide multiple options of public engagement to provide information and encourage feedback
  - Utilize a variety of tools to communicate to the public including traditional public meetings, videos, social media, publications, a project website, a public involvement management application, and other methods as detailed in Section 5.1 (Methods of Public Engagement) of this plan
- Engage stakeholders in the discussion of visions and ideas for high-speed passenger service
  - Work with the project team to identify stakeholders who could be affected and may have an interest in the project
- Document the public involvement and outreach efforts that will be performed for the project
  - Create a database for cataloging public and agency comments and responses to those comments
  - Document each series of meetings/hearings
- Provide opportunities for participation by minority, low-income, non-English speaking, elderly, and disabled stakeholders, as well as other groups traditionally not involved in project development processes
  - Provide early and continuous opportunities for the public to be involved and identify social, economic, and environmental impacts
- Provide clear, simple project information to the public throughout the process
  - Communicate technical project information clearly and succinctly to afford the public the opportunity to be informed and involved in the decision-making process
- Engage local governments, transportation agencies, and resource agencies early in the study to provide opportunities for project review and assistance with identifying potential social, economic, and environmental impacts
- Meet agency and public involvement requirements of NEPA in Phase 2
  - Maintain compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies of lead and participating government entities

The goal of the Public and Agency Engagement Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study is to provide opportunities for meaningful participation to ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the study area. These communities include environmental justice communities, persons with limited English proficiency, and others protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and related statutes and guidance such as:

- Presidential Executive Order 12898
- Presidential Executive Order 13166
- US Department of Transportation environmental justice guidance (<https://www.transportation.gov/transportation-policy/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-strategy>)
- US Department of Transportation Order 5610.2(a) ([https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental\\_justice/ej\\_at\\_dot/orders/order\\_56102a/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/ej_at_dot/orders/order_56102a/))
- US Department of Transportation Limited English Proficiency guidance (<https://www.transportation.gov/civil-rights/civil-rights-awareness-enforcement/dots-lep-guidance>)

NCTCOG has identified the location of protected populations in the study area (see Section 1.3, Study Area Demographics) and has identified and incorporated strategies to engage protected populations. Throughout the study, NCTCOG will continue to identify barriers to these populations' participation in transportation decision-making, identify strategies that may overcome those hurdles, and implement those strategies.

## 4.0 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

NCTCOG will lead the coordination of public meetings and communications to the public, throughout Phase 1 of the study. As the study progresses to Phase 2, NCTCOG will continue to lead communications to the public but the consultant will have a larger role in the public scoping meetings, public hearings, and agency coordination for NEPA documentation requirements.

### 4.1 RELEASE OF INFORMATION

No person shall release study materials or deliverables to any agency, organization, or person without prior written consent of the NCTCOG Project Manager or their designee.

### 4.2 MEDIA RELATIONS

NCTCOG staff will be the primary media relations contact. Staff maintains a robust media database that will be used to send out press releases. Media outreach efforts include distributing news releases about opportunities for public input to more than 240 reporters at local media outlets and community news sources, including minority news media. The extensive media list includes all major local television stations and newspapers as well as several radio stations. NCTCOG will post all its news releases on the project website in a format that is accessible to the public.

### **4.3 REVIEW OF MEETING MATERIALS**

Content to be distributed and used in public meetings and hearings will be discussed and reviewed by NCTCOG, FRA, and FTA; materials should be available a minimum of 10 working days before the meeting/hearing. Materials will typically include a meeting agenda, maps, exhibits, presentations, talking points, sign-in sheets, comment cards, and handouts. Meeting and hearing notices, including required legal notices, will be reviewed a minimum of 30 working days before the meeting or hearing.

## **5.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Multiple outreach and communications strategies will be implemented to engage a diverse audience in public input opportunities and provide information about the project.

### **5.1 METHODS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

NCTCOG will plan and execute the following public engagement activities.

#### **5.1.1 Project Website**

NCTCOG will develop and maintain a website for the study, which will be made up of project related content. The project website (<http://nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs>) will serve as an informational portal for the public and stakeholders and for soliciting comments about the project.

NCTCOG will make periodic updates to keep stakeholders informed of project information and locations of public meetings, hearings, and any other events. The website will have public information materials posted, such as, fact sheets, articles, surveys, frequently asked questions, photographs, maps, graphics, videos, meeting summaries, and comment forms. The website will also include videos to help inform the public on the different technologies available, as well as project visualizations.

In addition to an informative website, there will also be interactive elements. Options to allow the public to sign up for email and mailing lists, request a presentation, and post comments will be available. Another interactive element on the website will be a map with alternative route options to allow members of the public to leave comments directly on the maps.

#### **5.1.2 Project Email Account**

A project email account will be created to streamline communications with the public. NCTCOG will take the lead and send outgoing emails to stakeholders from the account to set up stakeholder meetings and coordinate public meeting logistics. This account will also be utilized to help receive public comment forms.

#### **5.1.3 Branding**

One goal in Section 3.0 (Public and Agency Engagement Plan Goals) is to provide clear, simple project information to the public throughout the engagement process. The tone of the materials presented at public meetings and online will be factual and educational.

Messaging will communicate technical project information clearly and succinctly to afford the public the opportunity to be informed and involved in the decision-making process.

NCTCOG will create templates for presentations and handouts to create a consistent and recognizable look. A branding package, which includes a logo, font, and colors (see Figure 2), has been developed for use during the project to help create a uniform appearance.

#### **5.1.4 NCTCOG Publications**

NCTCOG periodically publishes print and electronic newsletters to provide updates on activities of the Regional Transportation Council and the NCTCOG Transportation Department and serve as public meeting notice. These documents will be used to highlight study activities and related public engagement opportunities in either feature or sidebar articles. These publications include:

- Local Motion (monthly publication)
- Mobility Matters (bi-annual publication)
- It's Your Region (monthly publication)

These newsletters can be mailed and emailed to corridor contacts. Opportunities to make copies of the newsletter available at local businesses, municipal buildings, libraries, and other locations will also be researched to potentially expand reach. Project public engagement opportunities in these newsletters could be enhanced by reaching out to partner transportation organizations, local governments, and other community organizations within the corridor and asking these organizations to include project information in their own newsletters, publications, and/or websites. Additionally, staff will submit articles and information to cities and chambers of commerce for inclusion in print and electronic newsletters, social media, and/or websites.

Additionally, a frequently asked questions publication can be created that would provide information on the different types of high-speed transportation technologies available and other questions about the study that are often asked. The frequently asked questions document and electronic newsletters will be posted on the project website and shared on social media for additional exposure.

#### **5.1.5 Video**

Public meetings (see Section 5.3, Public Meetings/Hearings) held at NCTCOG offices will be livestreamed and video recorded; recordings will be posted to the website. Throughout the study, additional videos may be produced to help provide information about the project.



Figure 2. Project Logo and Colors



### **5.1.6 Social Media**

The NCTCOG Transportation Department maintains a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vimeo, and YouTube. Staff will post project updates and opportunities for public engagement on the appropriate social media channels. NCTCOG transportation policy committee members and community leaders are encouraged to share information to reach wider and more diverse audiences and help involve new audiences in the planning process. Videos, publications, and frequently asked questions posted on the project website can also be shared on NCTCOG social media outlets.

### **5.1.7 Presentations and Briefings**

NCTCOG will provide presentations/briefings to elected officials, local boards, stakeholder groups, and interested organizations upon request. The project website will include a link to a request form. Any requests received will be discussed and the best person to deliver the presentation will be determined.

### **5.1.8 Language Assistance**

In accordance with the NCTCOG Language Assistance Plan (Appendix B of the NCTCOG Public Participation Plan, <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/public-participation-plan>), efforts will be made to ensure all interested persons are able to provide input during the high-speed transportation study regardless of their ability to read, write, or understand English. NCTCOG has identified limited English proficient populations in the study area (see Section 1.3). Throughout the study, NCTCOG will continue to identify barriers to these populations' participation in transportation decision-making, identify strategies that may overcome those hurdles, and implement those strategies.

The project website will include instructions to assist persons in translating the website based on the web browser being used.

NCTCOG will work with its in-house Spanish translator to provide translation for identified project documents or videos. For translations into languages other than Spanish, NCTCOG maintains a list of approved translation service providers that provide written and oral translation upon request.

NCTCOG will make every effort to accommodate attendees with special needs if they provide sufficient notice. Meeting materials will be provided in English and Spanish. Upon request, language translation, including sign and foreign language interpreters and handouts in large print or Braille, will be available. Public meeting/hearing notices will provide the telephone number and email address to request special arrangements at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting for translation and/or interpretation assistance.

### **5.1.9 Public Involvement Management Application**

Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA) is a public involvement tool that allows the holistic management of stakeholders. The program houses the stakeholder database, comment

matrix, meeting attendance, allows electronic commenting, and can host virtual meetings. It also has a GIS component that allows the team to track stakeholder feedback and sentiment geographically. The public engagement team will use the application on this project to not only manage stakeholders, but to gauge the effectiveness of public engagement efforts.

#### **5.1.10 Surveys**

Surveys may be used to help inform stakeholder about the various technologies available and alternatives being considered to assist in determining community preferences and priorities. The information gleaned from the surveys could also be used to help support and refine public engagement efforts.

#### **5.1.11 Additional Methods**

Public engagement opportunities can also be displayed on digital message signs along roadways in the corridor. These messages can provide information on upcoming public meetings with additional information available on 511DFW (<http://www.511dfw.org/>).

### **5.2 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND DATABASE**

NCTCOG will develop a stakeholder contact database, drawing from existing mailing lists from agency partners. The team will update and maintain a database of names, addresses, and email addresses to be utilized in distributing communications and meeting notifications. An industry/technology forum will also be held to learn more about each technology from individual industry stakeholders.

The project team will add interested stakeholders to the database, upon request. This will include people who attend meetings or those who sign up online, email, or comment via the project website. The database will be categorized into groups, which may include:

- Property owners adjacent to the project alternatives
- Homeowner and neighborhood associations
- Federal, state, and local government elected officials and staff
- Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments
- Federal, state, regional, and local government agencies, or jurisdictions
- Businesses and business organizations
- Educational institutions
- Faith-based organizations
- Environmental justice communities and stakeholders
- Limited English proficiency stakeholders
- Members of the media
- Community clubs and groups
- Advocacy groups
- High-speed transportation technology companies

### **5.2.1 Mailing and Email List**

The public engagement mail and email lists are the most direct forms of communication used by NCTCOG to inform and engage the public and partners. As a starting point, NCTCOG will draw from its existing public engagement mailing lists at the beginning of the public engagement process to create a database of names, addresses, and email addresses to be utilized in distributing communications and meeting notifications. Individuals will receive public meeting notices, information about public review and comment opportunities, announcements of workshops or open houses, and other material suitable for mass mailings.

Similar to the stakeholder database, the NCTCOG public engagement mail and email lists are continually maintained and expanded based on sign-up sheets at public meetings, community events, and requests sent through the NCTCOG Transportation Department and project websites. Public meeting notices will be mailed and emailed to individuals, elected officials, transportation partners, organizations, and other interested persons and groups (chambers of commerce, economic development groups, advocacy groups, neighborhood associations, major employers, civic organizations, etc.) on the public involvement contact list.

As noted under Section 5.1.1 (Project Website), NCTCOG will develop and maintain a website for the study. Options to allow the public to sign up for email and mailing lists will also be available on the project website.

### **5.2.2 Stakeholder Interviews**

Stakeholder interviews will be conducted with agencies and individuals with links to environmental justice and non-English speaking communities. Interviewees may include minority chambers of commerce, religious institutions, and non-profit organizations. The purpose of these interviews will be to help:

- Develop contact lists
- Identify effective outreach strategies and communities' preferred means of communication
- Identify effective locations and times for meetings
- Identify how environmental justice and non-English speaking persons may influence, benefit from, or be impacted by the project
- Identify persons that could help facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the project and public meetings/hearings

### **5.2.3 Industry/Technology Forum**

An industry/technology forum will be held to review the different types of high-speed technology that could be utilized in the corridor. Industry and technology experts in high-speed passenger service will be invited to provide information to help educate the study team on the various types of technology. Not only will this information be included in the

frequently asked questions publication, but it is anticipated that a video of the different technologies will be created to help educate the community. The video would include interviews of industry representatives at the technology forum and will be placed on the project website and shared on social media.

### **5.3 PUBLIC MEETINGS/HEARINGS**

Public meetings/hearings will be held to provide information, gather input, and build consensus among the public and various stakeholders. Public meetings/hearings will be to promote meaningful participation by communities, interested persons, and stakeholders. Meetings in Phase 1 will be referred to as public meetings and Phase 2 meetings will be referred to as public hearings, along with additional scoping meetings.

If conditions do not allow for in-person meetings/hearings due to, but not limited to, a threat to public health, natural disaster, a hazardous situation, or other reason, technology may be used to hold the meetings virtually. Members of the public would be able to participate remotely and either view previously recorded meetings online, view live meetings, or participate through other virtual methods such as a webinar or teleconference. All virtual meeting information would be shared in the same manner as physical meeting notifications including, posting information on the project website, meeting notices, sharing on social media, and sending to mailing and email lists.

If conditions allow for in-person meetings, five series of public meetings/hearings will be held at convenient locations within the study area. Three series of meetings will be held in Phase 1 and two series (scoping meetings and public hearings) held during Phase 2. Because of the size of the study area, each series will include three meetings/hearings held in the western, central, and eastern areas of the study area to allow multiple opportunities for persons to attend and minimize travel to meetings/hearings. Meetings/hearings will allow for opportunities for participation in the evening and during the day. The same information will be presented at each meeting in a series.

As appropriate, public/scoping meetings will follow an open house format to allow attendees to ask questions. Presentations or videos on a loop may be used to ensure attendees participate regardless of their arrival time. During the public hearings, renderings of critical areas/sections may be developed to help the public visualize the project. Prior to the public hearings, copies of the NEPA document will be placed at agreed public locations such as city halls and public libraries.

When public meetings/hearings are held at NCTCOG offices, the meetings/hearing will be video recorded and livestreamed; recordings will be posted to the website. One meeting per series can be held at NCTCOG offices to ensure livestreaming.



### **5.3.1 Content of Meetings**

The following outlines the purpose and anticipate information to be presented at each of the public meetings/hearings.

#### Phase 1

- Public Meetings Series #1 – The first series of meetings will show previous alignments and information on technologies considered and allow for input on the preliminary draft purpose and need, alternatives to be considered, and the proposed screening criteria.
- Public Meetings Series #2 – The purpose of the second series of meetings will be to show the alternatives considered, screening results, and recommendations for alternatives to be developed further.
- Public Meetings Series #3 – The purpose of the third series of meetings will be to show the alternatives considered, results, and recommendations for alternatives to be developed further and evaluated during the NEPA process.

#### Phase 2

- Scoping Meetings – Three public scoping meetings will be held to review the draft need and purpose, present the preliminary range of reasonable alternatives identified, potential effects of the proposed project, and refine the public and agency engagement plan.
- Public Hearings – Following the publication of the draft NEPA document, NCTCOG and the NEPA federal lead agency will conduct a series of three public hearings to solicit comment on the document and design.

### **5.3.2 Locations**

To facilitate public participation, each series of public meetings or hearings will include three meetings in the western, central, and eastern portions of the study area. The following criteria are considered when selecting meeting locations:

- Meetings will be held in accessible locations, preferably near transit lines or routes.
- Meetings will be held in buildings that are in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Meetings will be held at locations that have parking available at no charge or NCTCOG will cover the costs of parking.

As stated in Section 5.3 (Public Meetings/Hearings) virtual meetings may be held in the event physical meetings cannot take place.

### **5.3.3 Notification Process**

During Phase 1 and Phase 2, the standard NCTCOG Public Participation Plan (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/public-participation-plan>) requirements for public meetings/hearings will be used and may include enhancements as needed. Public meeting/hearing notices will be mailed and emailed to individuals, elected officials,

transportation partners and organizations within the study area listed on the public involvement mail and email lists. For the public hearings, notices will also be mailed to property owners adjacent to the proposed alignment.

#### **5.3.4 Advertising**

Paid advertising is used to announce public meetings/hearings and opportunities for public review and comment. Paid advertising will complement other outreach and communications efforts. Ads/public meeting/hearing notices will be published in local newspapers, including minority publications and non-English newspapers. Advertisements will be translated into the language of the publication. Advertising will be placed in the following publications:

- *The Dallas Morning News* (print and online)
- *Al Día*
- *The Fort Worth Star Telegram* (print only)
- *La Estrella*
- Star Local newspapers
- *La Vida*
- *The Examiner*
- Select Vietnamese publications

Public meeting notices will also be mailed to public libraries within the study area and city and county offices for posting, and notices are posted on the Texas Register website as part of the Open Meetings requirement. Public meeting notices will also be posted on social media pages, the project website, in NCTCOG publications, and other methods found in Section 5.0 (Public Engagement) of this plan.

#### **5.4 MEETING MATERIALS**

Materials to be used at the public meetings and hearings may include presentations, presentation handouts, project maps and exhibits, sign-in sheets (for the public, media, consultants, NCTCOG staff, and elected officials), name tags, comment cards, verbal comment registration forms, and an agenda for meeting topics. Talking points will also be developed for members of the project team for use at the public meetings and hearings.

#### **5.5 COMMENTING**

A database for cataloging public and agency comments will be created and maintained throughout the study. The project website will include an option to submit a comment at any time during the study.

Comment forms will be available at each public meeting/hearing. Persons will be able to turn in comments at each meeting or mail or email comments to NCTCOG. To be included in the record for each series of the public meetings in Phase 1, comments will be accepted up to 10 days after the last meeting held in the series. The timeframe for comments during the NEPA process, or Phase 2, will be established based on the type of document

(Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement). Typically, an Environmental Impact Statement will include a longer comment period (45 days for the draft and 30 days for the final). If meetings cannot take place in-person (see Section 5.3), commenting periods may be extended.

During the public scoping meetings and public hearings, a court reporter will be for available for persons wanting to make verbal comments.

## **5.6 PUBLIC MEETING/HEARING DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation will be prepared after each series of public meetings in Phase 1, Phase 2 scoping meetings, and Phase 2 public hearings. The documentation will include a cover page; summary of the meetings/hearings; comment/response matrix documenting comments, concerns, recommendations and responses; copies of meeting/hearing notices and mailing lists; sign-in sheets; comments received; handouts; meeting exhibits; presentation; and photos. A summary of project modifications made based on comments received will also be included. Public scoping and hearing documentation will also include transcripts.

## **6.0 AGENCY IDENTIFICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

During both Phase 1 and Phase 2, NCTCOG will also coordinate or consult with other federal, regional, and local agencies or authorities throughout the study, as necessary and as requested. This will include conducting meetings with city and county staff, local transportation officials, elected officials, utility companies, and railroads. The purpose of these targeted discussions will be to solicit early input and comments on alternatives and their potential effects. The meetings and comments will be documented as well as responses to issues discussed at these meetings.

The following describes other scheduled or anticipated agency engagement activities.

### **6.1 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS**

NCTCOG will seek to engage federally recognized tribal nations early in the transportation planning process. To honor the government-to-government relationship with these sovereign nations, NCTCOG will rely on FTA and FRA to communicate with tribal nations. NCTCOG may support this effort by:

- Identifying tribal nations with an area of interest in the study area
- Drafting correspondence
- Providing additional information as needed

### **6.2 TECHNICAL WORK GROUP**

During Phase 1, NCTCOG will conduct technical work group meetings with city and county staff and local transportation officials. The purpose of these meetings will be to help provide technical reviews of work products. The meetings will be documented along with responses

to issues discussed at these meetings. It is estimated that six technical work group meetings will be held at key decision points during Phase 1.

### **6.3 COOPERATING AGENCIES**

Following Phase 1, NCTCOG will coordinate with FRA and FTA to identify appropriate cooperating agencies. A cooperating agency is any federal agency, other than a lead agency, which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposed project or project alternative. Cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. Potential cooperating agencies include the following:

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments

### **6.4 AGENCY SCOPING MEETING**

At the beginning of Phase 2, an agency scoping meeting will be held to review the draft need and purpose, present the preliminary range of reasonable alternatives identified, methodology, potential effects of the proposed project, and refine the public and agency and public engagement plan.

## **7.0 UPDATES TO PUBLIC AND AGENCY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

The Public and Agency Public Engagement Plan will be updated periodically, to include the revisions based on public and/or agency input. The plan can be updated and expanded to meet additional engagement needs. Table 5 shows revision history for this document.

**Table 5. Revision History**

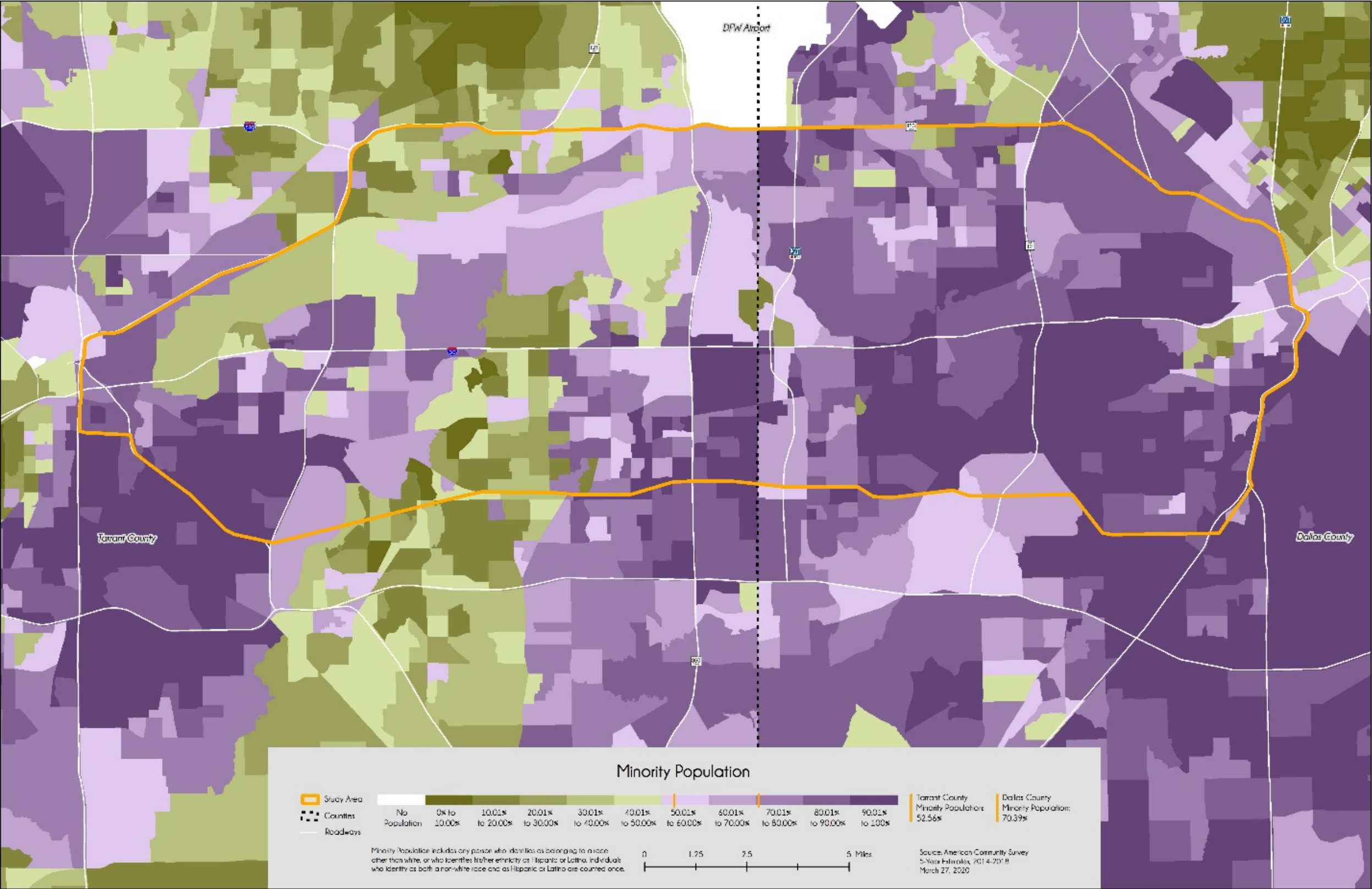
| Effective Date | Reason for and Description of Change |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
|                |                                      |
|                |                                      |
|                |                                      |

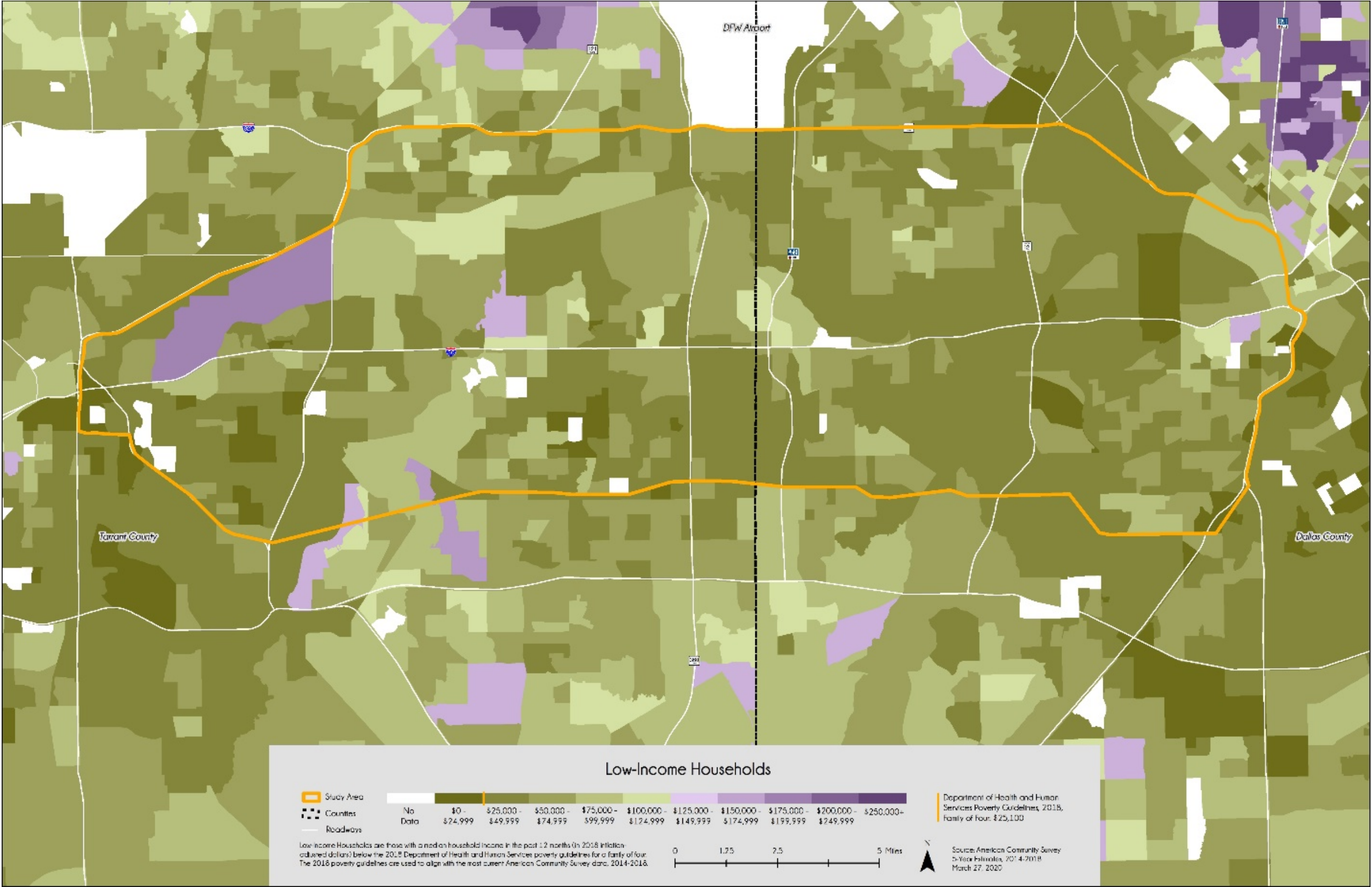
## **Appendix A**

### **Demographic Information**

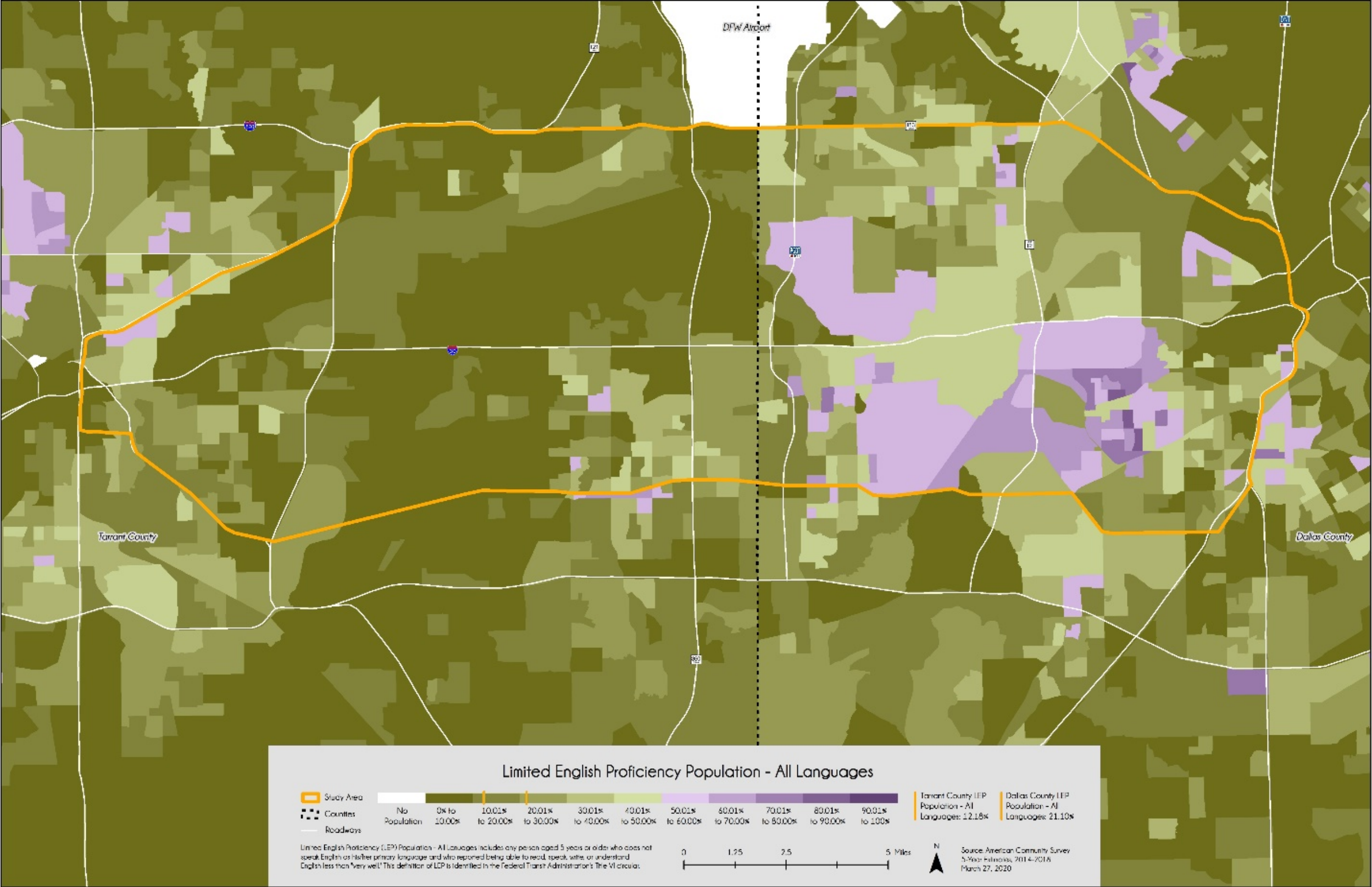
|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Minority Populations.....                             | A-2 |
| Low-Income Populations.....                           | A-3 |
| Limited English Proficiency – All Languages .....     | A-4 |
| Limited English Proficiency – Spanish Languages ..... | A-5 |
| Limited English Proficiency – Asian Languages .....   | A-6 |

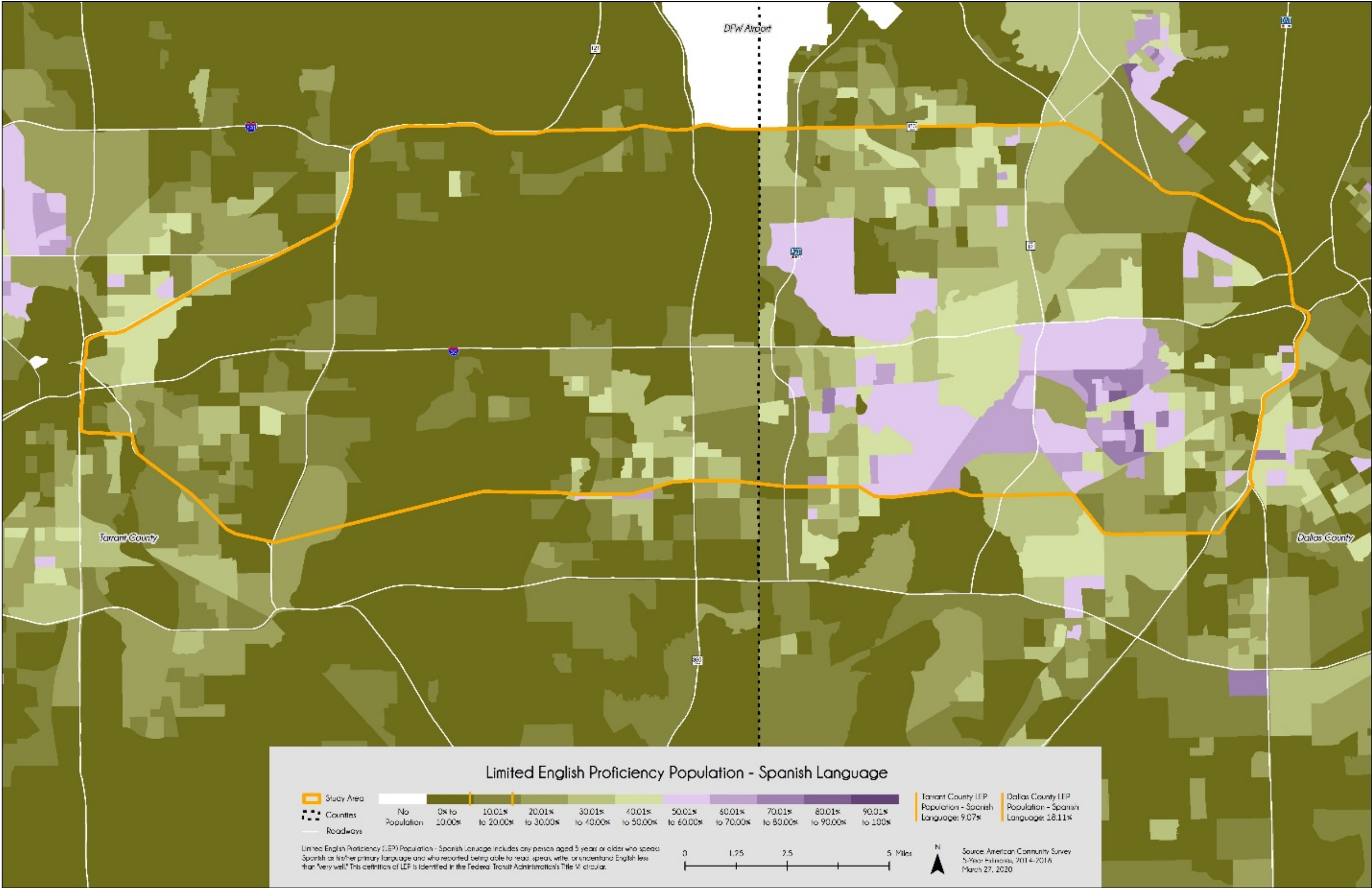




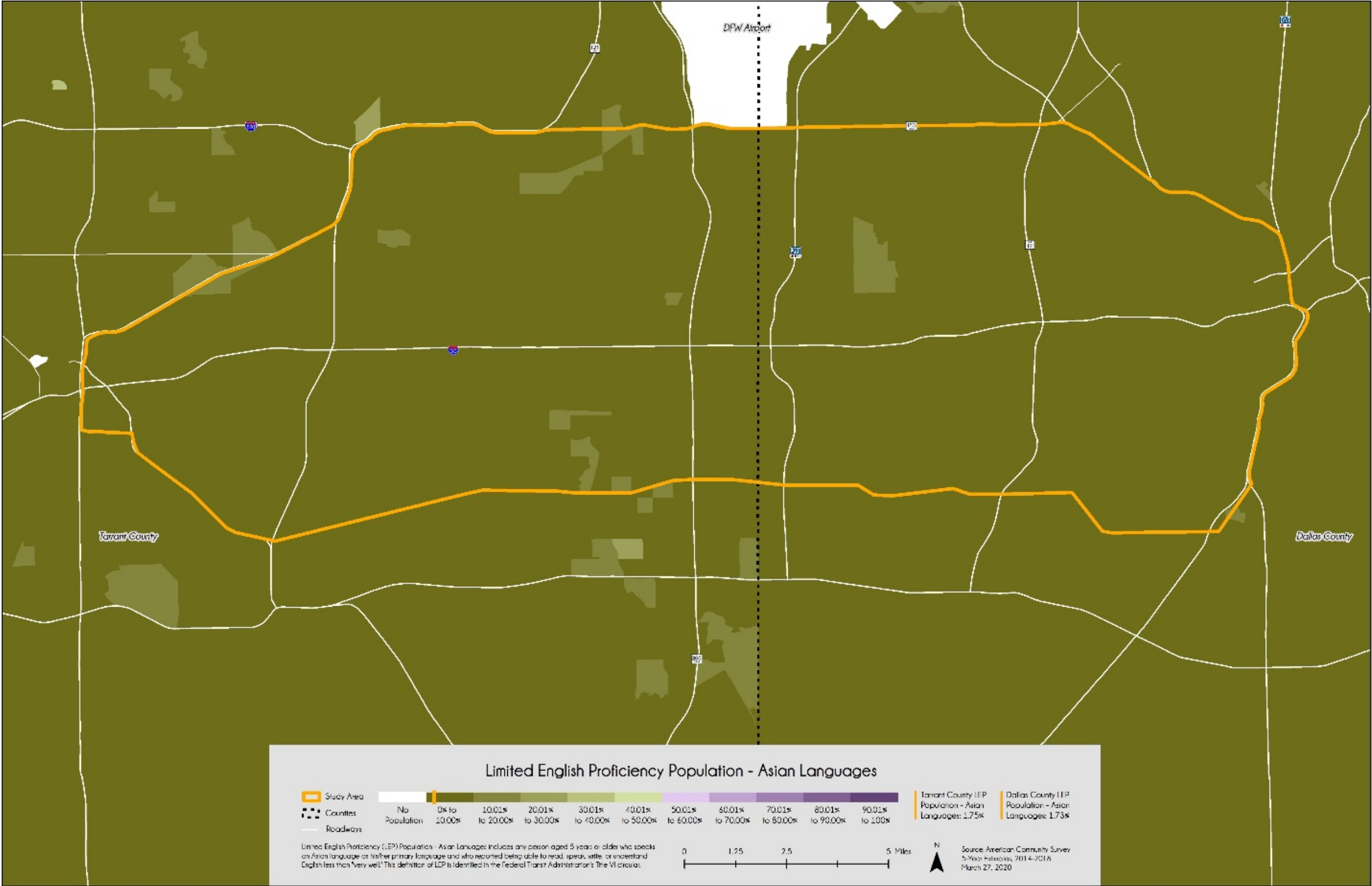














## **Appendix B**

### **Media List**



**Newspapers**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| African Herald                     | Kaufman Herald                                    |
| Al Dia                             | Korea Daily Texas                                 |
| Allen American                     | Korean Journal N. Texas                           |
| Alliance Regional Newspaper        | La Estrella                                       |
| Arlington Voice                    | La Vida News -- The Black Voice                   |
| Azle News/Springtown Epigraph      | Lake Cities Sun                                   |
| Benbrook News                      | Lewisville Leader                                 |
| Blue Ribbon News                   | Mesquite News/Sunnyvale View                      |
| Bridgeport Index                   | Midlothian Mirror                                 |
| But Viet News                      | Murphy Monitor                                    |
| Carrollton Leader                  | Natural Awakenings Dallas Magazine                |
| Celina Record                      | Nguoi Viet  |
| Cleburne Times Review              | North Dallas Gazette                              |
| Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. | Northwest News                                    |
| Community Impact Newspaper         | Novedades   |
| Coppell Gazette                    | Oak Cliff Tribune                                 |
| Cowcatcher Magazine                | Park Cities News                                  |
| Daily Commercial Recorder          | Park Cities People                                |
| Dallas Business Journal            | Pilot Point Post-Signal                           |
| Dallas Chinese Daily               | Plano Star Courier                                |
| Dallas Chinese News                | Princeton Herald                                  |
| Dallas Examiner                    | Prosper Press                                     |
| Dallas Morning News                | Quinlan-Tawakoni News                             |
| Dallas Observer                    | Rambler Newspapers                                |
| Dallas Post Tribune                | Richardson Morning News                           |
| Dallas Weekly                      | River Oaks News                                   |
| Denton Record-Chronicle            | Robson Ranch Pioneer Press                        |
| DFW Child                          | Rowlett Lakeshore Times                           |
| Ellis County Press                 | Sachse News                                       |
| El Hispano News                    | Sanger Courier                                    |
| Farmersville Times                 | Senior News                                       |
| Focus Daily News                   | Southern Dallas County Business & Living Magazine |
| Forney Messenger                   | Star Local Media                                  |
| FW Inc.                            | Suburban News                                     |
| Fort Worth Business Press          | Suburbia News (Seagoville)                        |
| Fort Worth Star-Telegram           | Terrell Tribune                                   |
| Fort Worth Weekly                  | Texas Lawyer                                      |
| Frisco Enterprise                  | Texas Tribune                                     |
| The Garland Texan                  | The Associated Press                              |
| Grizzly Detail                     | The Colony Courier-Leader                         |
| Herald Banner/Commerce Journal     | The Leader (Flower Mound)                         |
| Hood County News                   |   |



The Texan  
Tre Magazine  
Waxahachie Daily Light/Ellis County  
Chronicle/Ennis Journal

Weatherford Democrat  
Weatherford Telegram  
Wise County Messenger  
Wylie News

**Community Publications**

380 Guide/380 News  
Advocate Magazine  
Bisnow.com  
The Chico Texan  
Citizens' Advocate  
Cross Timbers Gazette  
Culturemap Dallas  
DFW Newsflash  
Ellis County Citizen  
Forney Post  
Fort Worth Black News  
Frisco-Online  
Glen Rose Reporter  
Granbury Gazette  
Green Source DFW  
Hunt County News  
Informate  
inForney

Iroha  
Irving Weekly  
Katy Trail Weekly  
Lantana Living  
The Monitor  
McKinney Online/McKinney Magazine  
Murphy Messenger  
North Texas Catholic  
Our Texas  
Planet Rockwall  
Plano Profile  
Preston Hollow People  
Robson Ranch Pioneer Press  
Texas Jewish Post  
The Park Cities News  
The Texas Catholic/El Catolico de Texas  
Turtle Creek News  
White Rock Lake Weekly

**TV/Radio**

KBEC 1390 AM  
KERA 90.1 (NPR)  
KETR 88.9  
KGV, KIKT  
KLTY 94.9 FM  
KLUV 98.7 FM  
KNON FM 89.3 "The Voice of the People"  
KRLD 1080 AM  
Fort Worth Community Cable TV  
WBAP 820 AM  
CBS Newspath  
Fort Worth Community Cable TV

KDFW Fox 4  
KETK NBC 56  
KLTU ABC 7  
KTVT CBS 11  
KXTX Telemundo 39  
KXAS NBC 5  
KYTX CBS 19  
Univision 23  
WFAA ABC 8  
Car Guy Media  
KGV, KIKT  
Transportation Radio

**Wire/National**

Bloomberg News  
Reuters  
Public Works Financing  
The Bond Buyer  
Infrastructure Journal  
Business Insider  
USA Today  
The Wall Street Journal  
The Verge  
American Journal of Transportation

United Press International  
NGT News  
Smart Cities Dive  
t4America.org  
The Overhead Wire  
Institute for Transportation & Development  
Policy  
Strategic Partnerships  
Supply and Demand Chain Executive

**Student Newspapers**

North Texas Daily  
TCU 360  
The Daily Campus  
The East Texan  
The Lasso  
The Mercury  
The Rambler  
The Shorthorn

Collin College  
Brookhaven Courier  
Richland Chronicle  
The Et Cetera  
The News-Register  
The Collegian  
The TVCC News-Journal

## **Appendix C**

# **Public Engagement Calendar**

**Appendix C – Public Engagement Calendar**  
**Public and Agency Engagement Plan**



Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed  
Transportation Connections Study

| Activity                                 | Schedule (Anticipated)         |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Website                                  | Beginning June 2020            |
| email account                            | Beginning June 2020            |
| Presentations and Briefings              | As requested                   |
| Stakeholder Interviews                   | August 2020 thru December 2020 |
| Public Meetings Series 1<br>(3 meetings) | September 2020                 |
| Public Meetings Series 2<br>(3 meetings) | November 2020                  |
| Public Meetings Series 3<br>(3 meetings) | April 2021                     |
| Public Scoping Meetings<br>(3 meetings)  | August 2021                    |
| Public Hearings<br>(3 hearings)          | July 2022                      |