

8. CONCLUSION

KEEPING PACE WITH GROWTH

The North Central Texas region has seen impressive growth in recent decades, with the current population of the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area reaching 8.3 million. Looking ahead, projections suggest the region will welcome 12.3 million residents by 2050. With an estimated three million new residents, there will be exciting opportunities to enhance the transportation system and meet the growing demand for efficient movement of people and goods. The region is well-positioned to address these challenges with innovative solutions and improvements to the existing infrastructure.

OPTIMIZING AVAILABLE FUNDS

The funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has provided valuable resources for addressing mobility challenges in North Central Texas. However, despite a projected \$215 billion investment over the next 24 years, there is still a need to prioritize and innovate to meet the region's growing transportation demands. Though congestion-related delays are expected to increase by 57 percent, strategic investments and smarter use of resources can help maintain a high-performing system. Mobility 2050 focuses on forward-thinking solutions like optimizing land use, reducing vehicle trips, and enhancing the capacity of the existing network to support sustainable growth.

Changes in the way North Central Texans travel will be integral to maximizing limited funds and existing transportation system capacity. The Mobility 2050 recommendations are designed to deliver the most significant mobility improvements relative to their cost. By better integrating land use and transportation, the plan supports the development of livable communities that balance housing and employment locations. To accommodate growth, Mobility 2050 promotes initiatives that reduce vehicle trips, expand and improve public transit, enhance the safety of multimodal transportation facilities, and maximize the existing transportation system capacity.

Table 8-1 provides a summary of expenditures by project type.

MEETING MOBILITY 2050 GOALS

Mobility 2050 supports a transportation system designed to enhance the region's mobility, quality of life, system sustainability, and continued project implementation.

Mobility: The Mobility 2050 recommendations aim to deliver the most impactful mobility improvements relative to their cost. While the costs of congestion and travel time are expected to rise by 2050, the benefits of multimodal transportation options will provide significant improvements in accessibility. For example, protected populations will have significantly increased access to jobs by car (47 percent more within 30 minutes), and substantially more access by transit, (32 percent increase in job availability within 60 minutes).

Table 8-1: Expenditure Categories

Mobility 2050 Recommendations	Expenditures (\$ Billions)
Infrastructure Maintenance	\$32.11
Transit Operations, Maintenance	\$17.76
Roadway Maintenance, Rehab, Safety, and Operations	\$14.35
Management and Operations Strategies	\$23.93
Congestion Management	\$5.37
Safety Programs	\$0.80
Transit Operations, Maintenance	\$17.76
Growth, Development, and Land-Use Strategies	\$1.5
Air Quality and Environment	\$0.48
Sustainable Development and Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities	\$5.60
Technology Program	\$0.31
Public Transportation	\$44.9
Rail Capital and Transit System Expansion	\$51.37
Bus and Paratransit Capital	\$4.64
Roadway System	\$97.38
Freeway, Tollway, Express/HOV, and Tolloed Managed Lanes	\$72.55
Regional Arterial System	\$9.83
Other Arterials	\$15.00
Total	\$215.82
Values may not sum due to independent rounding	

Quality of Life: Mobility 2050 aims to connect North Central Texans to vital resources like jobs, healthcare, education, and healthy food to improve quality of life. Higher density development supports this goal by enabling strategies that foster livable communities and enhance access to essential services. Mobility 2050's recommendations encourage housing and transportation options that lower household costs, reduce oil dependence, improve air quality, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. By shifting away from greenfield development and promoting infill, the plan promotes sustainable growth, efficient use of the existing transportation system, and reduces the need for costly infrastructure expansion in outlying areas.

System Sustainability: System sustainability is best achieved through asset optimization and strategic growth. By prioritizing the efficient management of existing transportation infrastructure, we can enhance system performance without overextending resources. Coordinating land use and transportation investments ensures that growth is supported by smart, targeted improvements to the current network rather than building new facilities in less urbanized areas. This approach not only maximizes the efficiency of existing assets, but also helps the region accommodate future growth while maintaining economic vitality and long-term sustainability.

Implementation: Projects and programs intended to reduce the cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the regional transportation system will be supported through regular communication with state and federal review agencies, coordination with transportation providers in the region, and input from the public. By analyzing and prioritizing mobility improvements, Mobility 2050 recommendations seek to meet the transportation demands of existing and future travelers through innovative solutions.

TRANSPORTATION BEYOND 2050

Mobility 2050 outlines a comprehensive approach with strategic programs and projects aimed at improving transportation in North Central Texas. While the full transportation needs of the region may not be fully addressed within the current plan, significant progress will be made. Roadway investments totaling four to five times total plan expenditures are needed to eliminate the worst level of roadway congestion in 2050. Mobility 2050, however, recommends programs and projects totaling \$215 billion; this total is based on a reasonable expectation of funding and financial constraint requirements.

The unfunded needs may be addressed through a variety of modal and management solutions. Major roadway corridors requiring future evaluation are included in the **Mobility Options** chapter. The unfunded needs highlight the importance of maintaining a vision for the transportation system beyond 2050. This vision should include transportation options that give North Central Texans a choice as they travel in the region. The planning process is continuous and is modified to account for changes in demographics, financial assumptions, project design concept and scope, local priorities, and legislative direction.

Ongoing funding and strategic demand management are key to ensuring North Central Texas continues to thrive. The Regional Transportation Council and the North Central Texas Council of Governments remain committed to creating a transportation system that supports economic growth and improves the quality of life for all residents.