Pedestrian Plan Provides Blueprint to Make Region Safer for Walkers

Residents throughout the metropolitan planning area rely on a safe, efficient and connected walkable network as a viable option when commuting to jobs or traveling by foot to health facilities, food resources and other essential services. The plan outlines a targeted approach for improving pedestrian safety throughout the region, focusing on areas with high concentrations of reported crashes when determining local safety policies and programming for new projects and programs. Through collaboration with local partners, NCTCOG aims to eliminate all pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries in the metropolitan area by encouraging local agencies to adopt the plan’s recommended policies, to implement the plan’s actionable items where appropriate and to develop their own local safety plans using the regional plan as a framework.

In a region of almost 8 million residents, active transportation provides significant health, environmental and economic benefits. However, pedestrian safety remains an ongoing concern. In North Texas, between 2014 and 2018, there were more than 7,700 reported pedestrian crashes involving motor vehicles that resulted in 672 fatalities, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Pedestrians and bicyclists are the most vulnerable of all roadway users. As fatal and serious injuries decline for motorized travel, reported pedestrian crashes have increased significantly over the past decade.
The plan also stresses the network of pedestrian facilities should be complete, direct, safe and comfortable to travel. This can be accomplished by addressing the continuity of the sidewalk network, the streetscape and the physical context in which the sidewalk is located.

Walking is an integral part of the transportation system that contributes to the environment and encourages active behaviors.

Each transportation agency has the responsibility and the opportunity to improve conditions for safe and convenient walking and bicycling, and to further integrate safe and comfortable facilities into the regional and local transportation systems. Meeting the region’s pedestrian safety targets requires significant collaboration with State and local agencies and effective outreach to all roadway users, including drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

For more information go to: 
https://www.nctcog.org/pedsafetyplan

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