Strategic Plan for the North Central Texas Council Of Governments: 2015-2020

COMMITMENT TO Excellence

Introduction

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) was created by state enabling legislation in 1966, and was comprised of a service area that included the local governments in 10 counties. Through action of the Governor's office, the service area has expanded to include the local governments in 16 counties.

NCTCOG is a political subdivision of the state and a voluntary association of local governments with a membership of 235 political jurisdictions. It is not a government as it cannot levy taxes or enact laws.

Its primary purposes are to perform long-range, comprehensive plans for matters that transcend jurisdictional boundaries, promote the sound development of the 16 county region and facilitate cooperation and coordination among its member governments. These responsibilities will continue to increase in importance as the region is forecasted to grow from one of 6.8 million people to a population of some 10 to 11 million by 2030.

An Executive Board serves as the policy body for NCTCOG and is comprised of local elected officials. The Board approves and oversees the plans, projects and programs that NCTCOG undertakes to serve its member governments. Each of these programs and projects also has an advisory committee which guides their development and delivery systems. These committees have local government members who are subject matter experts and often have seats for business interests and citizens of the region. This assures that those who will administer or be affected by one of these programs or projects have a strong voice in how they are crafted. NCTCOG is grateful for their involvement and endorsement of its efforts to recognize, address and resolve regional issues and opportunities. Their service ensures that NCTCOG actively practices its Mission Statement which reads as follows:

> *"We are an association of, for, and by local governments. We assist our members in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and recognizing regional opportunities for improving the quality of life in North Central Texas. "*
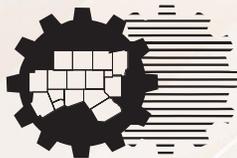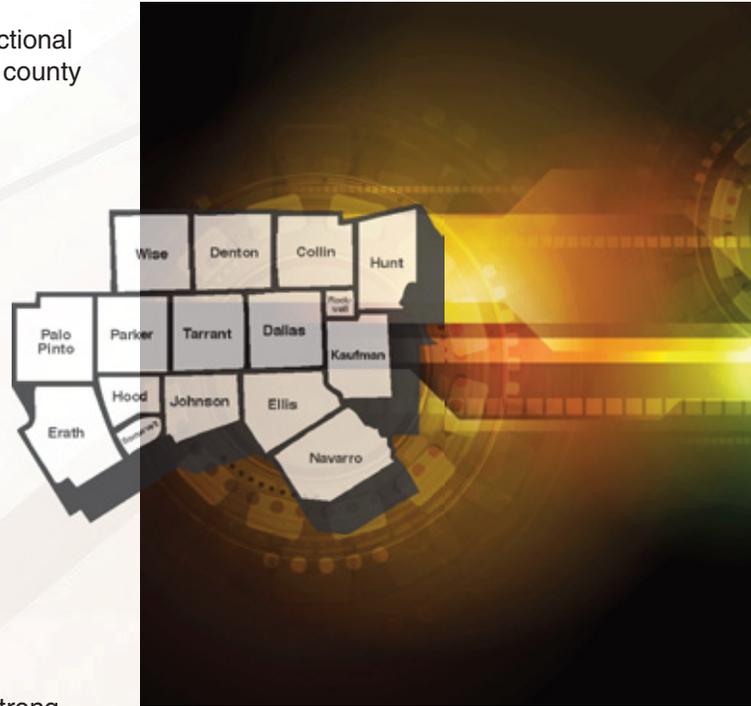
This Strategic Plan is intended as a platform to provide NCTCOG a five-year dynamic road map for achieving the highest quality in regional planning, program development, and the delivery of services for the benefit of member governments and their citizens.

Department-Specific Programs

Environment and Development Programs

See Less Trash

Program Introduction: An ever increasing volume of solid waste is steadily outstripping the capacity of a finite number of disposal facilities. For this reason, additional emphasis must be placed on increasing reuse and recycling. North Texans will SEE Less Trash, through Sustainable Environmental Excellence (SEE), where materials are reused and recycled whenever possible, illegal dumping is significantly reduced, and remaining waste is handled in a safe manner.

Strategic Priorities: Continue to support the Resource Conservation Council that has a membership of local governments, special districts and private business, and its successful regional solid waste management program; reviewing and updating the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; serving as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) designated regional solid waste planning agency; and supporting TIME TO RECYCLE, ASSURING CAPACITY FOR TRASH, and STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING subcommittee program activities.

Outcomes: A decrease in percentages of per capita municipal solid waste, increased recycling rates, and a reduced number of illegal dumping sites.

See Safe, Clean, And Green

Program Introduction: Water is vital to life in North Central Texas. This region must have sufficient supplies of clean water to continue to grow and maintain a high quality of life. A reduction of flooding through proper management of watersheds and stream corridors, and strategic conservation of open spaces within existing watersheds will provide a network for ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, and the protection of existing water supply sources.

Strategic Priorities: Support SAFE waterways through Trinity River COMMON VISION programming, natural hazard planning, flood map updating, and flood management training. Support CLEAN water through the regional Water Quality Management Planning process, and with direct involvement from the Water Resources Council. Support implementation of integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM), and promote the Regional Stormwater Management Program. Support GREEN watersheds through Greenprinting, implementing green infrastructures, implementing a Regional Ecosystem Framework, and encouraging efficient water use.

Outcomes: More waterways will meet state and regional water quality standards and be accurately mapped for flood events, enabling better decisions for flood mitigation and prevention; adequate capacities of potable water supply will result from efficient water use and proper planning; successful completion of annual Water Quality Management Plan updates will ensure long-term adequate capacities of regional wastewater facilities; local implementation of drought contingency plans will help mitigate the effects of drought conditions; local submissions and State approval of Stormwater Management Programs (SWMPs) will provide impetus to continue water management programs; and collaboration with the Department of Emergency Preparedness will help local entities acquire hazard mitigation funding.

See Development Excellence

Program Introduction: With the projected population increases of several millions of people over the next 20-40 years, "business as usual" planning and development will lead to poorer air quality, decreased open space, increased traffic congestion, decreased environmental quality, insufficient water supplies, increased flooding and runoff, decreased surface water quality, and increased urban heat island effects. A coordinated approach to development and land-use planning among local governments will assist this region in being better able to assimilate huge amounts of additional population, while maintaining a vibrant economy and high quality living conditions.

Strategic Priorities: Continue to work with and support community leaders on maintaining the economic competitiveness and attractiveness of North Central Texas as a place to live; continue to support the Governor's office with the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program to fund needed Public Works Infrastructure; expand Greenprinting practices and the Regional Ecosystem Framework GIS resource to achieve preservation of natural open space to preserve water quality; continue development of a strong Regional Public Works Program; support the standardization of model construction codes through the Regional Codes Coordinating Committee; continue adoption of recommended integrated Stormwater Management practices and guidelines that reflect a watershed-based approach to water quantity and quality improvements; adopt consistent regional codes and sustainability guidelines for sites, buildings, infrastructure, and public rights-of-way; and provide support to local governments and others using the Center of Development Excellence principles.

Outcomes: Community leaders will have support from the Environment and Development staff to achieve and maintain economic competitiveness throughout North Central Texas; local governments will have multiple strategies from which to bring about stormwater management practices and watershed approaches to water quantity and water quality improvements; regional codes will provide guidance for buildings, infrastructure, and public rights of way; Regional Public Works programs will provide standards for implementing sustainable improvement programs; and community leaders will take advantage of funding through the Community Development Block Grant program.
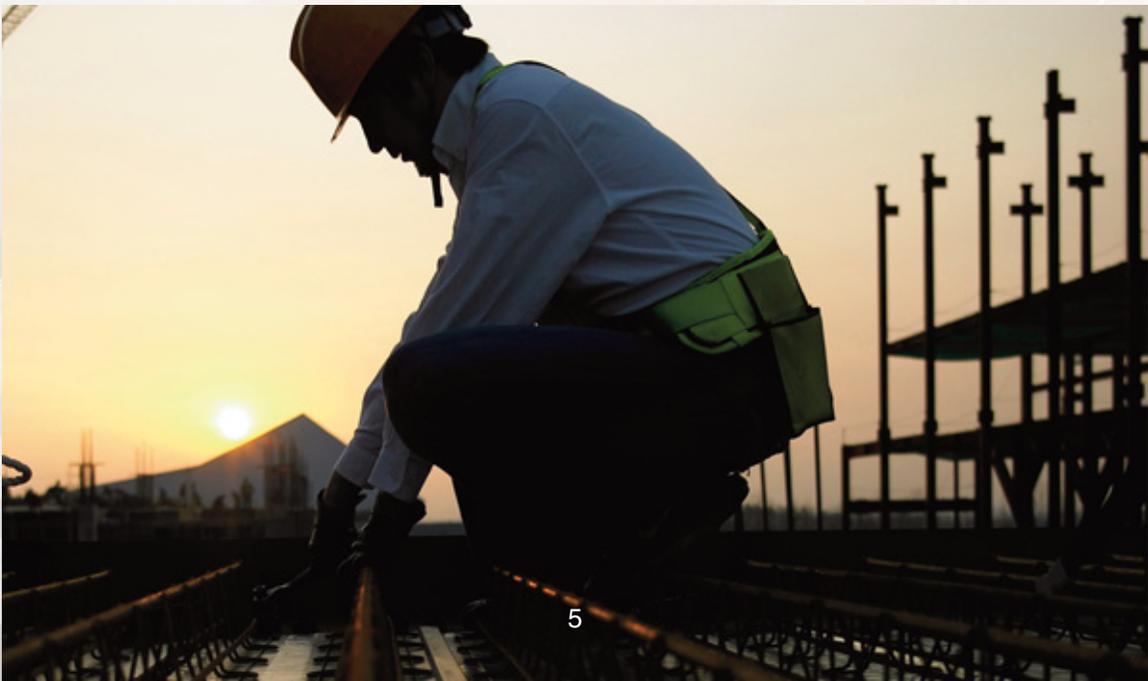
Public Safety Radio Communications

Radio Frequency Planning and Review

Program Introduction: Region 40 Communications conducts public safety communications planning for 800 MHz and 700 MHz radio systems, and reviews applications for new or modified radio frequencies.

Strategic Priorities: Provide prompt and comprehensive frequency application reviews for local public safety agencies. Provide information when new Federal regulations are released. Support new radio technologies to expand regional interoperability. Involve local emergency services personnel and communication specialists in the decision-making process.

Outcomes: A reduction of frequency congestion and interference; better communication capability, and safer conditions for emergency service providers and citizens.

The Aging Program

Priorities for Older Adults and Persons With Disabilities
In North Central Texas

Program Introduction: The mission of the Aging program is to develop and maintain a coordinated network of health and social services that promotes independent living. Although Aging's primary funding source — the Older Americans Act (OAA)—is shrinking, Aging has obtained non-OAA funding that supports its nursing home relocation program and Aging and Disability Resource Center. It relies on well-trained volunteers to expand its reach, particularly with ombudsman, benefits counseling, and preventive health services.

Strategic Priorities: Continue to expand the breadth and depth of evidence-based programs; counsel prospective nursing home residents about community-based alternatives; assist nursing home residents with complex needs in returning to the community; support contractors who deliver services to older adults; secure alternative funding from non-traditional sources; advocate for policy changes and funding increases; and provide support to the Regional Aging Advisory Committee.

Outcomes: As a regional program, Aging provides consolidated administration for contracted services; provides direct services to high-risk constituents; assists constituents with low incomes to meet basic needs; recruits and supports a robust volunteer corps; and assists local governments in planning for aging needs.

Law Enforcement Training

The Regional Police Academy

Program Introduction: NCTCOG'S law enforcement training program – through the Regional Police Academy – provides cost-competitive, professional development opportunities to law enforcement recruits and veteran officers, corrections officers and telecommunicators.

Strategic Priorities: Pursue long-term lease agreements for training facilities; provide legislatively-mandated training courses for in-service and new officer certification; provide support to the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee; and examine additional income streams to assure continued law enforcement training programs. Maintain a pass rate above 95% for recruits taking the State required licensing test to become a Peace Officer.

Outcomes: High quality and low cost law enforcement recruits and veteran officers training by instructors who exceed trainer requirements. A well-trained pool of certified officers ready to assume their duties within law enforcement agencies. The elimination of the need for every law enforcement agency to provide recruit and veteran officer training.

Professional and Continuing Education Training

The Regional Training Center

Program Introduction: The Regional Training Center provides high-quality and cost-effective professional development opportunities for local government personnel through classes/courses that meet specific training needs.

Strategic Priorities: Conduct needs assessment surveys twice a year to make certain that offerings are relevant and timely; develop targeted advertising system; provide effective and efficient system of instructor identification. Review the Center's courses, classes, and workshop offerings to assure that only high-demand subject matter is offered.

Outcomes: Public employees keep their skills sharpened in order to deliver effective and efficient services to their citizens.

Regional 9-1-1 Program

Building Towards Next Generation 9-1-1

Program Introduction: The 9-1-1 program plans, implements, and maintains a 9-1-1 system for the citizens of Collin, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, and Wise counties; and Balch Springs, Cockrell Hill, Sachse, Seagoville, and Wilmer, in Dallas County.

Strategic Priorities: Improve existing 9-1-1 systems; emphasize additional network security measures and policies; implement interim "text to 9-1-1" solutions; migrate to a Next Generation database and transition to a geospatial database platform; develop telecommunications training curriculum and e-learning courses; offer electronic teletype training for all telecommunications personnel; conduct market research to determine citizens' expectations about response times, educational materials, and level of services; offer managed 9-1-1 services to member jurisdictions; and provide support to the Regional 9-1-1 Advisory Committee.

Outcomes: Advanced 9-1-1 technology through timely upgrades. Equal levels of 9-1-1 services to individuals and businesses so all citizens benefit from prompt and accurate responses to calls for service. Year-round monitoring and maintenance services to reduce systems downtime. Strategic planning to ensure preparation for long-range systems upgrades. Public Safety Answering Points provide reliable service with competent call takers.

Criminal Justice

Funds Allocation and Regional Planning

Program Introduction: The Criminal Justice Program prioritizes funding requests through a committee of local government and non-profit organization officials. It provides technical assistance to local governments, colleges/universities, School Districts, and non-profit agencies seeking funds to implement new justice-related programs or strengthen existing ones.

Strategic Priorities: Provide comprehensive and coordinated planning and technical assistance to local agencies that provide judicial, law enforcement, victim assistance and juvenile justice services; provide support to the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee.

Outcomes: Comprehensive strategic planning and technical assistance to reduce duplication of services, enhance existing services, and determine new service needs for crime victim services, justice system/law enforcement, and juvenile justice programs.

Workforce Development

Workforce Program Planning and Delivery

Program Introduction: The North Central Texas Workforce Development Board, "Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas", is charged with advancing an innovative workforce system which fosters a competitive economy and improves the quality of life in North Central Texas.

Strategic Priorities: Serve employers as a central pillar of the workforce system by addressing their needs through meaningful service delivery design. Support job seekers to overcome barriers to employment, such as transportation and child care, and put them on a pathway to self-sufficiency by providing relevant and effective job training opportunities that lead to well-paying careers. Eliminate silos that prevent stakeholders from working together to provide coordinated approaches to economic success. Utilize technology resources to expand access, improve decision making, increase efficiency and emphasize accountability.

Outcomes: A prosperous and stable regional economy supported by an employer lead, multifaceted workforce development system that is data driven and agile, responding to ever changing market and workforce conditions.

Research And Information Services

Data Programs

Program Introduction: Local governments and other organizations need an accurate context for decision making. NCTCOG develops and provides a variety of demographic, economic, development, and geographic datasets that are valuable for this purpose.

Strategic Priorities: Provide high-quality data and expand offerings based on input from customers; continue to address funding through innovative programs.

Outcomes: Increased quantity and quality of data for informed decision-making; efficient use of resources as local governments are able to focus on applications of data, instead of its acquisition and processing.

Regional Geographic Informations Systems

Program Introduction: Local, state, and federal governments utilize GIS to provide information resources to support services and program operations. NCTCOG offers a service to these governmental units to help them lessen or avoid the level of effort that is required to develop individual systems, which are often duplicated among overlapping jurisdictions.

Strategic Priorities: Collect and compile data sets from other sources into layers; develop unique and valuable layers; coordinate between programs to determine data needs; provide improved metadata to increase the quality of communication about GIS layers; provide improved tools to enhance use of GIS Layers; continue to offer and support the Research and Information Services Network (RISN) in different configurations to meet a variety of GIS needs.

Outcomes: Centralized GIS layers normalized to provide regional information; availability of inexpensive and easy-to-use GIS functionality through the Regional Information Services Network.

Orthophotography

Program Introduction: Orthophotography is made available to local, state, and federal government agencies that have a need for cost effective, high accuracy digital aerial photography to support development and planning activities.

Strategic Priorities: Coordinate with government agencies to determine needs and garner program support and funding; maintain an active provider contract to assist in the planning, capture, and delivery of high resolution imagery datasets

Outcomes: High resolution data costs are significantly lower in a collective purchase program; high accuracy imagery for the North Central Texas Region is available to program participants for unrestricted use.

Transportation

Regional Transit Services
Infrastructure and Implementation Lack Seamless Regional Transit

Program Introduction: By 2040 nearly 11 million people will live in the North Central Texas region with a majority of those residents living outside the existing transit service areas, thus creating a challenge for travelers to utilize transit.

Strategic Priorities: Provide the region with a seamless regional transit system that provides transportation and mobility opportunities for all citizens; support local transit agencies in their efforts to pursue federal funding for projects; apply innovative financial methods to potential rail transit corridors; pursue with the Texas Legislature, Congress and other interested parties, institutional improvements that facilitate opportunities for increased transit and rail service within the Region.

Outcomes: Region-wide passenger rail and transit system that increase transportation choices, reliability, and opportunities for economic development.

Support For Adequate
Transportation Funding

Photo: LBJ Express

Program Introduction: The Texas Transportation Commission acknowledges a $5 billion revenue shortfall per year between transportation improvement needs and available funding. This translates into approximately a $2 billion shortfall per year for the North Central Texas region. Without increased revenue, needed transportation improvements will not be implemented.

Strategic Priorities: Support local elected officials in working with the Legislature and Congress to enhance mobility through increased project programming and construction facilitated by partnership programs, institutional structure modifications, and additional user fees; passage of Federal Legislation establishing a new multi-year Transportation Bill; passage of state legislation to increase funding and to assure that all existing dedicated Transportation funding sources are allocated to Transportation projects; implement Partnership programs and Regional Toll Revenue Funding Initiatives approved by the Regional Transportation Council.

Outcomes: Reduction in the amount of congestion on the region's roadway systems and opportunities for additional economic development.

Improving Air Quality

Program Introduction: This region is not meeting the federal ozone standard for air quality. New and refined air quality improvement strategies are necessary to advance needed transportation projects.

Strategic Priorities: Support more aggressive control strategies to reduce pollutant emissions from automobiles, trucks, and heavy-duty diesel engines; provide new air quality outreach/education programs to local governments, businesses, and the public; assist in the development of the Dallas-Fort Worth State Implementation Plans for air quality improvements; maximize funding for the Texas Emission Reduction Program and for the AirCheck Texas Program by considering new policy initiatives for implementation strategies.

Outcomes: Reduction of ozone levels and compliance with federal air quality standards.

Support Construction of Grade-Separated High Speed Rail Between Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas, and Houston

Program Introduction: This initiative calls for the construction of two grade-separated high speed rail segments, that being, Fort Worth to Dallas and Dallas to Houston.

Strategic Priorities: Create a seamless interface in Dallas of a privately funded corridor to Houston, and a publicly funded rail to Fort Worth; support the Dallas-Fort Worth High Speed Rail Committee created by the Texas Transportation Commission; execute the Dallas-Fort Worth Environmental Impact Study for grade-separated high speed rail; support the formation of ongoing activities of the Dallas-Fort Worth Congressional forum as it seeks funding for the Fort Worth to Dallas corridor.

Outcomes: Dallas and Fort Worth would be 20 minutes apart, and the Fort Worth-Dallas region 90 minutes from Houston; significant economic impact; reduced travel time results in improved land use efficiency and effectiveness with enhanced property values.

Improving Goods Movement

Program Introduction: The movement of goods is a primary source of jobs and economic growth. However, with the lack of sufficient infrastructure, goods movement contributes to congestion, accidents, pollution, and delays. Mobility and reliability must be increased for both truck and rail freight traveling through, to, and within the region.

Strategic Priorities: Enhance mobility and reliability for freight truck and freight rail traffic; increase freight-oriented development within the region; increase cooperative freight planning, especially around intermodal and logistic hubs; expand truck lane restrictions; fund logistics and goods movement projects and programs.

Outcomes: Increased employment with higher paying jobs, tax base expansion around intermodal and logistic hubs, and more efficient and effective transportation outcomes from integrated logistics and freight planning.

Administration

Shared Services

Program Introduction: NCTCOG provides shared services' programs to strengthen the individual and collective effectiveness of local governments. Shared Service programs are voluntary and allow local entities to save funds through an inclusive group of users.

Shared service programs are developed in response to common needs identified by member governments and private entities with whom they often partner. The program identifies common elements important to each participating entity in order to find opportunities for standardized approaches. NCTCOG encourages participating agencies to retain project control through policy steering committees comprised of participating entities' representatives.

Strategic Priorities: Continue to promote and support opportunities to assist member governments to cooperate and coordinate on programs and projects that lend themselves to a shared services approach; serve as a knowledgeable shared services resource for member governments; proactively identify shared service opportunities in the region.

Outcomes: Capitalize on economies of scale and standardized approaches for lower costs; provide higher service levels through state-of-the-art, simplified processes based on best practices.

Emergency Preparedness

Homeland Security Grant Program

Program Introduction: The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is designed to enhance the ability of local governments to respond to and recover from terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

Strategic Priorities: Support regional committees to ensure integrated and coordinated emergency management efforts; identify, support, and coordinate cross-discipline efforts among public, private, volunteer and non-profit agencies to enhance emergency preparedness activities; organize subject matter experts into discipline-specific sub-committees to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; identify, prioritize, fund and develop regional response approaches; provide local governments grant assistance to fill capability gaps including, planning, public information, warning, and operational coordination; establish goals, objectives, and tasks, through the Regional Implementation Plan in order to address the needs of the region and meet Department of Homeland Security priorities; provide assistance to the core cities and their contiguous partners with program management and strategy implementation on the UASI project to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Support and staff the Emergency Preparedness Policy Committee (EPPC) and the Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (REPAC).

Outcomes: Assure a better coordinated and effective response when multiple agencies respond to a major event.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Program Introduction: In response to a nationally identified need to reduce the region's vulnerability to hazards and disasters, the Emergency Preparedness Department coordinates the development of multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Action Plans (HazMap.) The purpose of these Federal Emergency Management Agency-approved, multi-jurisdictional HazMaps is to identify geographically specific hazards for given jurisdictions. Based on the analysis of those hazards, each jurisdiction will identify action items or projects that, if implemented, could reduce their vulnerability to various hazards. In addition, the Metro Safe Room Rebate Program (MSRRP) provides grants for building severe weather safe rooms.

Strategic Priorities: Assist regional stakeholders with developing and updating local mitigation plans, seek funding opportunities for writing, and maintaining these plans; and plan, coordinate, and administer the Safe Room Rebate Program.

Outcomes: Local governments will be in a better position to safeguard life and property by developing or updating Hazard Mitigation Action Plans; local governments will receive assistance in writing their Hazard Mitigation Action Plans; FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Action Plans will allow jurisdictions to apply for monetary assistance following a Presidential Disaster declaration; and local citizens will be eligible for financial support to install severe weather safe rooms.

Regional Coordination of Severe Weather Radars

Program Introduction: CASA (Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of Atmosphere) WX has brought the first Urban Test Bed for the newest technological weather radars to this region. CASA takes an "end-to-end" approach to technology design and has engaged users of weather data, such as National Weather Service forecasters and emergency managers, as evaluators of the technology. Eight radars are currently committed to NCTCOG's region. This disaster preparedness information is disseminated within the region through the KnoWhat2Do public education program.

Strategic Priorities: Ensure that the region has a network of strategically-located and high resolution weather radars; build a regional network of private and public base of financial support. provide fee-for-service exercises designed to meet the requirements of regional stakeholders; identify training gaps; and facilitate opportunities to advance regional all-hazards preparedness and response.

Outcomes: An earlier, more accurate, and geographically-specific weather warning system.

As a multi-functional agency, serving a region where many of its opportunities and challenges are multi-dimensional, NCTCOG is positioned to engage the collaborative expertise and experience from its different departments. These collaborations help to address the many common yet complex issues that are important to the ongoing economic prosperity and general attractiveness of this region as a place to work and live. This interdisciplinary approach allows NCTCOG to better serve its local government members and to be a more effective partner with them. Benefits realized from these collaborations include: more effective use of public dollars and human resources; a more comprehensive analysis of issues and methods for dealing with them; and the incorporation of best practices from multiple sources.

Interagency Collaboration

Training Opportunities for Transportation Professionals

Program Introduction: The Transportation Department and the Regional Training Center cooperate on a variety of training opportunities related to transportation and air quality. Planning activities and applications are offered by NCTCOG for local governments, transportation providers, and planning agency staff. Topics covering common issues and concerns, and that provide a foundation for the latest trends in transportation and engineering are considered.

Strategic Priorities: Host multidisciplinary training courses focused on building partnerships, enhancing safety, reducing traffic accidents, improving transportation system efficiencies, and enhancing air quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Outcomes: Many of these training opportunities are provided at no charge to local public entities, and others are offered at a minimal cost. The courses offered help to fulfill local governments and transportation agency staff's professional licensing requirements. Participants learn "best practices" from well-trained instructors, as well as common, coordinated, and uniform approaches to solve transportation issues. The coordination of classes by NCTCOG reduces unnecessary duplication of services by many participating entities and relieves the entities of administrative and coordinative details such as arranging for meeting space and instructors, as well as accounting, reporting, and record keeping.

Demographic Forecasting to Size Infrastructure Projects

Program Introduction: The Regional Information Services (RIS) and Transportation Departments both have roles in the preparation of demographic forecasts, a critical function that supports local governments' and planning agencies' activities throughout North Central Texas.

Strategic Priorities: Review historical data regarding development patterns; develop Regional Control Totals of Population and Employment; estimate future demographic activity levels; and solicit input from member governments for planning consistency.

Outcomes: Forecasts of future population, households, employment, and income levels are available at county, city, and detailed zone levels to support planning throughout the metropolitan area; city and county personnel will use compatible data in comprehensive planning, including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, water, wastewater and other utility systems. This will provide a consistent framework on which local projects can be planned, and funding sources can be secured to implement infrastructure improvements in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Coordinating Transportation Services for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities, and Low-Income and Minority Populations

Program Introduction: The availability and improvement of transportation services for customers across the region is a concern of both the Aging and Transportation Programs. People benefiting from these programs include older adults, individuals with disabilities and low-income and minority populations. NCTCOG strives to ensure that safe and dependable transportation services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner and with the principles of environmental justice incorporated into its transportation plans, programs, policies, and activities.

Strategic Priorities: Increase the efficient use of funding, including the leveraging of financial resources from multiple state and federal programs; strengthen relationships with subrecipients; avoid duplication of efforts related to outreach, communication, planning for transit service, and regulation compliance; address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of plans, programs, policies, and activities; and proactively identify future issues that may affect the quality and amount of transportation provided.

Outcomes: Interdepartmental cooperation results in transportation for residents that is seamless, despite funding silos; reduced number of customer service complaints because of increased transportation service with improved quality; and region-wide coordination to reduce the need for hundreds of independent, isolated transit services.

Strategies to Improve the Environment

Program Introduction: The current and long-term economic, environmental, and social well-being of the region are vital areas of concern. Coordination efforts between Transportation and Environment & Development are ongoing on issues such as land conservation, highest and best land use, transportation, storm water management, green infrastructure, and best practices for assuring quality growth and economic viability of the region.

Strategic Priorities: Focus on the Center for Development Excellence (CODE) to promote good planning and provide technical resources, training, and recognition of planning and projects that meet these goals; help implement Vision North Texas goals through pilot projects and programs; support and implement strategies (e.g., solar energy, improved building design, electric vehicles) that promote energy conservation; update the Transportation Integrated Storm Water Management guide and other Green Infrastructure resources; identify natural habitats, components of the ecosystem, and a wide variety of public works infrastructure that create opportunities for economic development and improvements in quality of life.

Outcomes: Local governments are provided a variety of tools to assist them in making policy decisions regarding their own futures. In addition, they can understand the context of their cities within the larger Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area as it relates to transportation infrastructure, stormwater management, protection of potable water resources and improved air quality.

North Texas Aviation Education Initiative

Program Introduction: The Transportation and Workforce Development departments have worked in concert to develop the North Texas Aviation Education program which stems from a regional and nationally recognized need for a well-trained and highly skilled workforce to meet the future needs of aviation-related businesses.

Strategic Priorities: Advance knowledge about career opportunities at local academic institutions; provide parents and educators with information that assists students in achieving their career goals; include information on a website such as how to fund education expenses, a list of potential grants and scholarships, internships, curriculum resources for educators, and workforce data for employers; maintain industry and academic data on the website to reflect current salaries and skills needed for occupational and career pathway opportunities; and promote the website to increase awareness about careers in aviation.

Outcomes: The regional economy can be strengthened and stabilized by providing workforce development strategies as a component of economic development; a reduction in joblessness can be achieved by providing information on education and training opportunities for youth; and www.nctaviationcareers.com can be easily navigated by a variety of users to highlight more than 25 types of aviation-related careers.