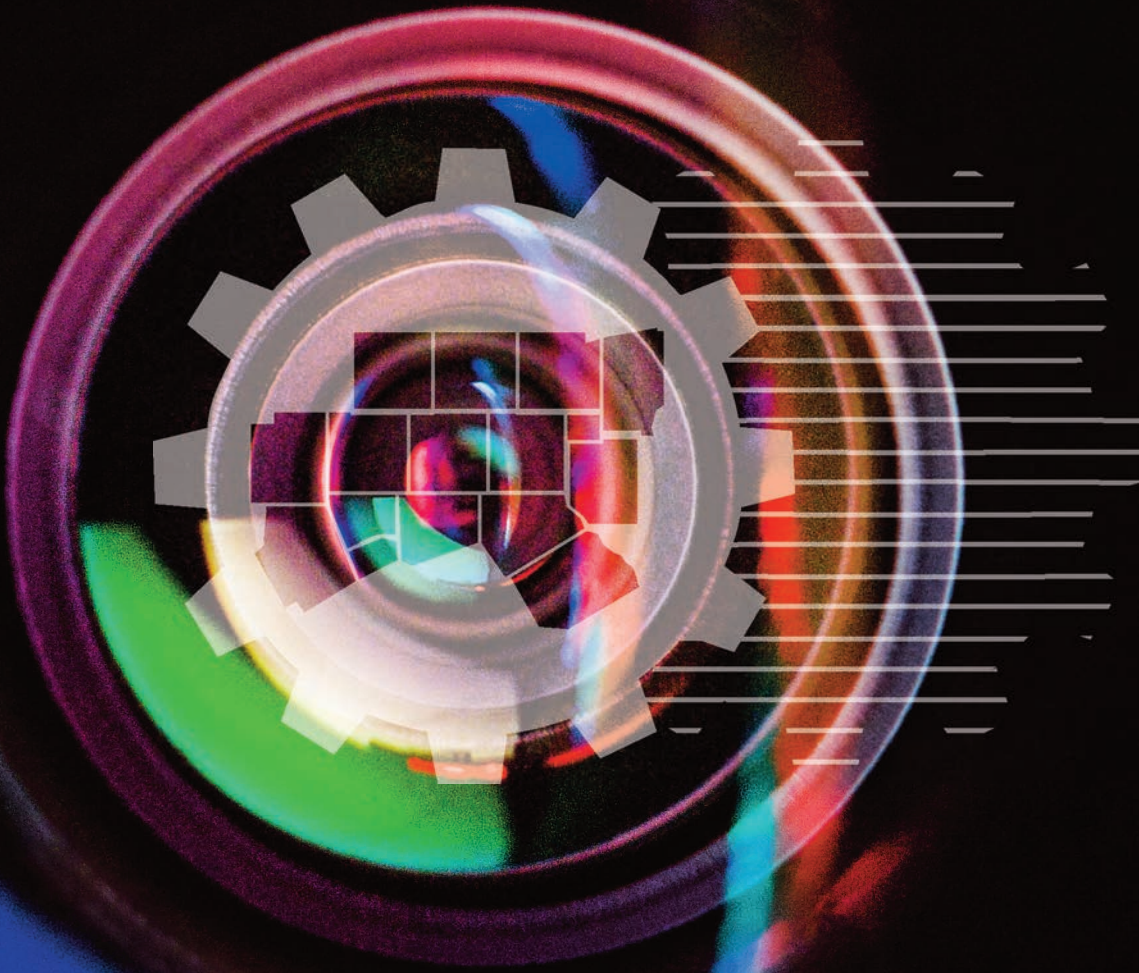




Strategic Plan for the
North Central Texas
Council of Governments:
2021-2025



Introduction

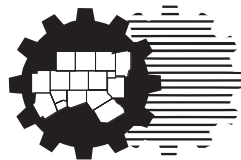
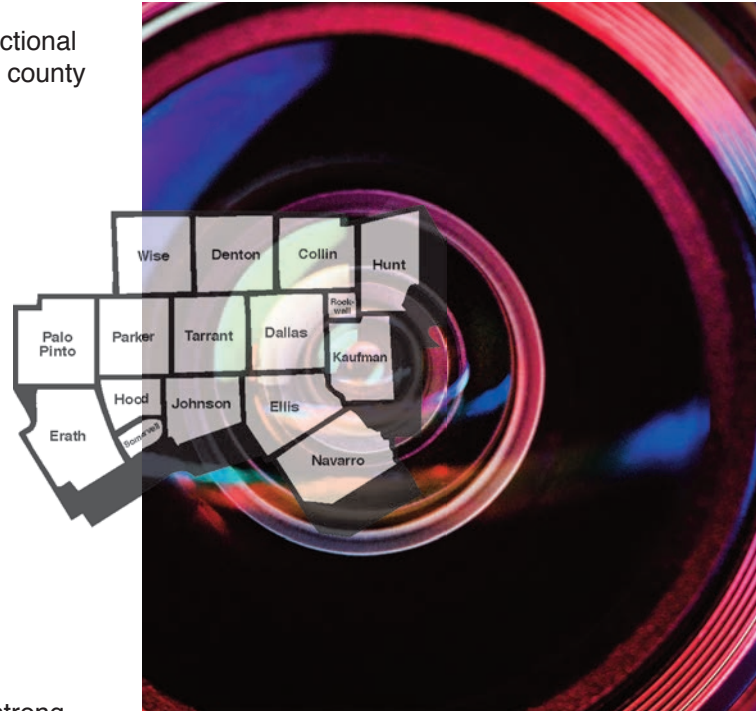
The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) was created by state enabling legislation in 1966, and was comprised of a service area that included the local governments in 10 counties. Through action of the Governor's office, the service area has expanded to include the local governments in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

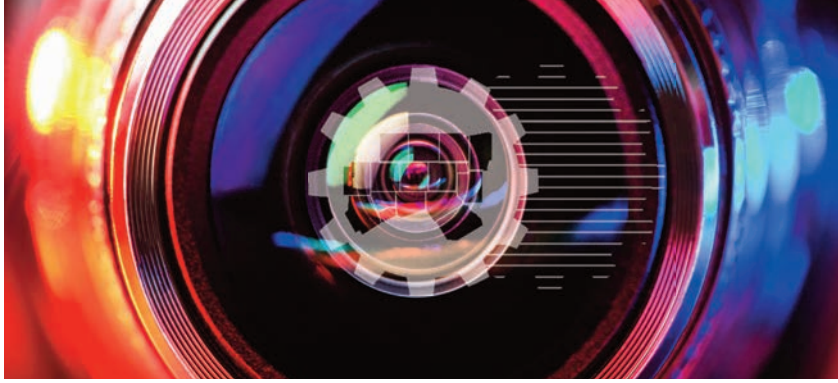
Its primary purposes are to perform long-range, comprehensive plans for matters that transcend jurisdictional boundaries, promote the sound development of the 16 county region and facilitate cooperation and coordination among its member governments. These responsibilities will continue to increase in importance as the region is forecasted to grow from 7.8 million people in 2020 to a population of some 8+ million by 2025.

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. Most 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."



Additional Imagery Provided By Getty Images.



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

Sustainable Environmental Excellence in Materials Management



Program Introduction: An ever-increasing volume of solid waste is steadily outstripping the capacity of a finite number of disposal facilities. In 2019, the reserve landfill capacity in the North Central Texas region was only 35 years, and the region accounted for almost 30% of the state's total waste. Expected continued population and economic growth will only shorten our remaining capacity lifetime across the region.

Strategic Priorities: Continue to support the Resource Conservation Council that has a membership of local governments, special districts and private businesses, to bolster its successful regional solid waste management program. Support materials management implementation grant program; develop and support outreach efforts; provide education and training; promote creation and expansion of waste management program; measure regional waste reduction efforts; and support innovative technologies for other waste. Promote collaborative and public/private sector partnerships; and continue serving as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) designated regional solid waste planning agency.

Outcomes:

- Reduce waste loads through ensuring materials are reused and recycled whenever possible
- Reduce illegal dumping, and safe handling of remaining waste at permitted facilities

Sustainable Environmental Excellence in Natural Resources

Program Introduction: Water and Energy are vital to life in North Central Texas. This region must have sufficient supplies of clean water and energy to continue to grow and maintain a high quality of life.

Strategic Priorities: Support clean water and encourage efficient water use through the regional Water Quality Management Planning (WQMP) process, and with direct involvement from the Water Resources Council and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Coordination Committee. Continue serving as the state designated regional Water Quality Management Planning agency. Support the Water for North Texas Resource Library as a regional information and outreach tool. Support the preservation of environmental and historic features through maintenance and promotion of a Regional Ecosystem Framework (REF). Demonstrate the Economic and Environmental Benefits (EEBS) of natural resource stewardship for transportation and development projects through our web-based tool. Support collaboration with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to help local entities improve energy management planning and practices.

Outcomes:

- More waterways will meet state and regional water quality standards making them more appealing for enjoyment, ecotourism, and recreational use
- Adequate capacities of potable water supply will result from efficient water use and proper planning
- Successful completion of annual WQMP updates to ensure long-term adequate capacities of regional wastewater facilities
- Local implementation of drought contingency plans to help mitigate the effects of drought conditions
- Regional use of the REF and EEBS tools to preserve environmental and historic natural resource features
- Development of additional clean and renewable energy sources





Sustainable Environmental Excellence in Watershed Management

Program Introduction: A reduction of flooding through proper management of watersheds and stream corridors, and strategic conservation of open spaces and stewardship practices within existing watersheds will provide a network for ecological benefits, recreational opportunities, the protection of existing water sources of supply, and a safer network of built infrastructure.

Strategic Priorities: Support safe waterways through Trinity River COMMON VISION programming, natural hazard planning, early flood warning systems, flood map updating, preservation of stream corridors, and flood management implementation of low impact developments and green infrastructure through the integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) program. Support watershed stewardship through community outreach in reduced pollution including pet waste,

litter, chemical contamination and illicit discharges; through monitoring and construction and post construction protection measures; and through water efficient landscaping under the Regional Stormwater Management Program. Promote collaboration with the Department of Emergency Preparedness to help local entities acquire hazard mitigation funding. Promote the Integrated Transportation-Stormwater Infrastructure efforts and the Community Health and Resource Management (CHARM) tool in North Central Texas for community Comprehensive Planning to holistically consider watershed impacts of development and redevelopment.

Outcomes:

- Developed and future infrastructure will be less susceptible flooding and require less flood related maintenance
- More waterways will be accurately mapped, protected, and preserved to carry flood events through flood mitigation actions and advanced planning for flood prevention
- Developments, redevelopments and capital projects will result in higher quality of life atmospheres due to comprehensive planning and installation of green infrastructure
- Local submissions and State approval of Storm Water Management Programs (SWMPs) will provide impetus to continue water management programs, enhanced watershed stewardship, and improved water quality through local standards and ordinances

Sustainable Environmental Excellence in Public Works and Building Codes



Program Introduction: With the regional projected population increases of several millions of people over the next 20 years, “business as usual” planning and development will lead to poorer air quality and increased traffic congestion, flooding and runoff, and urban heat island effects; and insufficient water supplies and wastewater treatment capacities. A coordinated approach to development and land-use planning among local governments will provide a strong foundation to accommodate additional population growth, while maintaining a vibrant economy and high-quality living conditions.

Strategic Priorities: Work with and support community leaders on maintaining the economic competitiveness and attractiveness of North Central Texas as a place to live. Support the Texas Community Development Block Grant Program to fund needed Public Works Infrastructure. Provide training and licensure courses to maintain a skilled workforce in the public works and building sectors and to provide updates on evolving technologies. Maintain a strong Regional Public Works Program that provides peer-exchange opportunities for challenges facing the region. Facilitate public outreach and campaigns to address fats, oils, grease, and wipes disposed into the wastewater systems. Support the standardization of model construction codes through the Regional Codes Coordinating Committee and the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction updates. Support green watersheds through continued adoption of recommended integrated Stormwater Management practices and guidelines that reflect a watershed-based approach to green infrastructure and low impact development improvements. Promote adoption of consistent and updated 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
- Coordinated efforts to address the multiple uses, multi-modal forms of transportation, and performance and maintenance of rights-of-way designs will be facilitated
- Operators of wastewater systems will have access to resources that serve in outreach and education of the public to address fats, oils, grease, and wipes
- Collaborative efforts with all utility providers to coordinate the utilization of public rights-of-way
- Common service needs and technology tools can be identified, explored, and offered at regionally reduced rates
- Updated and consistent regional codes will provide guidance for buildings, infrastructure, and public rights-of-way
- Regional Public Works programs will provide standards for implementing resilient and sustainable improvement programs
- Community leaders will take advantage of funding through the Community Development Block Grant program

The Aging Program

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

Program Introduction: The mission of the Aging Program is to maximize the independence, wellbeing, and health of older North Central Texans, persons with disabilities, and their family caregivers. The Program's vision is to allow older adults to live with dignity, exercise meaningful choice, and participate fully in their communities. In support of that vision, Aging makes available services that support community tenure; advocates for those who require institutional care; provide leadership and support to community-based organizations—both within and beyond the Title III network—that serve older adults, leveraging efforts to realize greater impact; and invests in programs that have demonstrated successful outcomes, thereby making efficient use of resources. Aging services benefit older adults of all income levels and degrees of independence. However, they target older adults with greatest economic need, social need, and risk of premature institutionalization.

Strategic Priorities: During Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025, the Aging program will focus on older adults' nutrition, transportation, housing, and personal care needs. It will increase the percentage of its budget dedicated to home-delivered meals, demand-response transportation (with primary emphasis on medical trips), minor home modifications (with primary emphasis on accessibility-related modifications), and in-home services. It will create a coordinated network of long-term services and supports that improve outcomes for older adults who are independent and those who are frail. To expand its revenue base, it will seek funding from non-traditional sources.

Outcomes:

- More coordinated network of regional and local services that meet the needs of older adults with multiple, complex needs
- Better planning for local communities' aging populations
- Improved health outcomes for older adults who participate in preventive health workshops
- Improved quality of care for those in institutional settings through resident advocacy
- Reduced reliance on institutional care through intensive case management for residents who wish to return to the community
- Reduced burden on family caregivers through education, respite, skills training, and case management services
- Cost-effective, targeted services that extend older adults' community tenure & reduce reliance on nursing home Medicaid



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.

Outcome:

- 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: While NCTCOG has had a 9-1-1 department since 1989, the department transitioned from the state program administered by the Commission on State Emergency Communications and became a regional district on December 3, 2018. The North Central Texas Emergency Communications District (hereinafter “NCT9-1-1” or “District”) was created pursuant to Chapter 772, Subchapter H, of the Texas Health and Safety Code through the passage of resolutions by County Commissioners Courts and City Councils within the District's service area.



The service area of the District consists of all of Collin, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, and Wise counties not served by another emergency communications district, as well as the cities of Balch Springs, Cockrell Hill, Sachse, Seagoville, and Wilmer in Dallas County.

The District is governed by a Board of Managers made up of elected officials from the counties and cities within its service area. The Board’s responsibilities include annually adopting a strategic plan, budget, and service fee. As part of the annual budgeting process, the Board approves contingency and capital replacement funds. In addition, the Board adopts, alters, or amends the policies of the District.

Strategic Priorities: NCT9-1-1 is engaged in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of an emergency 9-1-1 system for more than 40 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in 13 counties surrounding the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. NCT9-1-1 serves a population of 1.7 million and 10,800+ square miles.

NCT9-1-1 continues to improve existing 9-1-1 systems and has been implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 components for over 10 years as budget has allowed. There continues to be a focus on cyber and physical security, migration off the legacy 9-1-1 selective routers, enhanced location and location accuracy, introduction of streaming services, geographical database, GIS services, public education, and call taker training aligns with our mission and strategic plan.

Outcomes:

- Continuous system monitoring, mitigation efforts, and maintenance will reduce downtime and help keep the 9-1-1 system operating properly
- Within budgeted resources, provisioning of advanced technology through timely system upgrades/ updates for reliability and enhancement of services to the public and to the PSAP will better ensure prompt and accurate responses to calls for service
- Protection of the system by having the best possible and affordable technology to recognize and help to prevent internal and external security threats
- Creation of additional data and services to provide first responders with potentially lifesaving information and situation awareness

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.

Outcome:

- 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: Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas leads the way in developing today's workforce and anticipating the occupations and skills needed for tomorrow. We help our local economy thrive through our talent development strategies, workforce programs and network of partnerships in our 14-county region. In addition to overseeing the operation of a network of 12 workforce centers

servicing our customers across the region, the North Central Texas Workforce Development Board has adopted the following strategic priorities:

Strategic Priorities: Achieving ambitious workforce and economic goals will require cross-sector partnerships that create innovative solutions for workers and break down silos between organizations. WSNCT will cultivate partnerships at both strategic and operational levels in order to build awareness of programs, share information, and leverage public and private resources to meet goals.

Opportunities to broaden career awareness and exploration can better connect youth and adults to in-demand jobs as well as fulfill the needs of employers. WSNCT will support career exploration opportunities that equip workers with the skills and knowledge required for success in a rapidly changing and digitally driven economy. Improving the quality of childcare in the 14-county North Central Texas Workforce Development area is critical to preparing children for school and supporting their parents in their own learning and development. WSNCT believes that high-quality childcare leads to greater school readiness, long-term educational attainment, and 2-generation economic prosperity.

Outcome:

- A prosperous and stable regional economy supported by an employer lead, multifaceted workforce development system responsive to ever changing market and workforce conditions by providing existing and potential employees with ever evolving training and development opportunities

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 to allow local governments 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 can be duplicated across 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; support data sharing through open data platforms.

Outcomes:

- Centralized GIS layers normalized to provide regional information
- Increased efficiency and standardization of data sets



Digital Spatial Data

Program Introduction: High-accuracy digital aerial photography and related products to support development and planning activities are made available to participating government agencies through the Spatial Data Cooperative Program. Program participants experience cost savings through economies of scale and through decreased administrative procurement 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; expand product offerings in response to participant needs.

Outcomes:

- Reduced cost of high-resolution and engineering grade data through a collective purchase program
- Availability of highly accurate imagery of the North Central Texas region with unrestricted use by program participants

Transportation

Strategies to Improve Safety of All Transportation Modes

Program Introduction: There has been at least one fatality on a Texas roadway every day for the last 20 years. Fatalities have grown most quickly for pedestrians and bicyclists, and the Dallas-Fort Worth region is a hot spot for this grim trend. Even worse, fatalities and the fatality rate have increased significantly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 because decreased roadway volumes have resulted in higher average speeds.



Photo: LBJ Express

Strategic Priorities: Employ Vision Zero safety policies adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission and the Regional Transportation Council as a lens for all transportation planning and decision making; pursue policies and programs to discourage dangerous driving behaviors, such as driving at excessive speeds, drunk driving, distracted driving caused by mobile phone use, and lack of seatbelt usage; engage research into distraction and other unsafe conditions as causes for fatalities across all modes of transportation, especially active transportation; pursue solutions to discourage wrong way driving.

Outcomes:

- A comprehensive safety program utilizing engineering, education and enforcement strategies as well as policy interventions to identify the best solution for each problem, resulting in an immediate reduction of fatalities
- Consideration of strategies to include geofencing vehicles to prevent distracted driving, increasing police enforcement, and promoting safer modes of travel, such as high-speed rail
- Identification of priorities to improve safety and match them to the most effective and efficient solutions

Strategies to Enhance Transportation Technology

Program Introduction: Technological advancements have the potential to revolutionize the transportation system, with opportunities and challenges for highways, transit and safety. Automated vehicles use improvements in computing power, sensors, telecommunications, and artificial intelligence. In addition, promising technologies seek to harness the energy expended by vehicles on highways.

Strategic Priorities: Support local governments planning for the deployment of automated vehicles with staff assistance and funding through the Automated Transportation Program; facilitate partnerships, including pilot projects, between local governments and automated vehicle developers; implement roadway maintenance standards to support automated vehicles, for example, highly visible lane markings and signage; facilitate and participate in data sharing agreements between governments and other relevant entities to support the safe operation of automated vehicles as well as effective transit; support developers of shared-mobility services; support the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies to provide a research and development network to attract industry and academic talent to Dallas-Fort Worth; encourage and support innovation across all transportation modes to ensure North Central Texas is a technology region of choice; support adoption of electric vehicles and efforts to introduce smart pavement technologies that power automated vehicles.

Outcome:

- Regional adoption of policies and infrastructure investments to support automation across all transportation modes resulting in a safer, more efficient, and better integrated regional transportation system

Support for Transportation Funding and Economic Development

Program Introduction: Transportation is primarily funded through gasoline taxes levied by the State and federal governments. The tax rates were set more than 25 years ago and are not indexed to inflation. Due to the decreased purchasing power of the gasoline tax and the increasing fuel-efficiency of motor vehicles, transportation funding resources are no longer able to meet system needs. Federal funding for transit is dependent on the gas tax, and the State does not provide transit funding. Reliable and high-quality transportation infrastructure and services are a driver of economic development, so providing transportation agencies with sufficient funding through a variety of revenue sources and financial tools is necessary to support regional economic growth.

Strategic Priorities: Promote strong inter-agency coordination to facilitate ongoing comprehensive planning and the continuous, robust, and streamlined delivery of major projects; support local elected officials in working with the Texas Legislature and US Congress to enhance mobility through increased project programming and construction facilitated by innovative partnership programs, institutional structures, and multiple options for user fees; passage of federal legislation establishing a new multiyear surface transportation bill; passage of State legislation to increase funding, identify additional revenue sources, fully appropriate transportation funding sources to transportation projects, ensure fair-share allocation of funds to metropolitan regions, and apply sufficient balancing to maintain a state of good repair while also enabling strategic capacity expansion; implement partnership programs and Regional Toll Revenue funding initiatives approved by the Regional Transportation Council; support economic development opportunities and initiatives through project programming and coordination with the State.

Outcomes:

- Reduced congestion and increased reliability on the region's roadway systems. Increased opportunities for additional economic development along highway and transit corridors
- Timely implementation of infrastructure projects and comprehensive asset management

Need for Seamless Integration of Intercity Transit and Regional Rail

Program Introduction: By 2045, nearly 11.2 million people will live in the North Central Texas region with most of those residents living outside the existing transit service areas, thus creating a challenge for travelers to utilize transit.

Strategic Priorities: Integrate public transit services, regional rail, and high-speed rail so they function as a rational, easy-to-use network that offers 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:

- Continued development of a more frequent, reliable and convenient transit system
- Increased ridership of regular transit users
- Increased access to centers of employment, retail and housing
- Increased opportunities for economic development

Strategies to Enhance Voice for All



Program Introduction: Citizen, local government and private sector input impacts decisions on transportation and air quality policies and the millions of people in the North Central Texas region who are affected by them. NCTCOG continues to adapt to a more digital world by actively engaging on social media channels with residents across the region while maintaining traditional methods of outreach. Coordination, collaboration, and incorporating the flow of ideas from everyone is critical for

meeting current and future mobility needs equitably for all users, while also distributing stakeholder effects proportionally.

Strategic Priorities: Expand access to project information and updates to businesses, groups and individuals; incorporate virtual solutions to outreach that may be impacted by physical constraints; provide outreach materials to those who have limited or no access to technology; increase involvement and encourage contributions among economically or socially disadvantaged groups within both the planning and project delivery processes; maintain open channels of communication among residents, governments and NCTCOG.

Outcomes:

- Increased participation in the planning process from residents and stakeholders in the business community
- Deeper insights from the public related to ideas for and solutions to both mobility and livability challenges
- Proactive planning based on feedback from residents

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

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:

- Reduced frequency congestion and interference
- Better communication capability, and safer conditions for emergency service providers and citizens

Homeland Security Grant Program

Program Introduction: The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) focuses on enhancing local governments' ability to respond to and recover from terrorist attacks.

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 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) project to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Support and staff the Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (EPPC) and the Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (REPAC).



Outcome:

- 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 (FEMA) - 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.

Strategic Priorities: Assist regional stakeholders with developing and updating local mitigation plans, seek funding opportunities for writing, and maintaining these plans.



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

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. Seven radars are currently installed in the NCTCOG’s region. These weather radars provide higher resolution, faster updating data so that

stakeholders can make life saving decisions.

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.

Outcome:

- An earlier, more accurate, and geographically specific weather alert 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



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; help users access the multimodal transportation network more efficiently; strengthen relationships with subrecipients; coordinate outreach activities between departments and leverage our collective resources for more effective outreach; address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of plans, programs, policies, and activities; proactively identify future issues that may affect the quality and extent of transportation infrastructure or services provided.

Outcomes:

- Increased interdepartmental cooperation so that residents have seamless transportation despite funding silos
- Reduced number of customer service complaints because of increased transportation service with improved quality
- Improved efficiencies within the public transportation system and greater responsiveness to riders who encounter barriers

Strategies to Improve the Natural Environment and Economic Development of the Region.

Program Introduction: The current and long-term economic and environmental health of a region drives its fundamental well-being. Coordinated efforts between Transportation and Environment & Development are ongoing on initiatives such as land conservation, highest and best land use, Center of Development Excellence (CODE), transportation, storm water management, green infrastructure, eco-tourism, and best practices for assuring quality growth and the economic vitality of the region.

Strategic Priorities: Removing barriers and creating new institutional relationships are critical for the enhancement of environmental and economic stewardship. These relationships cut across disciplines and, with new funding, move ideas into specific outcomes. Investment in partnerships with Congressional representatives, NCTCOG, US Army Corps of Engineers, the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas General Land Office, regional water districts and local governments will continue. Advancing context sensitive design, training, flood control, energy programs, comprehensive air quality programs, environmental enhancement credits, preserving natural habitats and the Center of Development Excellence are integrated efforts focused on economic benefits and environmental enhancement.

This cross-cutting approach is exemplified in Vision North Texas goals for solar and other renewable energy initiatives, improved building design, sustainable vehicles, climate resiliency, and grassroots community planning. These efforts promote the Texas Transportation Integrated Stormwater Management Guide, the Community Health and Resource Management (CHARM) tool, the Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition peer-exchange, and the recognition of projects and programs through the Celebrated Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Award Program.

Outcomes:

- Local governments are provided a variety of tools to assist them in making policy decisions regarding their own futures, such as transportation projects to reduce flooding and encourage economic development
- Local governments can understand the context of their cities within the larger Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area as it relates to transportation infrastructure, economic development, site planning, stormwater management, protection of potable water resources, energy management, and improved air quality
- Advancement of eco-tourism within the Trinity River Corridor

Development of Next Generation North Texas Aviation Initiatives

Program Introduction: North Central Texas ranks second nationally in the aerospace and air transportation industries. The NCTCOG Transportation and Workforce Development departments are working to meet the needs of the region's aviation industry and airports by building a highly skilled workforce, planning for a transportation environment that includes aircraft, and facilitating the integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and other aviation technology into the regional airspace.

Strategic Priorities: Update the North Central Texas General Aviation and Heliport System Plan by setting a new strategic vision for advancing and integrating general aviation, heliport/vertiport and UAS, and other emerging technologies, such as air taxis. Promote education on UAS for the general public; support the development of regulations, policies, and legislation at all levels of government to create a safe and viable environment for UAS; support the safe integration and adoption of UAS by communities in North Central Texas. Assist the region in the developing and implementing standardized UAS training at all levels to build a UAS industry workforce; advance knowledge about aviation career opportunities at local academic institutions; provide parents and educators with information to assist students in achieving their career goals.

Outcomes:

- A new system plan integrating UAS and air taxis with effective strategies to ensure the region remains nationally competitive in the aerospace and air transportation industries as these technologies becoming more widely deployed
- A strengthened and better stabilized regional economy by providing workforce development strategies as a component of economic development
- A reduction in joblessness achieved by providing information on education and training opportunities

