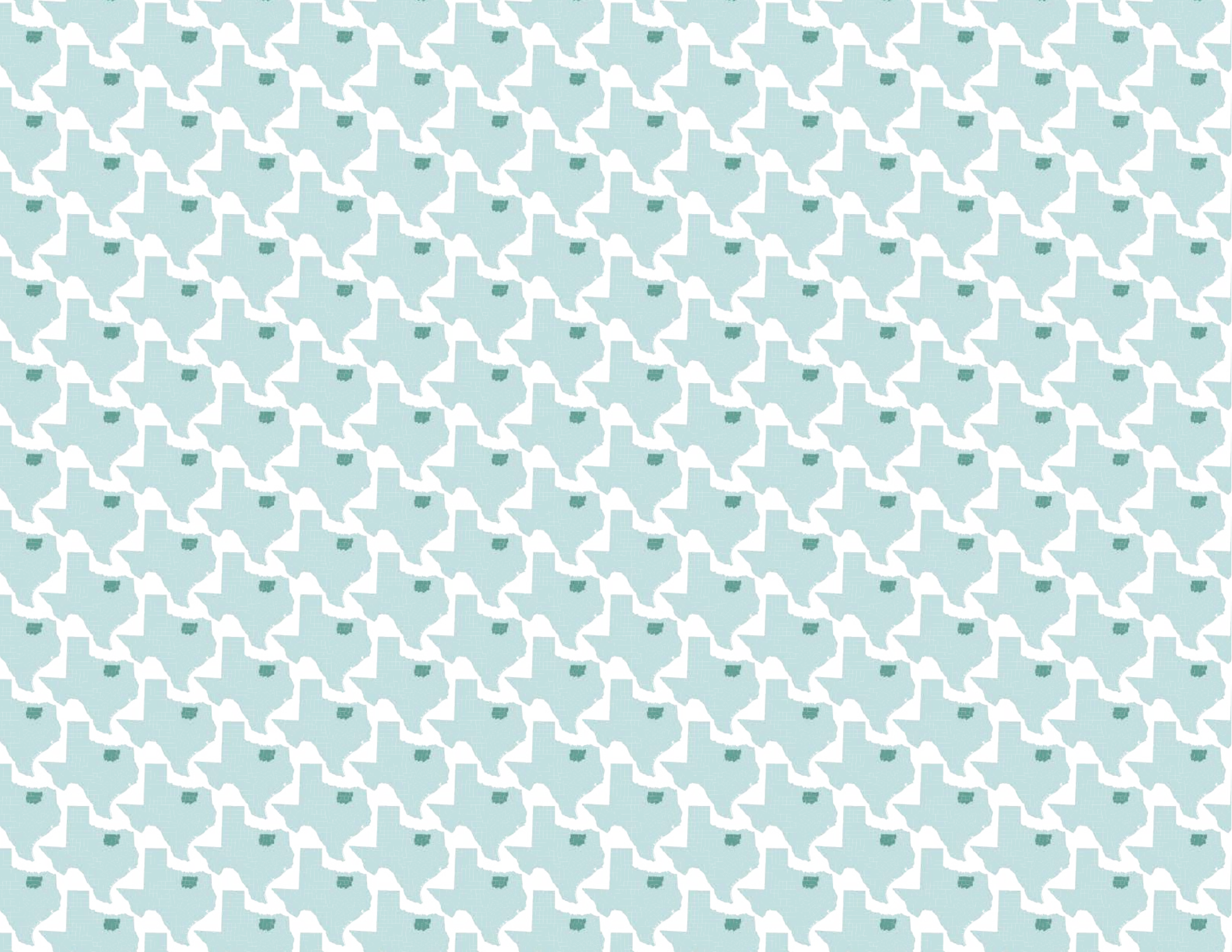
Mobility 2050 Executive Summary

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas



MOBILITY 2050

Preparing for Rapid Growth with Real Transportation Options

North Texas is growing—fast.

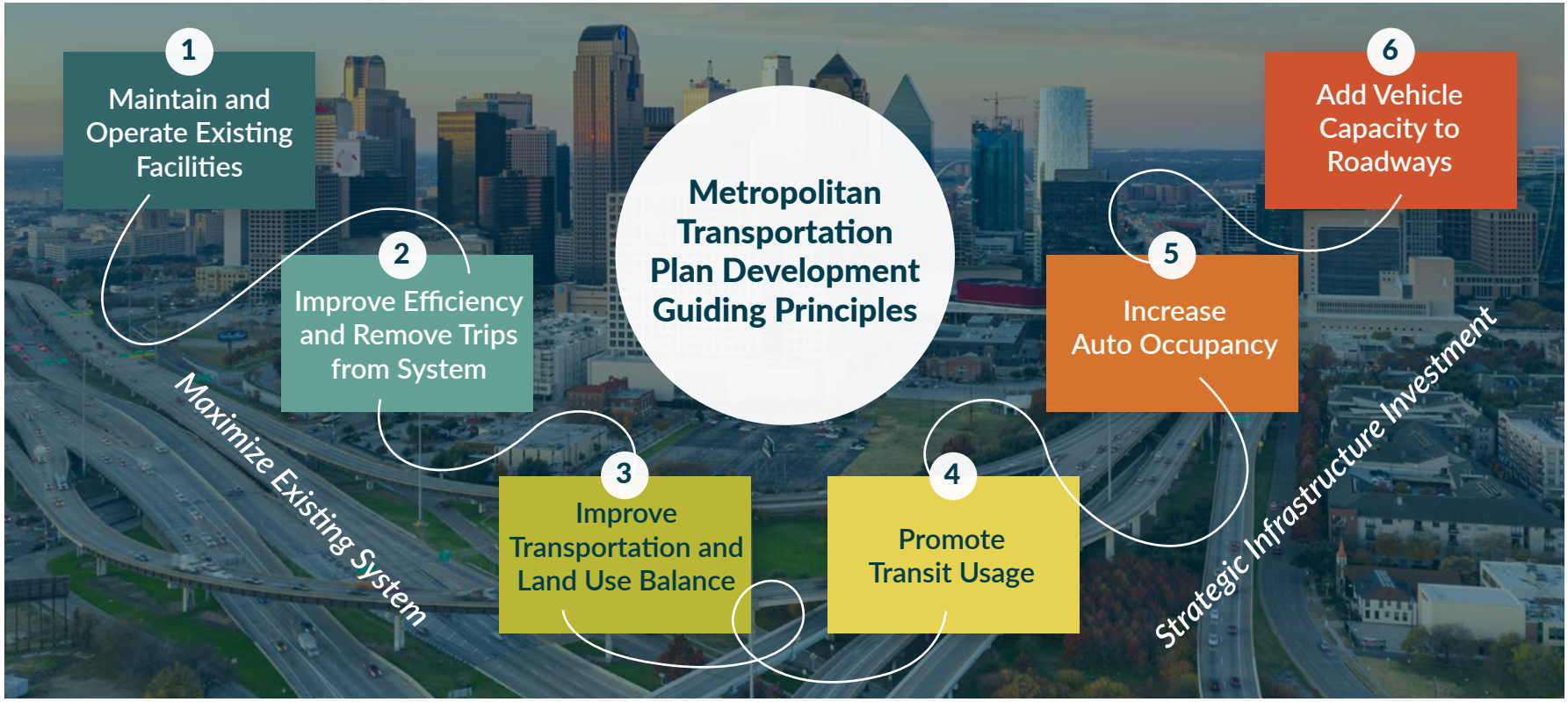
By 2050, demographic forecasts show over 3 million more people will live and work in our region. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) outlines how we'll prepare for this growth by investing in real transportation choices—like transit, biking, and walking—and maintaining a safe, reliable roadway system. This executive summary highlights the region's strategy to keep people moving and improve quality of life for all.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan guides how we invest in roads, rail, bike paths, and more. It ensures we spend federal, state, regional, and local dollars where they matter most. With an expected future population of over 12 million people, Mobility 2050 is about expanding options—so you can choose how to move around.

More People Means More Choices—Not Just More Traffic

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan Guiding Principles integrate both strategic infrastructure investments and efforts to maximize efficiency of existing systems. Throughout the planning process, planners consider air quality, financial constraints, equity, safety, and intermodal coordination. The plan encompasses six focus areas: maintaining infrastructure, optimizing operations, supporting land-use balance, expanding transit, increasing auto occupancy, and adding vehicle capacity.

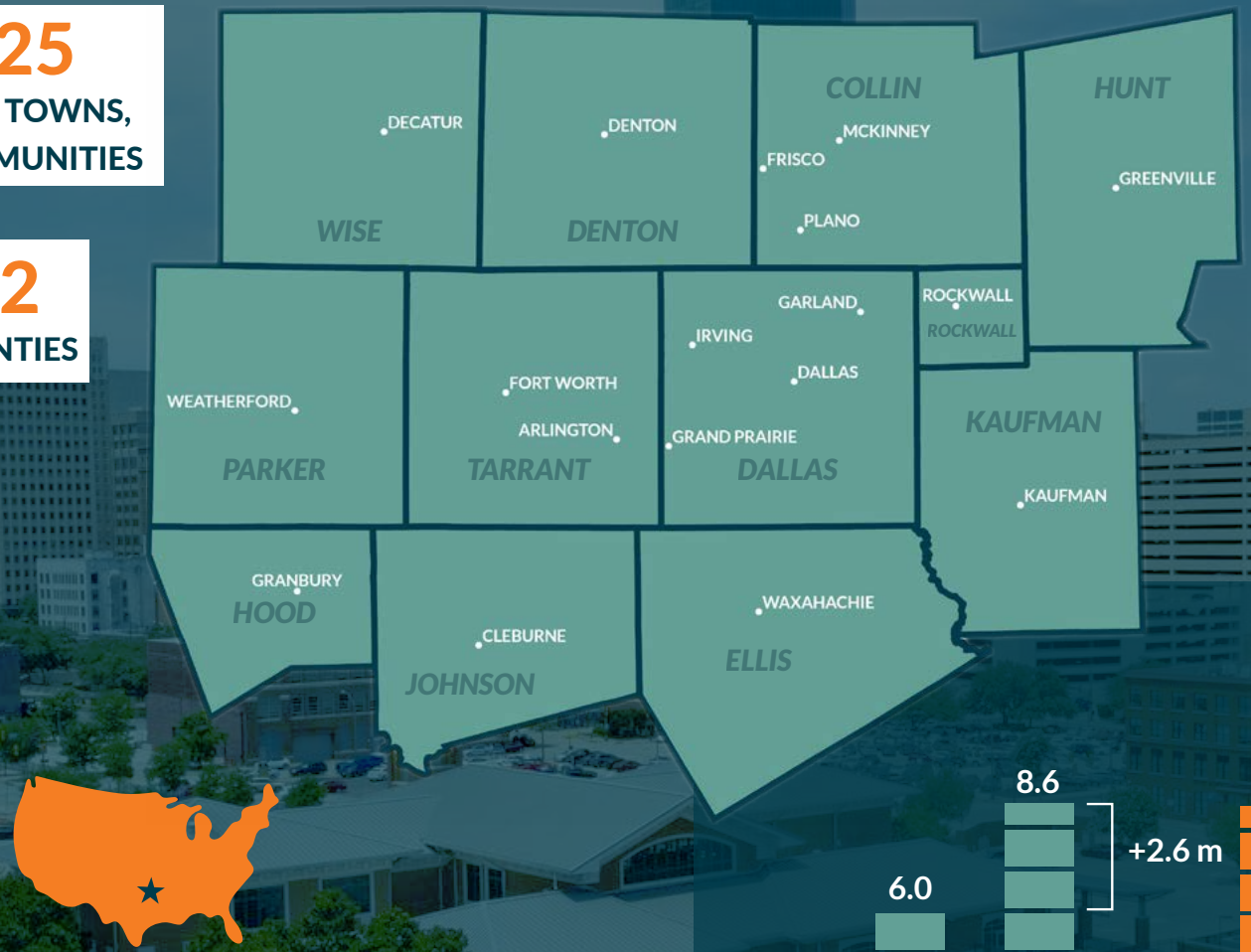
A car-centric system won't work with 12+ million people. The region needs reliable, accessible, and affordable alternatives to driving alone. This plan expands public transit, makes walking and biking safer with a regional network of off-street options, and builds smarter roads. Below are where recommended rail, roadways, and trails are planned.



NORTH TEXAS TODAY & TOMORROW

225
CITIES, TOWNS, & COMMUNITIES

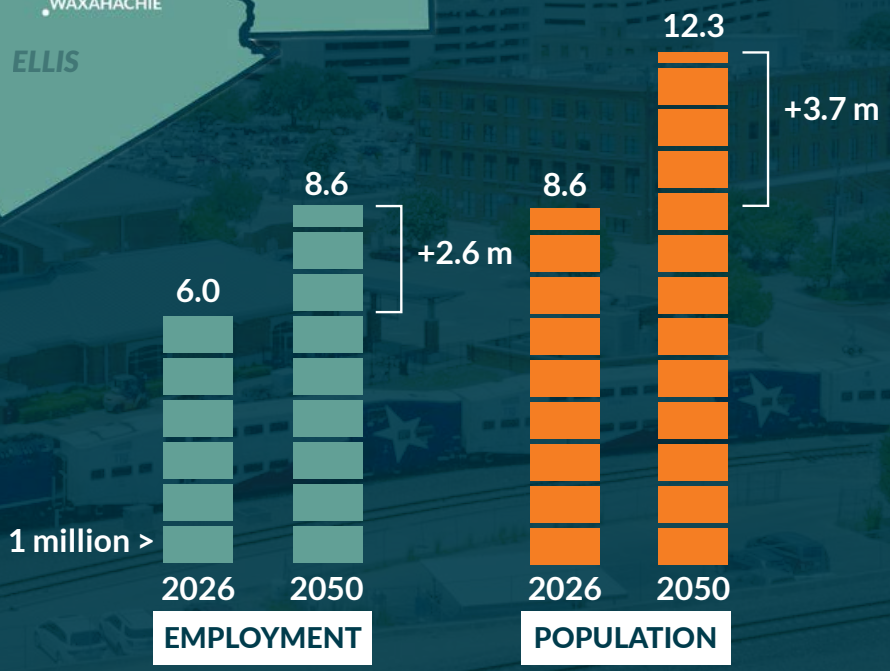
12
COUNTIES

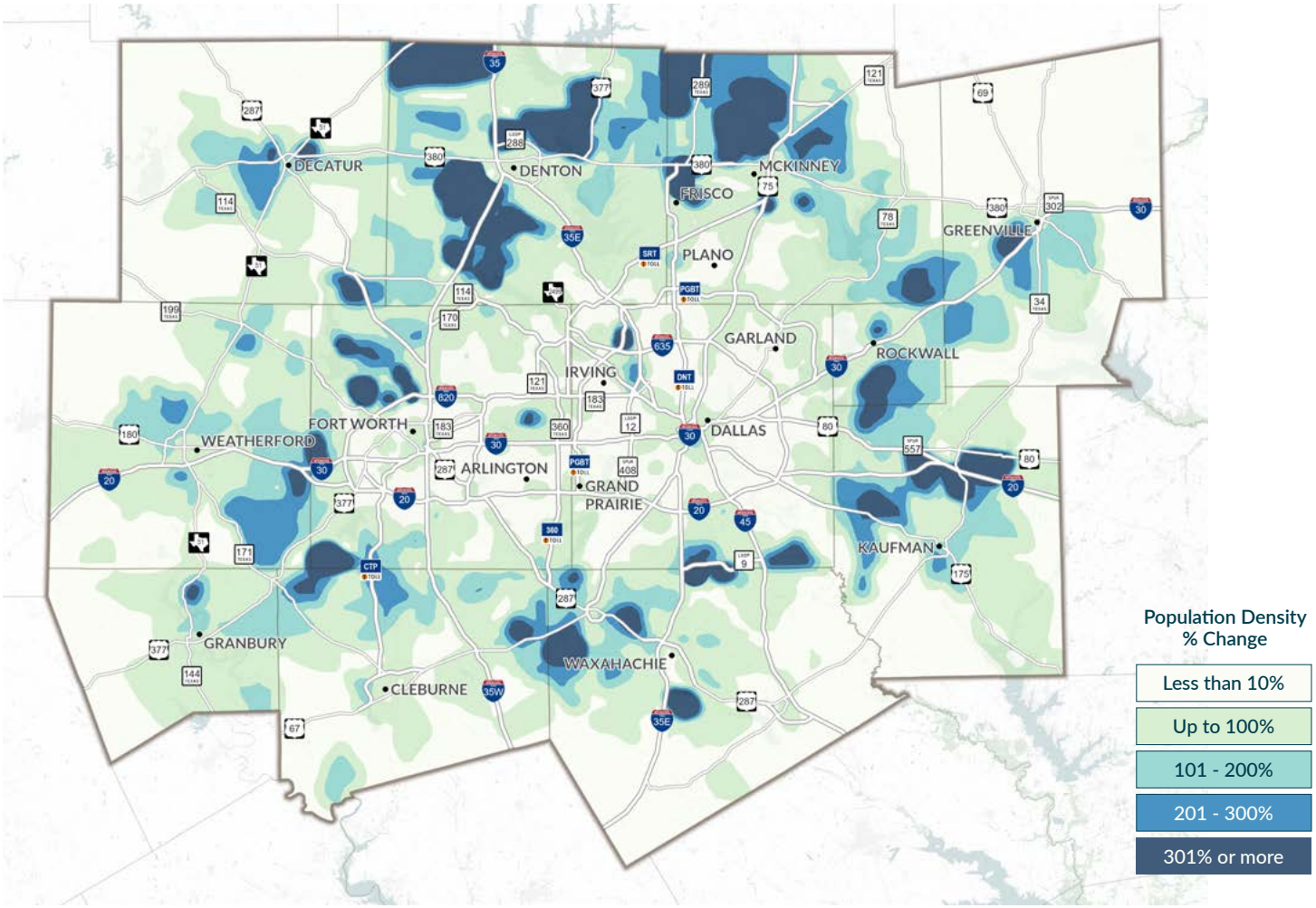


4TH LARGEST
METROPOLITAN AREA IN THE U.S.

>9,000
SQUARE MILES

+43%
EXPECTED GROWTH FROM 2026 TO 2050





Our Region is Growing, and We're Planning Ahead

Dallas-Fort Worth is growing faster than nearly every metro area in the country. By 2050, over 3 million more people will call our region home. This growth brings new opportunities—and new transportation challenges. As low-density growth spreads outward from the traditional urban core, it becomes more challenging to provide effective public transportation outside of existing service areas, and also drives up roadway infrastructure needs beyond our ability to adequately fund them.

TRANSIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Transit Providers

Recommended Rail

Existing Lines

Existing Toll Road, Managed Lane, HOV, or Express Facility

New Toll Road or Managed Lane Facility

Building a More Connected Region

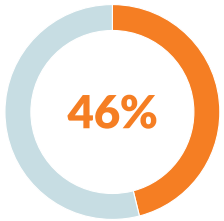
To support the region's fast-growing communities, the Mobility Plan recommends expanding passenger rail and high-intensity express bus service in areas with strong development potential—like the McKinney corridor and Alliance corridor north of Fort Worth. These investments aim to connect communities more effectively, reduce congestion, and provide affordable alternatives to driving.

"Please expand public transit to be a viable option across cities and counties"

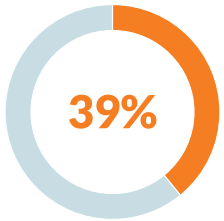
Survey response, November 2024, Grand Prairie

Transit 2.0: Planning Transit for a Growing Region

As population shifts outward, fewer people will live in areas served by transit: down from about half the population in 2026 (46%) to just over a third (39%) living inside existing transit authority service areas.

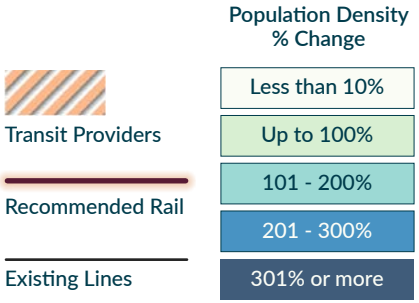


Percent Population Served by Transit in 2026



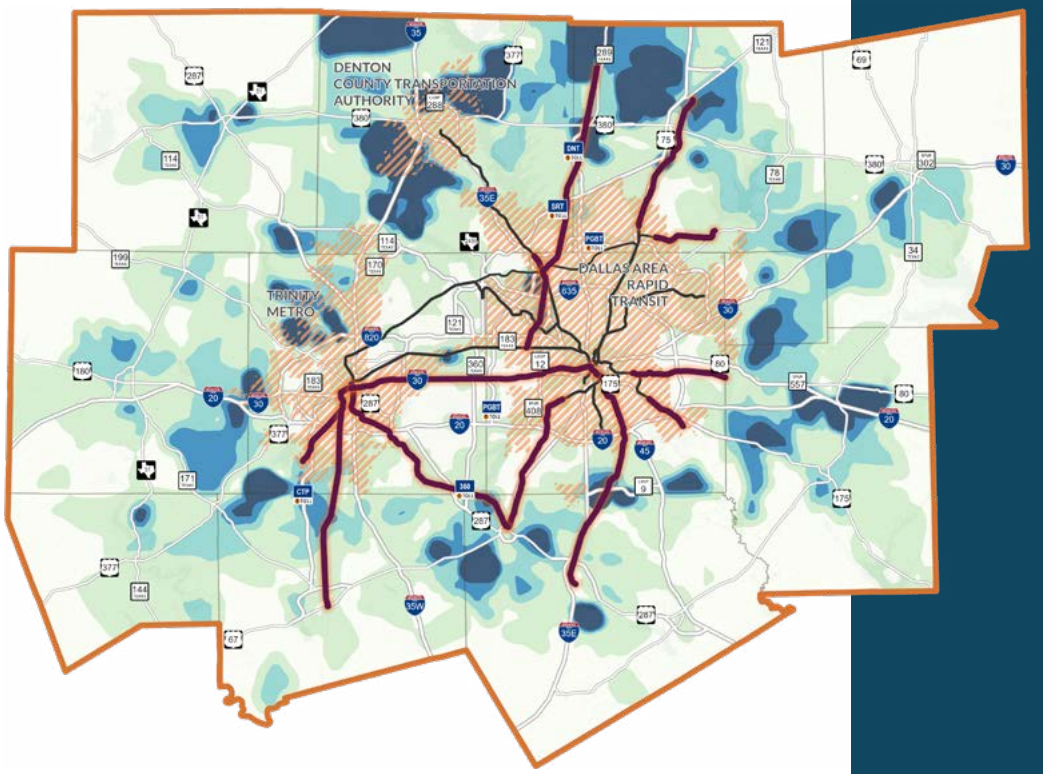
Percent Population Served by Transit in 2050

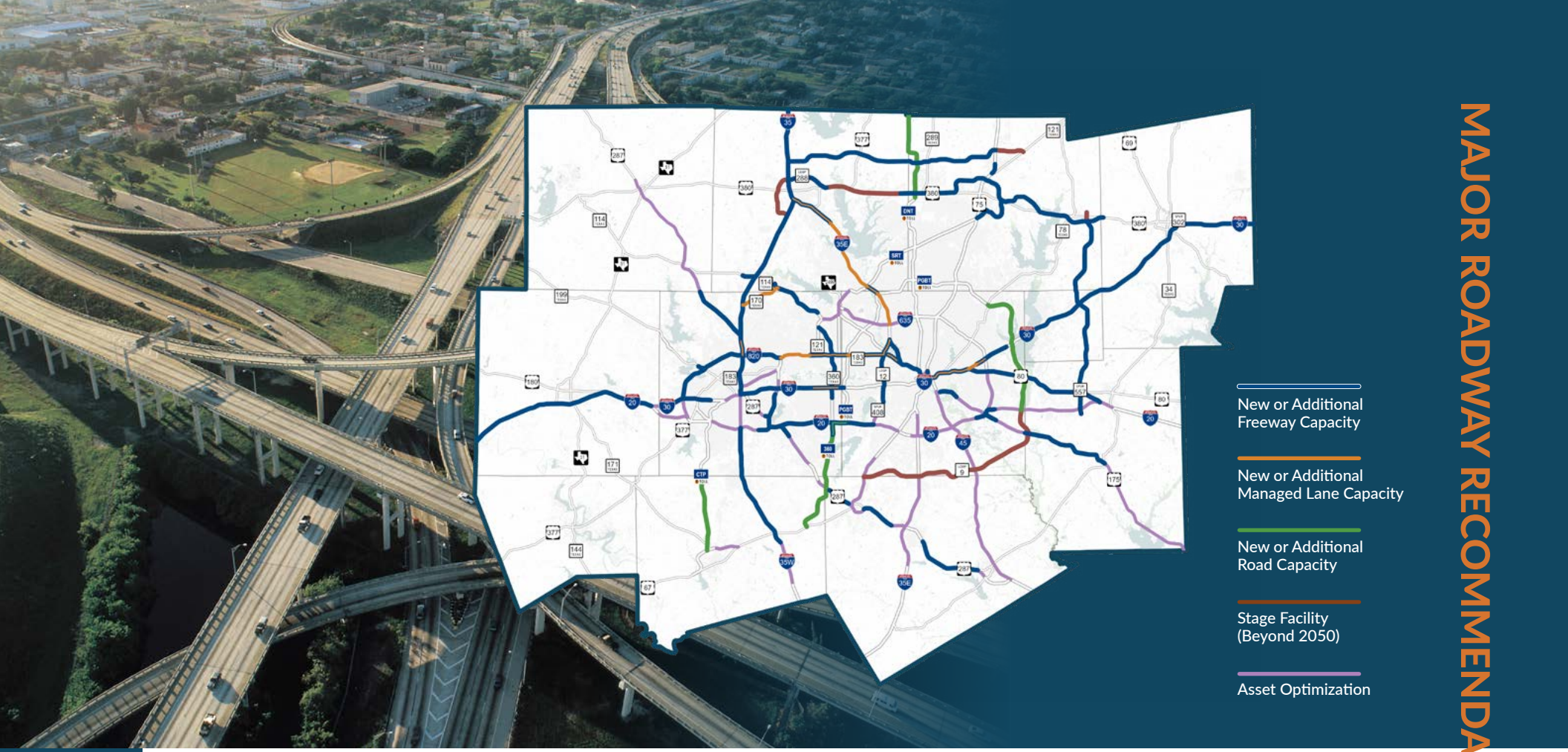
Transit 2.0 is a regional effort led by local governments, transit agencies, and NCTCOG to rethink how we plan, fund, and deliver transit in North Texas. The initiative calls for modernizing policies and governance so that transit can better meet the needs of a fast-growing region across traditionally prohibitive boundaries.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

- Encouraging higher-density development near transit hubs and rail stations
- Providing transit service that is fast and frequent enough to compete with driving
- Identifying new and stable funding sources dedicated to building and maintaining transit infrastructure



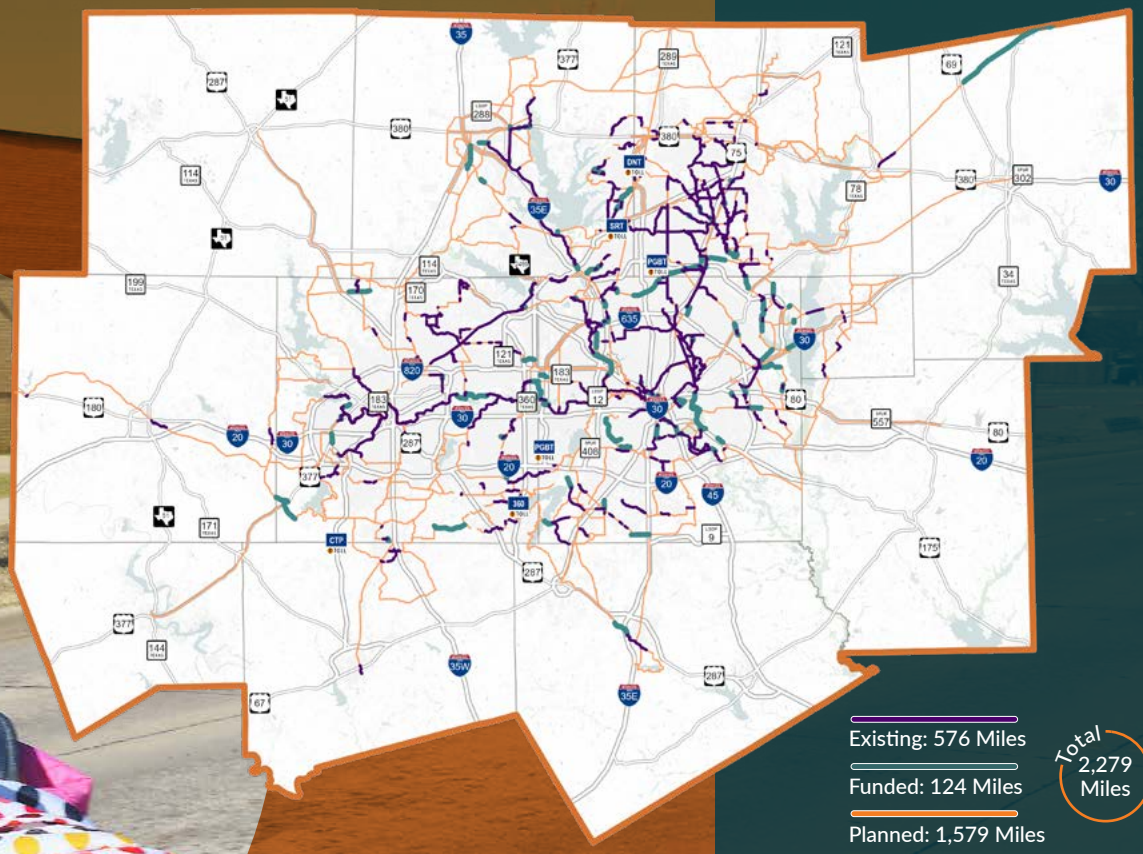


"Roads are filling up as fast as they are built. The back way no longer exists. Major thruways are backed up from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m."

Survey response, April 2024, Carrollton

Improving Reliability, Safety, and Flow

Strategic roadway improvements will help maintain mobility across the growing region. The plan recommends improving key arterials, upgrading traffic flow, and completing critical gaps, while adding capacity where needed. TEXpress lanes across the Dallas-Fort Worth area enhance reliability by offering a faster, more predictable option in some of the region's most congested corridors.



Walk, Bike, and Roll Safely and Comfortably

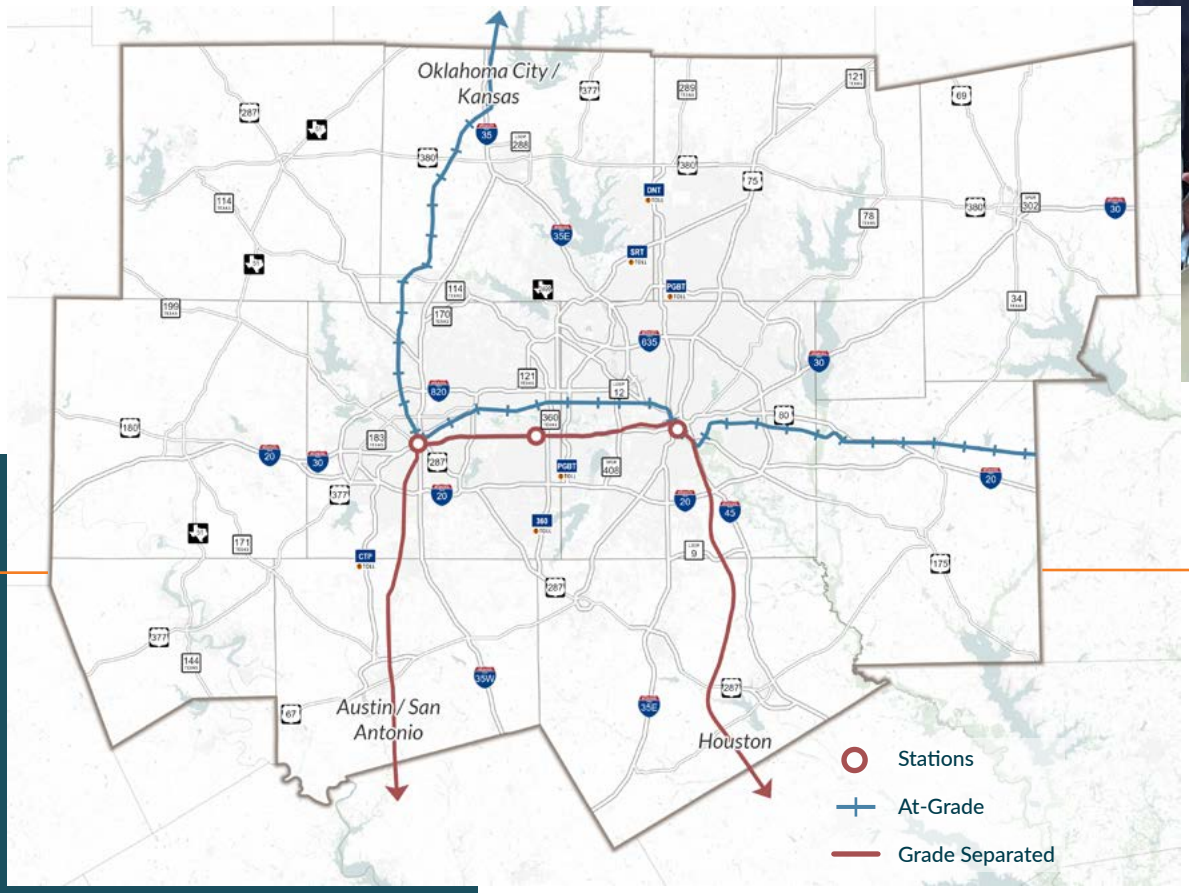
Walking, biking, and using mobility devices should be safe, convenient, and accessible to everyone. The plan includes a network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes that connect neighborhoods to schools, jobs, transit, and parks. Investments in active transportation support healthier communities, reduce emissions, and improve travel options for all ages and abilities.

"...Heavy traffic and high-speed thoroughfare right next to a school and residential area is extremely dangerous."

-Map Your Experience, February 2025, Irving

Travel Between Major Cities

The plan supports high-speed rail as a long-term solution to link the Dallas-Fort Worth region with other major urban areas like Houston and Austin. High-speed rail could drastically reduce travel times, relieve pressure on highways, and create new opportunities for mega-regional economic growth. The recommended corridors reflect existing planning efforts and ongoing coordination with state, federal, and private interest partners.



"We need to invest in high-speed rail between Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, Houston, San Antonio, Lubbock, and Midland. Let's think bigger in Texas!"

-Survey response, March 2024, Arlington

ROADWAY SAFETY

Aiming for Zero

The North Central Texas region has adopted a Vision Zero approach, recognizing that even one death is unacceptable.

GOALS

50% reduction in traffic fatalities by 2035

Zero fatalities by 2050

TOP ROADWAY RISK FACTORS

Speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, roadway departures, and intersection safety issues

Guiding the Path Forward

Transit is much safer than roadway travel: transit agencies average fewer than 1 serious safety event per 100,000 vehicle revenue miles. But only 39% of the population in 2050 is expected to live in an area served by transit.

Safety is prioritized in project selection and funding decisions:

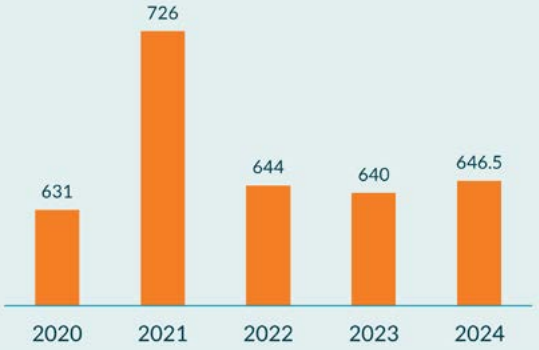
Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan: 105 high-crash corridors have been prioritized for improvements.

Traffic Incident Management Program: Faster response and clearance to reduce secondary crashes.

Low-Cost Safety Countermeasures: Signal timing, signage, and lane departure mitigation at hundreds of sites.

CURRENT DATA SNAPSHOT

Number of Roadway Fatalities



Rate of Fatalities

per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled

3,277 wrong-way crashes (2019-2023)

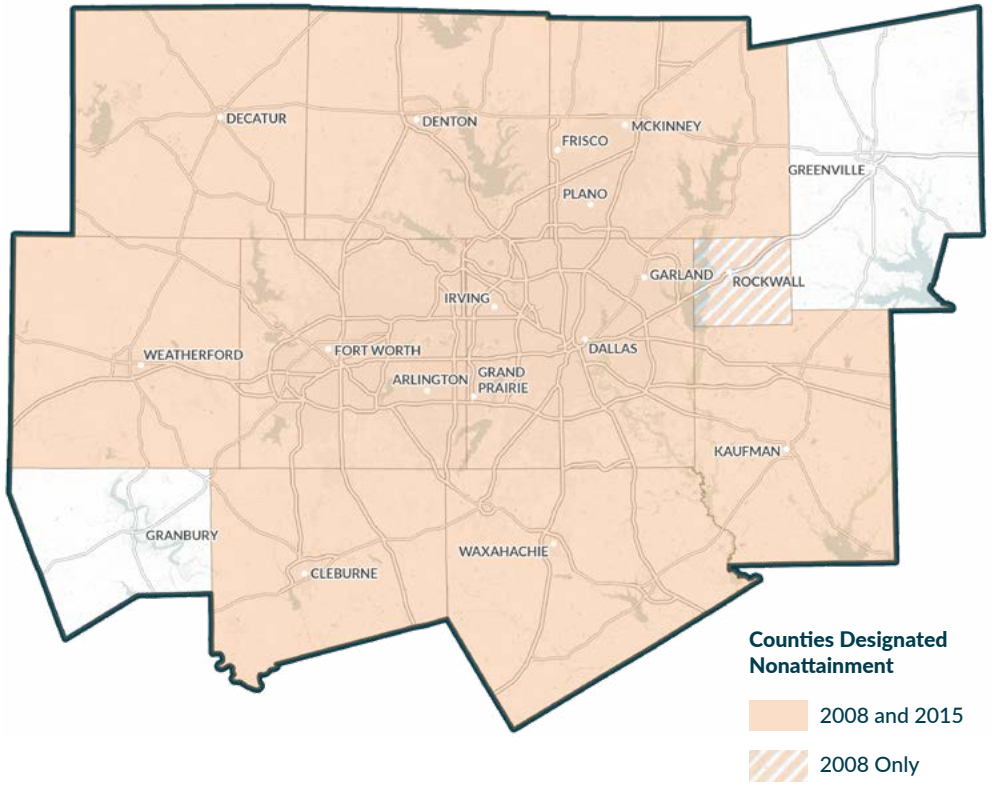
9,405 pedestrian and bicycle crashes and 945 fatalities (2019–2023)

64% of all pedestrian/bicycle fatalities occurred on state highways

Air Quality and Transportation Planning

The Dallas-Fort Worth region is currently designated as a nonattainment area for ozone under the federal Clean Air Act, meaning our air does not meet national health-based standards for ground-level ozone.

Because transportation is a major source of ozone-forming emissions, federal law requires that long-range transportation plans like ours undergo a Conformity Determination. This formal review by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency ensures that planned projects do not worsen air quality. It confirms our plan supports cleaner air, allowing the region to receive federal transportation funding while protecting public health and the environment.



Mobility 2050 invests in programs and policies that aim to reduce transportation-related air pollution. Key strategies include: reduce vehicle miles traveled, relieve congestion, expand travel options, and promote public awareness.

Not Just Adding Capacity

Investments are geared toward creating a robust regional transportation system that gives people a choice in how they get around. The plan also includes policies to support better air quality, healthy lifestyles, improved quality of life, and sustainable development such as dense, walkable development near rail stations. As we plan new transportation projects, we also work to minimize their impact on the social and natural environment.

Environmental Mitigation in Transportation Planning

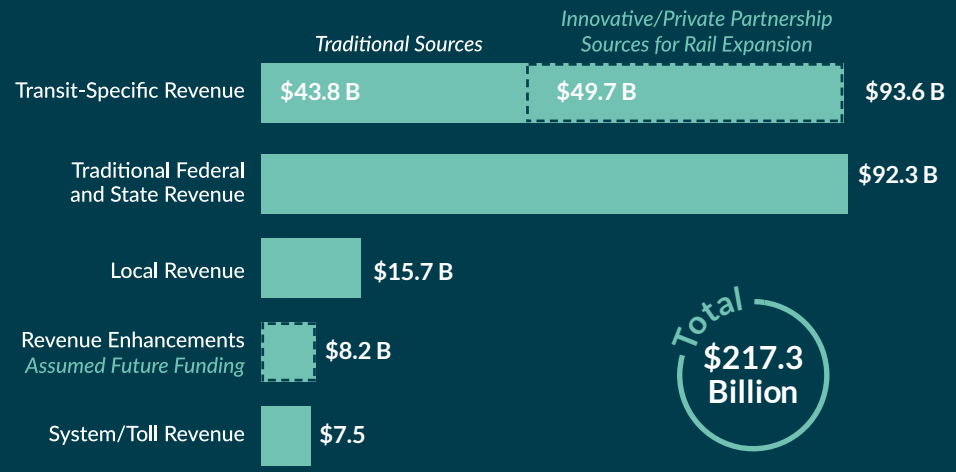
Environmental mitigation involves identifying potential effects on natural resources—like wetlands, wildlife habitats, and water quality—and developing strategies to avoid, reduce, or offset those impacts. This helps ensure that transportation investments support both mobility and environmental stewardship. An example of this is NCTCOG's leadership in advancing strategic freeway decking initiatives to reconnect communities, reduce unnecessary expansion, and bring vibrant natural spaces into dense urban areas.

Balancing Costs, Benefits, and Growth

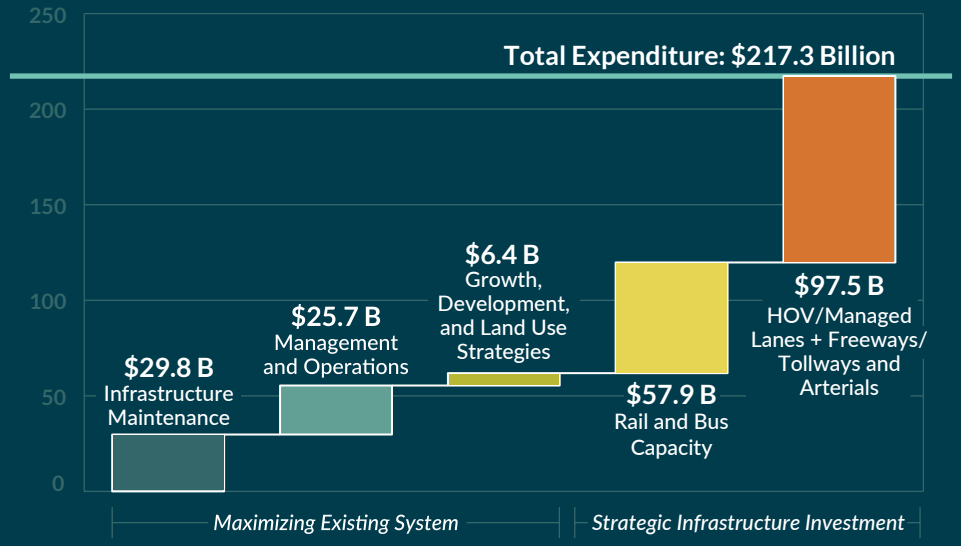
Mobility 2050 outlines a $217.3 billion investment strategy to maintain and improve the transportation system in North Central Texas through 2050.

Federal law requires this plan to be fiscally constrained, meaning the region cannot include more projects than it can reasonably afford. Despite rising construction costs and outdated funding mechanisms, the plan uses creative financing and prioritization to maximize impact.

Revenue Sources



Expenditure Categories



Local Voices, Local Solutions

Thousands of comments helped shape goals and priorities during plan development. Public input tools like surveys, meetings, outreach events, and mapping tools helped identify problem areas to consider in the planning process. Below is a snapshot of the more than four thousand comments received, many of which support transit to provide alternatives to driving and to accommodate future growth.

Our 2024 survey asked **"What's the biggest transportation challenge you see for the future in DFW?"** Some respondents said:

"Safety of vulnerable road users"

"Continued population growth relying [on] old outdated infrastructure"

"The growing number of vehicles on the road"

"Roadways and infrastructure cannot keep up [with] the exponential growth this area has experienced since 2020."

"DFW is the fastest growing collection of cities and towns in America. People come here because of jobs, family, and a chance for a life that's better than where they came [from]...I'm happy to have made DFW my home, and I'd like to build it better for those who seek to do the same."

The Future is Still Being Written

Learn more and see the full plan at nctcog.org/mobility2050.

Mobility 2050 was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council in June 2025. But federal regulations require it to be updated or replaced with a new plan at least once every four years. In addition, the Metropolitan Planning Organization can adopt amendments when needed to advance projects. That means that we're always working toward a better transportation system and quality of life for North Texas residents.

Your voice matters. Transportation is for everyone.

Share your transportation stories any time.

Our online mapping tool, Map Your Experience is available 24/7 at nctcog.org/mye. The data we receive from MYE feeds directly into our planning process to help identify regional transportation needs and priorities.

Tell us about your daily commute challenges, favorite routes, or needs for the future. Your input becomes part of the data we use to guide investments in safety improvements, multimodal investment, and system enhancements. Planning is continuous, and every story you share helps us build a transportation system that works for everyone.

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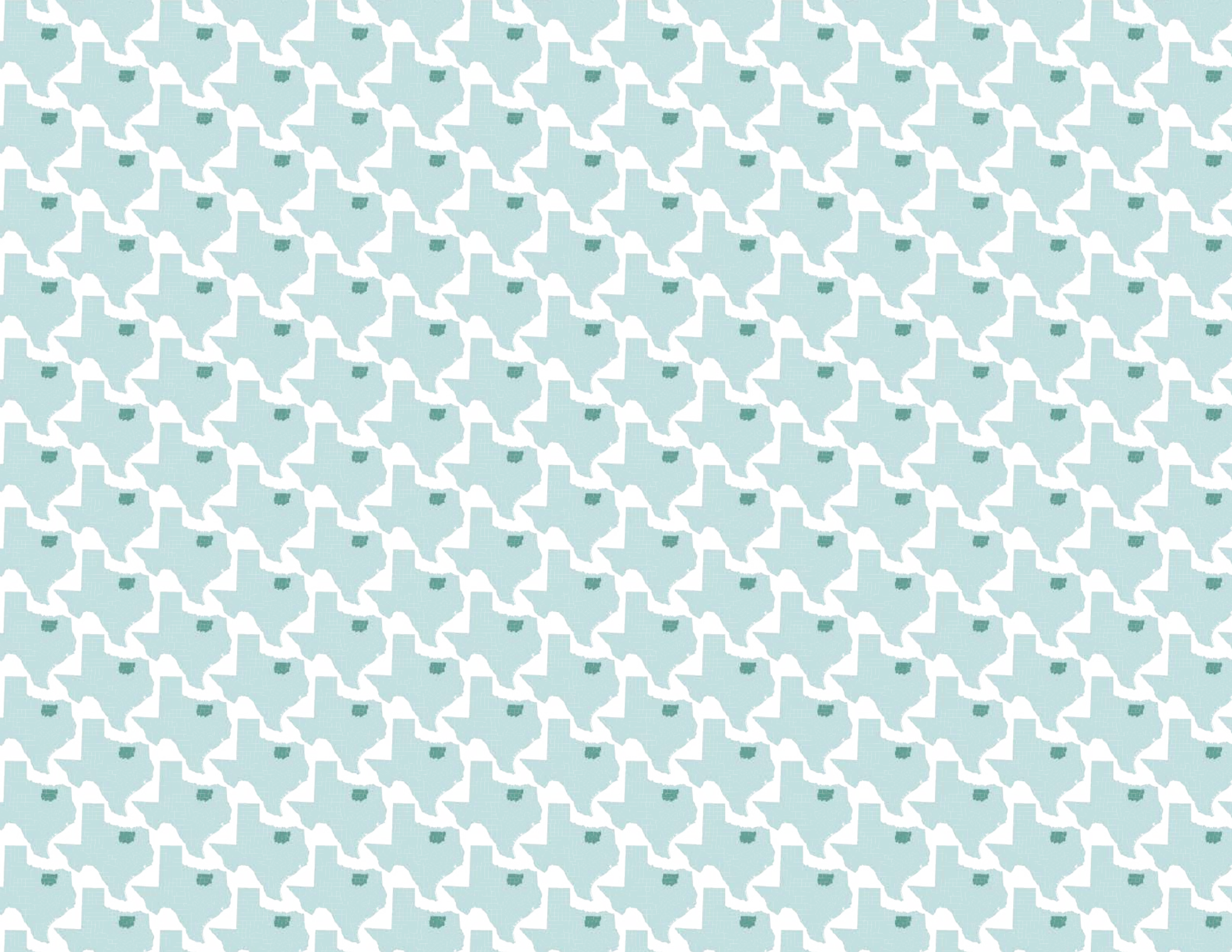

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North Central Texas Council of Governments

This executive summary was prepared by NCTCOG staff with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to support content structuring. The final document has been reviewed for accuracy and fidelity to the full Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

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