Regional Mobility Initiatives

Regional Mobility Initiatives is a report on the transportation planning activities and air quality programs of the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Regional Transportation Council – together serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area since 1974.

A strong and diverse Dallas-Fort Worth Area economy combined with prolonged periods of unprecedented growth in North Texas has resulted in extraordinary demands on the region’s surface transportation system. Reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and finding ways to fund and implement alternative modes of travel are issues that extend well beyond traditional local government boundaries.

Multimodal transportation planning facilitated through a single policy direction for all modes of travel ensures that plans, programs, and policies are coordinated across various city, county, and agency service areas as well as jurisdictional boundaries, and that coordination is occurring among implementing agencies.

In North Central Texas, this direction is provided through a collaborative structure of committees and organizations creating partnerships in regional transportation planning and implementation. For over 25 years, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) have served as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for regional transportation planning in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

NCTCOG’s Executive Board establishes overall policy for comprehensive planning and coordination in the North Central Texas region, and oversees the administration of funds granted to the MPO. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC), various technical committees, and the NCTCOG Transportation Department staff complete this metropolitan planning structure. The MPO works in cooperation with the region’s transportation providers to improve the region’s mobility and air quality.

TEA-21 Legislation

In accordance with the requirements of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, (TEA-21) “states are required to designate a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to develop transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas over 50,000 individuals. The planning process provides for all modes of transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive to the degree appropriate based on the complexity of transportation problems.”
Regional Transportation Council

The Regional Transportation Council is the independent transportation policy body of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The RTC, which meets the second Thursday of each month, is comprised of 39 members: 33 local elected or appointed officials representing cities and counties, and six transportation provider representatives. The RTC is responsible for overseeing the metropolitan transportation planning process. Primary activities include:

- Providing guidance regarding the development of multimodal transportation plans and programs,
- Programming federal and State funds for the implementation of transportation improvements,
- Selecting specific federally funded projects and programs,
- Assuring the coordination of services among transportation providers, and
- Ensuring compliance with federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to metropolitan transportation and air quality planning.

While the Regional Transportation Council provides policy direction to the multimodal transportation planning process, legislation enacted in recent years has broadened the scope of the MPO. These new responsibilities include the selection of projects for federal transportation funding in the Surface Transportation Program – Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ).

In addition, the RTC recently approved funding from these programs to allow NCTCOG to oversee the implementation of programs directed toward improving air quality and reducing traffic congestion including various Transportation System Management and Travel Demand Management initiatives.

The transportation and air quality committees and task forces provide recommendations to the RTC and technical guidance for the NCTCOG staff. Committee members provide the RTC with information about transportation concerns and priorities of the individual local entities they represent. These committees provide specialized expertise and serve as a means of facilitating communication and coordination between the regional planning process and individual local agencies.

Representatives on these committees include staffs of local governments, transportation providers in the region, private sector representatives, and personnel from State and federal agencies. NCTCOG staff provides technical, administrative, and clerical support for these committees.

Regional Transportation Council Organizational Structure

City of Arlington 2
Cities of Carrollton and Farmers Branch 1
Cities of Dallas, Highland Park, and University Park 6
City of Denton 1 (urbanized area)
Cities of Duncanville, DeSoto, Lancaster, Cedar Hill, and Glenn Heights 1
City of Fort Worth 3
Cities of Garland, Rowlett, and Rockwall, and Rockwall County 1
City of Grand Prairie 1
Cities of Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Colleyville, Grapevine, Southlake, and Trophy Club 1
Cities of Irving and Coppell 1
Cities of Lewisville, Flower Mound, Highland Village, Corinth, Lake Dallas, Little Elm, and The Colony 1 (urbanized area)
Cities of Mansfield, Benbrook, Forest Hill, White Settlement, Azle, Crowley, River Oaks, Everman, and Kennedale, and Parker County (partial) 1
Cities of Mesquite, Balch Springs, Seagoville, and Forney, and Kaufman County (partial) 1
Cities of North Richland Hills, Haltom City, Watauga, Keller, Saginaw, and Richland Hills 1
Cities of McKinney, Allen, and Frisco 1 (urbanized area)
City of Plano 1
Cities of Richardson, Addison, Wylie, Sachse, and Murphy 1
Collin County 1
Dallas County 2
Denton County 1
Ellis County (partial) and the Cities of Waxahachie, Midlothian, Ennis, and Red Oak 1
Johnson County (partial) and the Cities of Burleson, Cleburne, and Keene 1
Tarrant County 2
District Engineer, Dallas District, TxDOT 1
District Engineer, Fort Worth District, TxDOT 1
Policy Representative, Eastern Subregion Transportation Authority 1
Policy Representative, Western Subregion Transportation Authority 1
Policy Representative, North Texas Tollway Authority 1
Policy Representative, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport 1

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 39

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Travel Demand Management/Congestion Management System Task Force

The Travel Demand Management/Congestion Management System (TDM/CMS) Task Force provides technical support and coordination for the implementation of travel demand management initiatives, including those strategies contained in the State Implementation Plan for air quality and for strategy development in major investment studies.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Task Force

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Task Force (BPTTF) provides technical support in the areas of regional bicycle and pedestrian planning and the review and selection of bicycle and pedestrian projects funded by the Regional Transportation Council.

Surface Transportation Technical Committee

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) reviews, comments on, and prepares recommendations regarding surface transportation planning and the funding of transportation improvements in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

Air Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

The Air Transportation Technical Advisory Committee provides expertise and guidance in the development and maintenance of the Regional Airport System Plan for general aviation.

Clean Cities Technical Coalition

The Clean Cities Technical Coalition (CCTC) is comprised of local government fleet managers, fuel providers, and private industry representatives. This committee serves as a technical resource to NCTCOG in funding clean vehicles and promoting the use of clean fuel technology in North Texas.

Corridor Study Working Groups

The role of Corridor Study Working Groups is to improve existing traffic conditions and plan for future increased traffic at specific locations. Various technical analyses result in future-year alternatives. Design proposals and impacts to businesses and neighborhoods are reviewed and addressed.

Citizen Involvement

Continued citizen involvement in the transportation planning activities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is encouraged. Public input is crucial to the planning process, and it provides transportation planners with the information they require to address the needs and concerns of individuals and communities within a region that is quickly growing.

Transportation and Air Quality Advisory Committees

Surface Transportation Technical Committee

Air Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

Clean Cities Technical Coalition

Corridor Study Working Groups

Travel Demand Management/Congestion Management System Task Force

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1969
NCTCOG Transportation Department formed. John Roark becomes Director.

1970
NCTCOG Regional Transportation Policy Development Committee established to review studies to recommend an overall regional transportation policy. Transportation Study Area defined.

1974
Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe designates NCTCOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

1977
NCTCOG’s Regional Transportation Policy Advisory Committee form. NCTCOG completes Total Transportation Plan for 1990. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport opens.

1978
NCTCOG Regional Travel Survey conducted; first travel survey since 1964 Home Interview Survey conducted by TxDOT.

Regional Airport System Plan 2000 and Regional Heliport System Plan 2000 approved by NCTCOG Executive Board.

1979
Energy contingency planning becomes major emphasis.

1980
NCTCOG’s first Regional Thoroughfare Plan adopted.

1981
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) created. Gordon Shunk becomes Director of Transportation.

1983
Regional Hazardous Materials Routing Plan adopted by RTC.

1984
NCTCOG Regional Travel Survey conducted; first travel survey since 1964 Home Interview Survey conducted by TxDOT.

1986
Regional Airport System Plan 2000 and Regional Heliport System Plan 2000 approved by NCTCOG Executive Board.

1989
Michael Morris becomes Director of Transportation.

1988
Texas Governor Bill Clements, Jr. redesignates NCTCOG as the MPO for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

1990
Mobility 2010: The Regional Transportation Plan for North Central Texas adopted.

1992
RTC STP-MM/ CMAQ first Call for Projects issued.

1996
Mobility 2020: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan adopted.

1999
Congress passes the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

1998
Congress expands service to Arlington, Hurst/Bel and Richland Hills.

1997
North Texas Tollway Authority created.

1991
Congress passes the Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA).

1992
DART/TxDOT open the region’s first HOV lane on I-30 for operation.

1993
Mobility 2010 Plan Update adopted. NCTCOG designated as MPO for Denton and Lewisville Urbanized Areas.

1998
Regional Transportation Council (RTC)/Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) Partnership Program initiated.

1994
DART’s light rail starter system opens.

1999
Congress passes the Transportation Improvement Program Call for Projects issued. NCTCOG/RTC celebrates 25 Years as MPO for Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

2001
Dallas and Fort Worth linked by commuter rail (the TRE) for the first time since the 1930s.

2002
Voters approve Denton County Transportation Authority.

2000
The TRE expands service to Arlington, Hurst/Bel and Richland Hills.

2001
Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex Transportation Council (RTC) named to lead regional transportation planning.

2002
Voters approve Denton County Transportation Authority.

2001
Congress passes the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

2003
North Texas Tollway Authority made MPO for Denton County.

2004
DART’s light rail expansion to Lewisville.

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North Texas Tollway Authority made MPO for Denton County.

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DART’s light rail expansion to Lewisville.

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North Texas Tollway Authority made MPO for Denton County.

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DART’s light rail expansion to Lewisville.

2019
North Texas Tollway Authority made MPO for Denton County.

2020
DART’s light rail expansion to Lewisville.

2021
North Texas Tollway Authority made MPO for Denton County.

2022
DART’s light rail expansion to Lewisville.
**Metropolitan Transportation Timeline**

1969
- NCTCOG Transportation Department formed. John Roark becomes Director.
- Energy contingency planning becomes major emphasis.

1970
- NCTCOG Regional Transportation Policy Development Committee established to review studies to recommend an overall regional transportation policy.
- Transportation Study Area defined.

1974
- Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe designates NCTCOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.
- NCTCOG completes Total Transportation Plan for 1990.
- Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport opens.

1976
- Mobility contingency planning becomes major emphasis.

1977
- NCTCOG’s Regional Transportation Policy Advisory Committee becomes the Regional Transportation Council (RTC).

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1980
- Gordon Shunk becomes Director of Transportation.

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- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) created.

1984
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1985
- Regional Hazardous Materials Routing Plan adopted by RTC.

1986
- NCTCOG Regional Airport System Plan 2000 and Regional Hi/Lo System Plan 2000 approved by NCTCOG Executive Board.

1988
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1990
- NCTCOG designated as MPO for Denton and Lewisville Urbanized Areas.

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- Congress passes the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

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1997
- North Texas Gateway Authority created.

1998
- Texas Governor Bill Clements, Jr. redesignates NCTCOG as the MPO for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

1999
- NCTCOG/RTC celebrates 25 Years as MPO for Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.
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The Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area (shaded purple) covers 4,980 square miles and includes the existing urbanized area and the contiguous area expected to be urbanized within the next 20 years. The Metropolitan Area includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, and Tarrant Counties. Also included are portions of the contiguous counties of Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, and Parker.

Included in the Metropolitan Area are the four counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant designated as nonattainment for ozone under the Clean Air Act.

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Planning activities are conducted in accordance with the federal metropolitan transportation planning requirements of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The federally required Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the region’s surface transportation system over the next two decades is the Mobility 2025 Update: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This document serves as the blueprint for the region’s future transportation system including policies, programs, and specific projects, which improve mobility, relieve congestion, and address the air quality improvement needs of the region. This Plan was adopted by the RTC in May 2001 and calls for a $49 billion investment in the region’s transportation system over the next 24 years including rail, high occupancy vehicle lanes, freeways, tollways, and intelligent transportation system improvements. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is prepared every three years and updated as needed.

The Regional Transportation Council has the responsibility of working with the Texas Department of Transportation, local governments, and transportation authorities to identify, evaluate, and select transportation improvements. The Transportation Improvement Program for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area (TIP) serves as the mechanism for phased implementation of those transportation projects included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This document contains an inventory of the transportation projects to be constructed and provides information regarding the timing of construction and the source of funds for each project. The TIP is developed bi-annually, updated periodically, and lists all roadway and public transportation projects to be implemented over the upcoming three-year period.

TEA-21 also requires a Congestion Management System (CMS) for metropolitan areas with a population of greater than 200,000. The emphasis of the CMS is on the effective management of facilities and systems to provide the maximum amount of benefit from available resources. The CMS program includes travel demand management components promoting telecommuting, vanpooling, and ridesharing programs. A major component of CMS is providing information to decision makers on the performance and effectiveness of transportation system investments in order to facilitate future decisions regarding transportation funds.

The NCTCOG Transportation Department is involved in many transportation and air quality planning activities through the various program areas within the department. The following are NCTCOG’s Transportation Department program areas:

- Travel Forecasting
- Vehicle Operations
- Air Quality
- Air Quality Conformity
- Public Transportation
- Information Systems
- Sustainable Development and Intermodal Freight
- Community Outreach
- Transportation Programming
- Congestion Management System
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Major Investment and Corridor Studies (Denton, Ellis, Parker, & Tarrant Counties)
- Major Investment and Corridor Studies (Collin, Dallas, Johnson, Kaufman, & Rockwall Counties)
- Program Administration
- Computer Systems

The Director of Transportation for NCTCOG is responsible within the MPO for coordinating all work efforts funded under the Unified Planning Work Program in order to meet all certification requirements and maintain federal funding eligibility for local projects.

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NCTCOG’s three Directors of Transportation: (l-r) John Roark (1969-1980), Michael Morris (1990 - present) and Gordon Shunk (1980-1990)
Management and Operations

In 1999, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Program – Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM) funding for projects that will be implemented by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). These projects are oriented toward addressing the need to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. They focus on making better use of existing resources to address regional transportation needs. Funding for these projects is aimed primarily at program implementation. Some of the projects are identified as key Air Quality Transportation Control Measures supported by the State Implementation Plan (SIP). City or county governments and transportation authorities, in partnership with NCTCOG, implement these projects.

Ongoing Implementation Programs:

- Air Quality and Bicycle/Pedestrian Public Education and Information
- Ozone Season Transit Incentives
- Vanpool Programs
- Clean Vehicle Loaner Program
- Emergency Ride Home Program for Transit Riders
- Employee Trip Reduction Programs
- Thoroughfare Assessment Programs
- Programs to Reduce Number of High-emitting Vehicles
- Regional ITS Communication System
- Heavy Duty Natural Gas Delivery Trucks
- Job Access and Reverse Commute Programs

NCTCOG Executive Board 2002-2003

President
James O’Neal
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lancaster

Vice President
Jack Hatfield
Commissioner, Collin County

Secretary-Treasurer
Bob Prophet
Mayor, City of Farmers Branch

Past President
Mike Cannon
Commissioner, Dallas County

Director
Jim Jimmerson
Commissioner, Dallas County

Director
Tom Vandergriff
County Judge, Tarrant County

Director
Alan Wolfe
Councilmember, City of Dallas

Director
Wendy Davis
Councilmember, City of Fort Worth

Director
Wayne Grant
County Judge, Kaufman County

Director
John Heiman, Jr.
Councilmember, City of Mesquite

Director
Eula Buck
Mayor, City of Denton

Director
Paula Baucom
Councilmember, City of Midlothian

Regional Transportation Council 2002

President
John Murphy
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Richardson

Vice Chair
B. Glen Whitey
Commissioner, Tarrant County

Secretary
Jack Hatfield
Secretary, Collin County

Chair
Ron Brown
Commissioner, Ellis County

Executive Director
Mark Burroughs
Commissioner, City of Denton

Executive Director
B. Glen Whitey, P.E.
District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation, Fort Worth District

Executive Director
Wendy Davis
Councilmember, City of Fort Worth

Executive Director
Bob Prophet
Mayor, City of Farmers Branch

Executive Director
Harry Engelt
Councilmember, City of Grand Prairie

Past President
Pat Evans
Mayor, City of Plano

Past President
Luis Frinkman
Councilmember, City of Dallas

Past President
Sandy Grayson
Councilmember, City of Dallas

Past President
Mark Bunn
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Denton

Past President
Maribel Chavez, P.E.
District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation, Fort Worth District

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Wendy Davis
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Management and Operations

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### Regional Transportation Council 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Executive Director</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James O’Neal</td>
<td>R. Michael Eastland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lancaster</td>
<td>Mayor, City of North Richland Hills</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Director</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Hatchell</td>
<td>Jim Jimison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner, Collin County</td>
<td>Commissioner, Dallas County</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary-Treasurer</th>
<th>Director</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martha Chavez, P.E.</td>
<td>Tori Vandergrift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Department of Transportation, Fort Worth District</td>
<td>County Judge, Tarrant County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Cooper</td>
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<td>Dan Kessler</td>
<td>John Heiman, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Murphy, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayor Pro Tem, City of Richardson</td>
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<td>B. Glenn Whitey, Vice Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Harress</td>
<td>Mark Housman</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Judge, Johnson County</td>
<td>Commissioner, City of Fort Worth</td>
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<td>Becky Haskett</td>
<td>John Holway, Jr.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert James</td>
<td>Kenneth Franks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen Representative, City of Dallas</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Kibby</td>
<td>Jack Miller</td>
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<tr>
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<td>District Engineer, TxDOT, Dallas District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Koop</td>
<td>Steve McCollum</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Steve McCollum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally McMillan</td>
<td>Jack Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner, City of Arlington</td>
<td>Board Member, North Texas Agway Authority</td>
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<td>Jay Nations, P.E.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Wright</td>
<td>Michael Northup, P.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor, City of Lewisville</td>
<td>Transportation Director, NCTCOG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Contributing Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCTCOG Staff</th>
<th>Contributing Staff</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Morris, P.E.</td>
<td>Amanda Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Transportation</td>
<td>Principal Transportation Planner</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Don Keister | Mike Cooper |
| Assistant Director of Transportation | Director of Transportation |

| Lynn Hayes | Mike Cooper |
| Principal Transportation Planner | Director of Transportation |

| Mindy Miles | Mike Cooper |
| Transportation Planner | Director of Transportation |

| Vickie Alexander | Mike Cooper |
| Administrative Assistant | Director of Transportation |

| Comedy | Mike Cooper |
| Graphic Design | Director of Transportation |
What Is NCTCOG?
The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments within the 16-county North Central Texas region. The agency was established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. North Central Texas is a 16-county region with a population of 5.6 million and an area of approximately 12,800 square miles. NCTCOG has 230 member governments, including all 16 counties, 164 cities, 23 independent school districts, and 27 special districts.

Since 1974, NCTCOG has served as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. The Regional Transportation Council is the policy body for the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Regional Transportation Council consists of 39 members, predominantly local elected officials, overseeing the regional transportation planning process. NCTCOG’s Department of Transportation is responsible for support and staff assistance to the Regional Transportation Council and its technical committees, which comprise the MPO policy-making structure.

We would like your comments... If you have questions or comments regarding the transportation and air quality programs of the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Regional Transportation Council or need additional information, please contact the NCTCOG Transportation Department at (817) 695-9240, by fax at (817) 640-3028, via e-mail: transinfo@nctcog.dst.tx.us, or visit our website at www.nctcog.dst.tx.us/trans.

Regional Mobility Initiatives Issues

- Advanced Transportation Management, March 1996
- Air Quality, July 1996
- Traffic Congestion, October 1996
- Multimodal Solutions in the North Central Corridor, July 1997
- Toll Roads, February 1998
- Major Investment Studies, August 1998
- The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, October 1998
- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes, December 1998
- Travel Demand Forecasting Procedures, June 1999
- Commuter Traffic, December 2000
- Pedestrian Transportation, August 2002
- Metropolitan Planning Organization, November 2002