

11. TEXAS TRIANGLE MULTIMODAL MOBILITY: TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

---

**BACKGROUND**

The Texas Triangle is a term for the mega-region that includes the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin areas and many others in-between, including Waco, Bryan-College Station, and Temple, to name a few. The area is the engine that drives the Texas economy. It is home to 3 out of every 4 Texans and accounts for nearly 80% of the States Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is home to 51 Fortune 500 companies and is a hub for global trade, accounting for 25% of U.S. international trade volume. If the Texas Triangle were a country, it would be the 12<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

The transportation network in the Texas Triangle is truly multimodal and includes nearly 3,000 miles of highway (including 1,692 miles of interstate), an expansive freight and passenger rail system consisting of approximately 4,000 miles of track, 85 rail yards, 15 ports that conduct international trade, including six Gulf Coast seaports, and two intermodal inland ports. The Texas Triangle is also home to six major commercial service airports, nine rail mass transit lines, six metropolitan transit authorities, 17 urban transit districts, and statewide, regional, and local trail systems.

---

**CURRENT SITUATION**

TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming Division is developing the Texas Triangle Multimodal Strategic Plan (TTMSP) to better understand how population growth, economic growth, and other trends are affecting the mega-region.

The Plan is a forward-looking effort to assess and address the evolving multimodal mobility needs of both people and goods across this critical megaregion. With the Texas Triangle accounting for nearly 80% of the state's GDP and home to over 22 million residents, ensuring efficient freight movement and workforce access is essential to sustaining business growth and regional competitiveness. It will examine the short-, medium- and long-term mobility needs, challenges and opportunities within the region as well as to and from major trade gateways. This plan will only focus on strategic mobility initiatives and opportunities, and not specific project identification and prioritization.

The timeline for developing the plan includes three phases:

Late 2024 – Early 2025: Project kickoff, review existing studies, develop goals and objectives, begin stakeholder engagement

Mid-2025 – Late 2026: Develop trends and forecasts, assess existing and future multimodal needs, continue stakeholder engagement

Early 2027 – Mid 2027: Create final plan and related materials, finalize recommendations and strategies, finalize implementation plan

Mr. Tyler Graham, TxDOT Freight Systems Branch Manager, will provide an update on the planning effort.

---

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Discussion only.