

Integrating Planning Efforts

**Jessie Huddleston
Transit Program Manager**

**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

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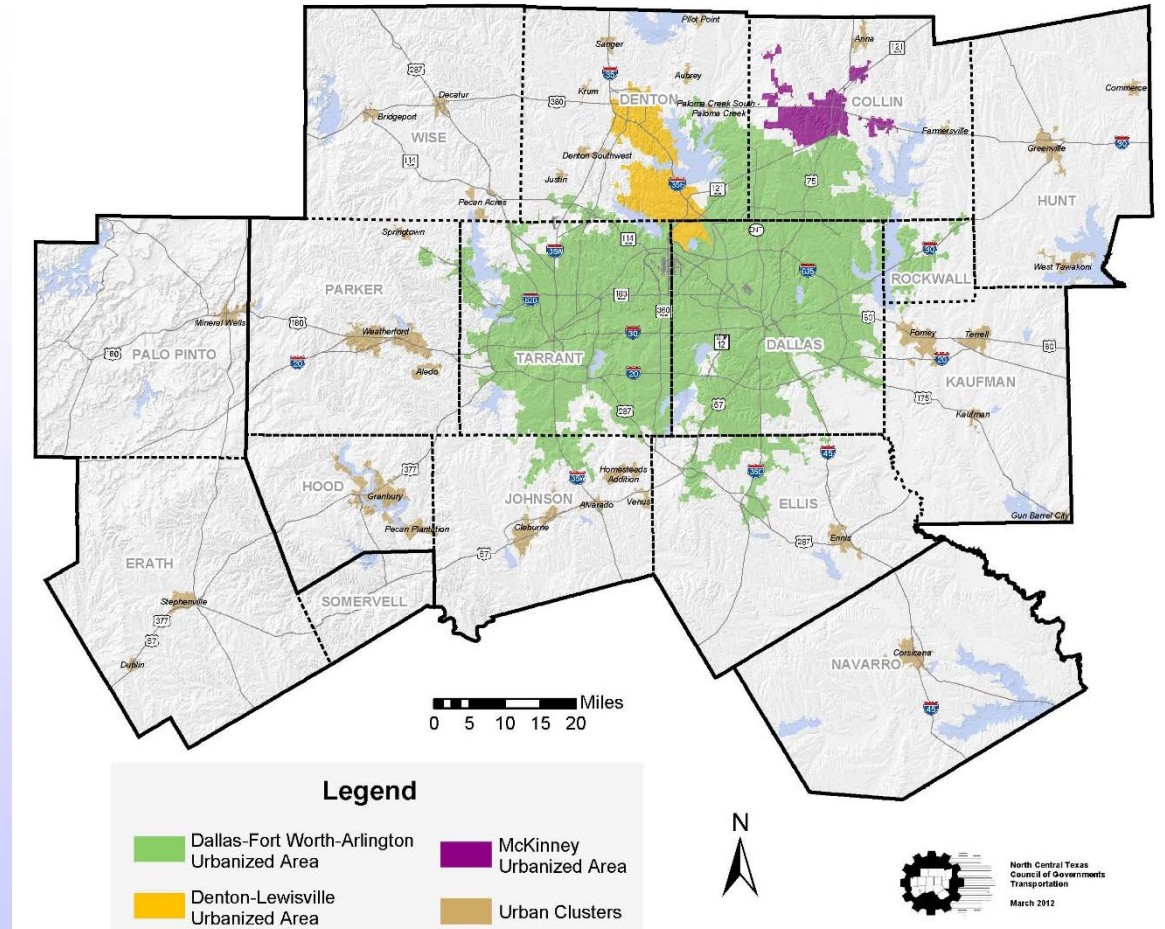
North Central Texas Council of Governments

Conducts planning and supports coordination

Creates short- and long-term transportation plans

Receives federal funding for transit in the region

U.S. Census Bureau Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters (2010)



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

NCTCOG Regional Transit Coordination Plan



Goal: Identify meaningful and realistic strategies to improve transit coordination, reduce gaps in service and achieve efficiencies in the transportation network

Approach: Balance

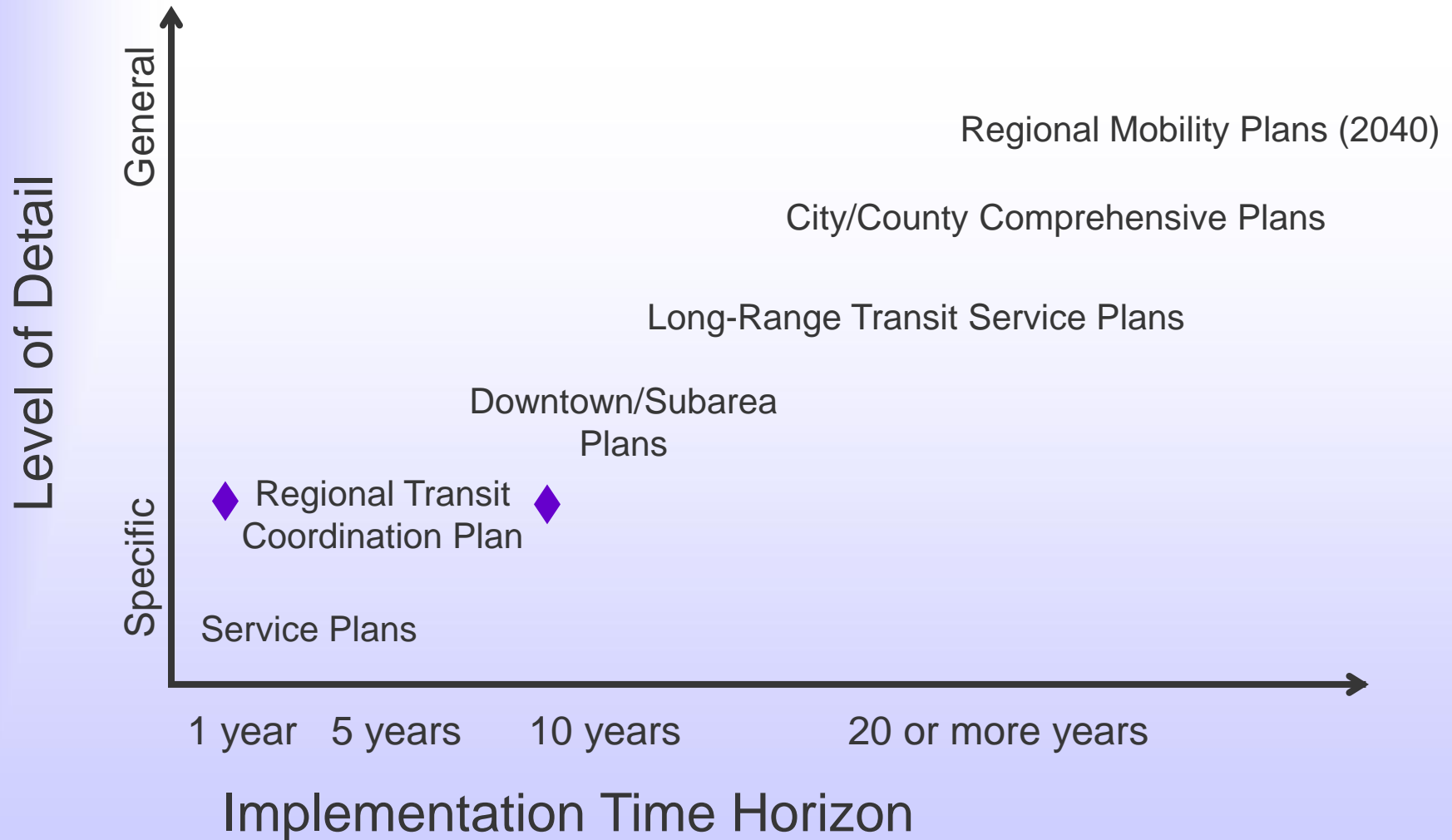
Consider the needs and resources county-by-county in a very complex region

Recognize the limits on time and other resources and use existing resources when possible

Remember the plan cannot be everything to everyone



Planning Framework



Integrating Coordination Plans with Other Planning Efforts

Benefits

Saves time and effort

Provides common ground for conversations about needs and service gaps

Introduces potential partners to options for future transit services

Consistency among plans helps communities focus implementation efforts

Helps with future funding for grander transit plans



Accessing Existing Plans in Your Area

Finding Them

Metropolitan Planning Organizations
Councils of Governments
Transit Providers/Authorities
City Planning Departments
County Planning Departments
Economic Development Committees/Boards
Community Development Committees/Boards
Non-profit Organizations
Online Sources

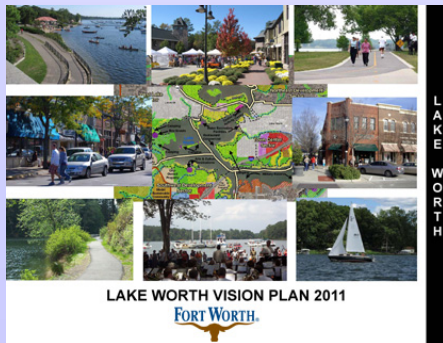


Using Existing Plans to Your Benefit

Most plans use similar data collection methods; draw from published data about needs from: surveys, demographics and public meetings

Identify engaged stakeholders to expand your network of regional transit coordination plan participants

Use identified community focus areas to support your public transportation message



Opportunities Regional Transit Coordination Plans Bring to Other Efforts

Short-term planning can help achieve milestones in longer-range plans

Coordination plans can recommend additional areas of study

State and federal funding for coordination plans and implementation can leverage other local funding

Partners, partners and partners



Lessons Learned

- ✓ Keeping costs controlled is hard; use existing resources when possible
- ✓ Finding engaged partners is easier when you have common ground; use existing plans to identify opportunities
- ✓ Getting regional transit coordination strategies implemented is easier if planning outcomes are aligned
- ✓ A key outcome of coordination planning is to help create an efficient transportation system; that takes more than just transit input



Questions or Comments

Please contact:

Sarah Chadderdon
Senior Transportation Planner
(817) 695-9180
schadderdon@nctcog.org

Jessie Huddleston
Program Manager
(817) 608-2399
jhuddleston@nctcog.org

www.accessnorthtexas.org

