

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 14, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Strategic Mobility Plan (Connect Dallas) Update**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on recent progress on the Strategic Mobility Plan (Connect Dallas) and the upcoming public comment period for the draft Plan.

Overview of Connect Dallas and the Planning Process To-Date

Dallas' transportation needs far exceed our resources. Meanwhile, there is a desire for transportation investments to work toward achieving broader City objectives in the form of "Driving Principles" which include safety, environmental sustainability, equity, economic vitality, housing, and innovation goals. Recognizing that not all investments are created equal, Connect Dallas, the City's first-ever five-year strategic mobility vision, outlines a framework for future decision-making that prioritizes projects based on their overall contribution to city goals and desired vision, and recommends policy, program, and project delivery modernization strategies needed to fully realize the desired results.

Steps in the planning process have included:

1. Identifying the Driving Principles: safety, environmental sustainability, equity, economic vitality, housing, and innovation
2. Developing and evaluating the impacts and benefits of different combinations of transportation investments (scenarios).
3. Identification of the Preferred Strategy: The public, Mobility Advisory Committee, and City Council overwhelmingly gave support for one of the scenarios to serve as the preferred strategy, or transportation vision, around which to develop the plan.
4. Development of the project prioritization tool to evaluate which projects best promote the Driving Principles and preferred transportation vision. Using the project prioritization tool, projects were identified that are expected to provide the greatest benefit and should be prioritized for future implementation.
5. Development of policy, program, and project delivery modernization strategies necessary to fully realize the preferred transportation vision.

In the course of the development of the plan, the City facilitated input opportunities along the way to include:

- Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC): The MAC, consisting of members appointed by the Dallas City Council, served as the guiding committee in the process. It met

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more than four times at key points in the plan's development, most recently in October 2020.

- Fall 2019 Survey: completed by 4,600 participants.
- Outreach at 28 community and council-sponsored events in the fall of 2019 and early 2020, reaching over 1,700 attendees.
- Spring 2020 Survey: completed by 2,500 participants.
- Mobility Symposium: attended by 150 Dallas citizens and partner agency representatives.
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee presentation on February 18, 2020.
- Council Briefing presentation on June 3, 2020.

Next Steps: Upcoming Public Comment Period for Draft Plan

There will be a three-week public comment period on the draft plan from January 18, 2020 to February 5, 2020, when members of the public, partner agencies, and stakeholders will be invited to provide input. Information will be posted online at dallascityhall.com/connectdallas.

The Department of Transportation staff will then present the results of this public comment period to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and City Council in February and March 2021, respectively, where there will be the opportunity for Councilmembers to provide feedback during and after the meetings. From there, City staff and the project consultant will make edits to the draft plan based on the comments received, and the final plan will be brought back to City Council for adoption.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ghassan Khankarli, Interim Director of the Department of Transportation, at Ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com.



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