

NCTCOG FACT SHEET

September 2021

QUICK TAKE

What:

A regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan was completed in 2021 to address the steadily increasing number of pedestrian fatalities across North Texas. Endorsed by the Regional Transportation Council in June 2021, the plan serves as a guide for improving pedestrian safety across the 12-county metropolitan area.

Significance:

The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan was prepared through input from the public as well as a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Committee, made up of a diverse group of professionals and experts in the field of pedestrian safety. The plan complements the North Central Texas Council of Governments Metropolitan Transportation Plan and enhances existing goals and policies by placing a greater focus on pedestrian safety. The plan also provides cities and counties a framework to improve pedestrian safety in areas with a high density of crashes involving pedestrians and motor vehicles. Local communities are encouraged to use the regional plan as blueprint to develop their own pedestrian safety plans.

By the Numbers: 80%

The percentage of overall pedestrian fatality crashes that occur in dark lighting conditions.

Pedestrian Plan Provides Blueprint to Make Region Safer for Walkers

Residents throughout the metropolitan planning area rely on a safe, efficient and connected walkable network as a viable option when commuting to jobs or traveling by foot to health facilities, food resources and other essential services. The plan outlines a targeted approach for improving pedestrian safety throughout the region, focusing on areas with high concentrations of reported crashes when determining local safety policies and programming for new projects and programs. Through collaboration with local partners, NCTCOG aims to eliminate all pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries in the metropolitan area by encouraging local agencies to adopt the plan's recommended policies, to implement the plan's actionable items where appropriate and to develop their own local safety plans using the regional plan as a framework.

In a region of almost 8 million residents, active transportation provides significant health, environmental and economic benefits. However, pedestrian safety remains an ongoing concern. In North Texas, between 2014 and 2018, there were more than 7,700 reported pedestrian crashes involving motor vehicles that resulted in 672 fatalities, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. Pedestrians and bicyclists are the most vulnerable of all roadway users. As fatal and serious injuries decline for motorized travel, reported pedestrian crashes have increased significantly over the past decade.



The plan includes a significant goal to eliminate all serious injury and fatal pedestrian crashes across the region by 2050, while balancing the safety and needs of all roadway users. Planning for the region's active transportation network focuses on people of all ages and abilities, to provide direct connections and a high level of comfort for all active users. The pedestrian network is used for a variety of purposes such as traveling to work, school, connections with transit services such as bus stops and rail stations and other local destinations.

Residents and visitors across the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area depend on pedestrian connections to destinations throughout their communities. A public opinion survey, conducted during the development of the plan, indicates that residents regard incomplete sidewalks and areas of no pedestrian infrastructure as the most significant barriers to walking.

The plan identifies areas and roadways targeted for safety improvements, as well as recommended actions involving engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation.

The plan also stresses the network of pedestrian facilities should be complete, direct, safe and comfortable to travel. This can be accomplished by addressing the continuity of the sidewalk network, the streetscape and the physical context in which the sidewalk is located.

Walking is an integral part of the transportation system that contributes to the environment and encourages active behaviors.

Each transportation agency has the responsibility and the opportunity to improve conditions for safe and convenient walking and bicycling, and to further integrate safe and comfortable facilities into the regional and local transportation systems. Meeting the region's pedestrian safety targets requires significant collaboration with State and local agencies and effective outreach to all roadway users, including drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

For more information go to:

<https://www.nctcog.org/pedsafetyplan>



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