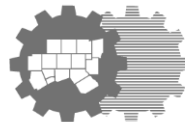




# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND TRANSPORTATION

## Regional Transportation Council Workshop

October 8, 2015



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Agenda

- » Existing Conditions and Previous Initiatives (RTC School Policy)
- » TIGER Grant and the Community Schools and Transportation Program
- » Look Out Texans! Safety Education Campaign
- » Air Quality Initiatives

# North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

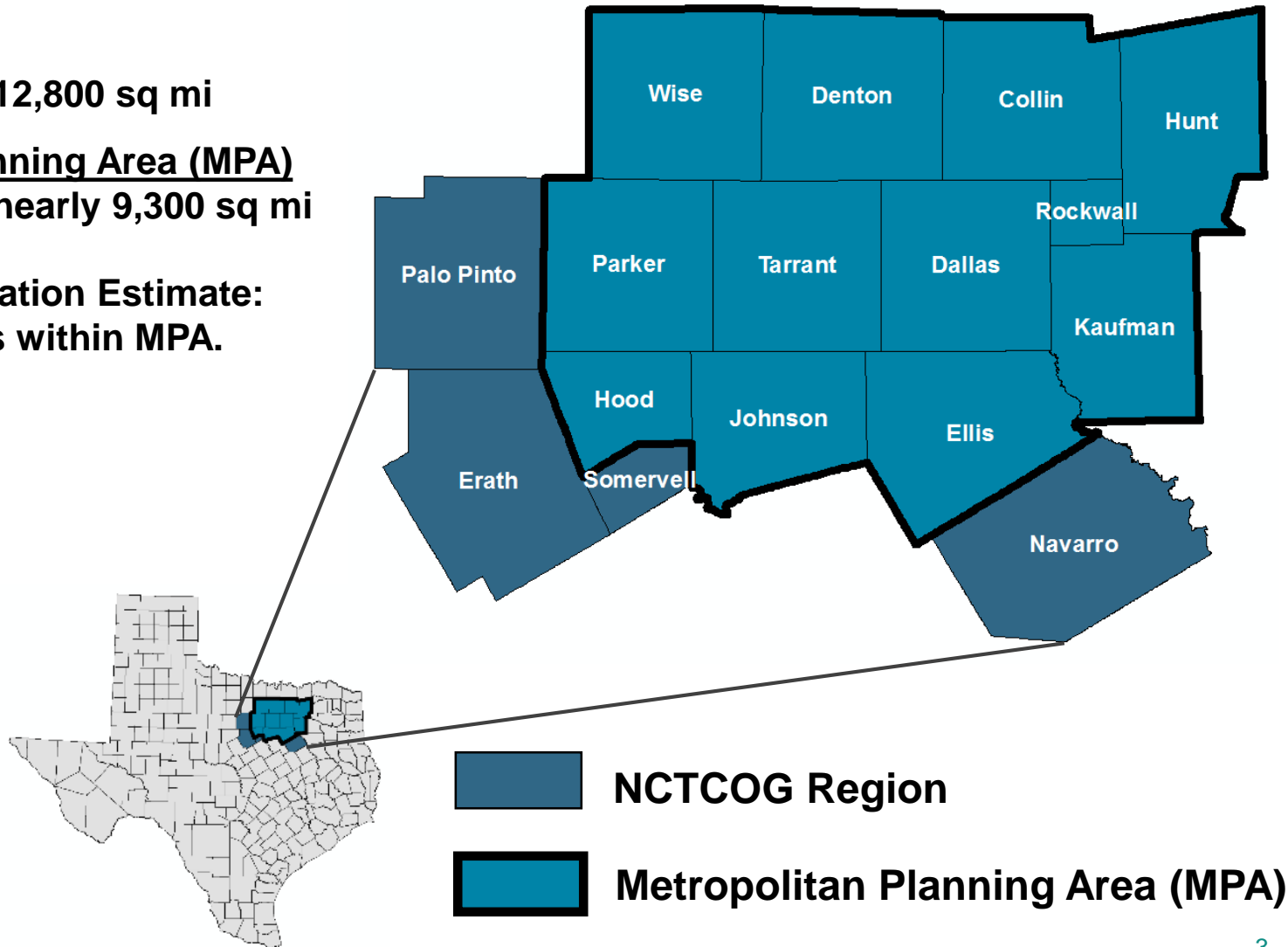
## NCTCOG Region

16 Counties = 12,800 sq mi

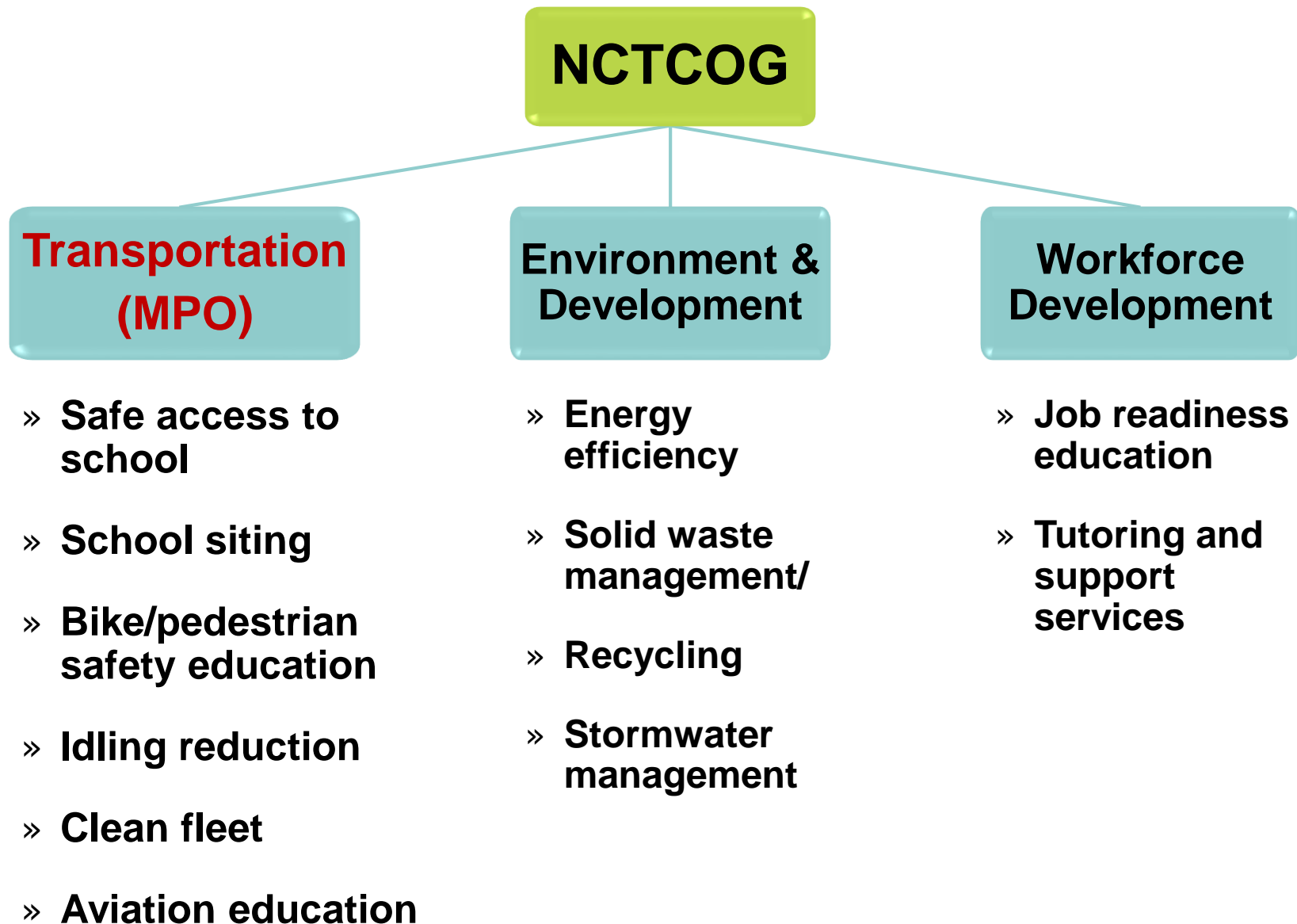
## Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)

12 Counties = nearly 9,300 sq mi

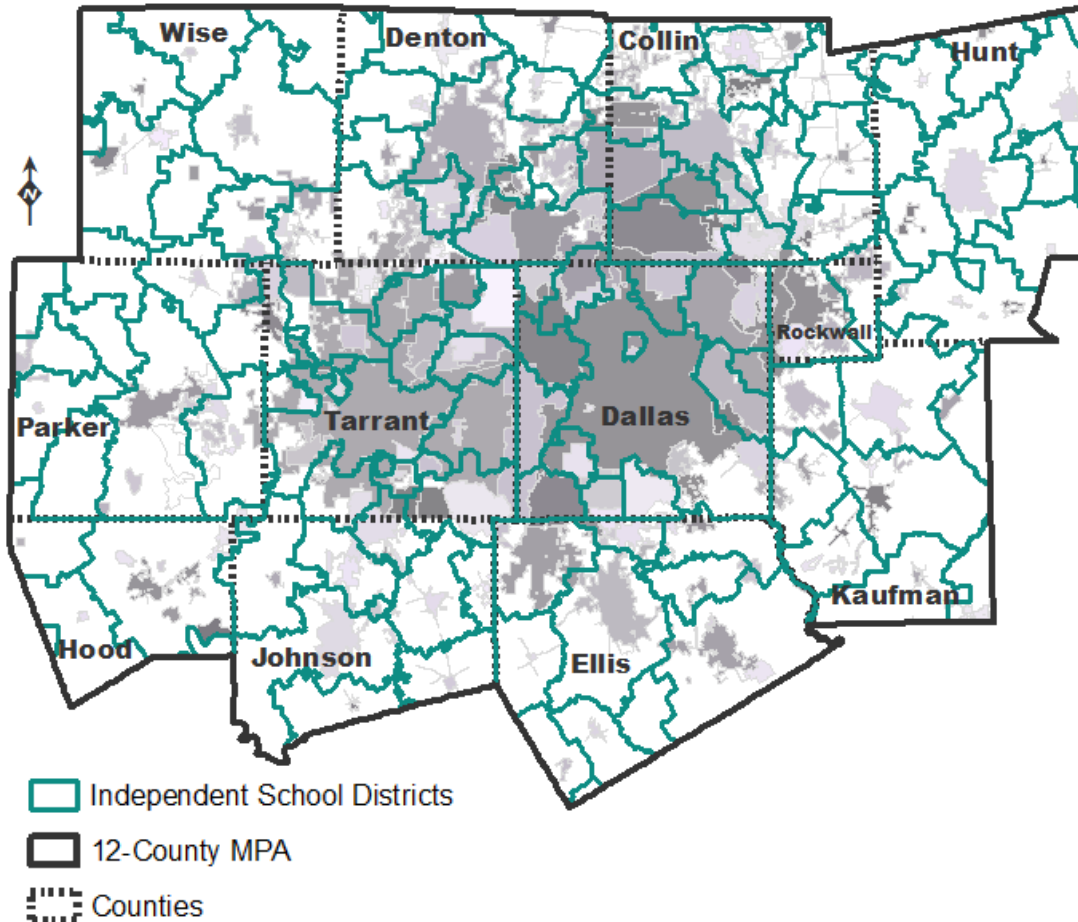
Jan 1, 2015 Population Estimate:  
6,812,020 persons within MPA.



# NCTCOG School-Related Initiatives



# Existing Conditions



- » **12** counties
- » **230** cities
- » **127** Independent School Districts (ISDs)
- » **1,994** public K-12 schools

# Population (12-County MPA)

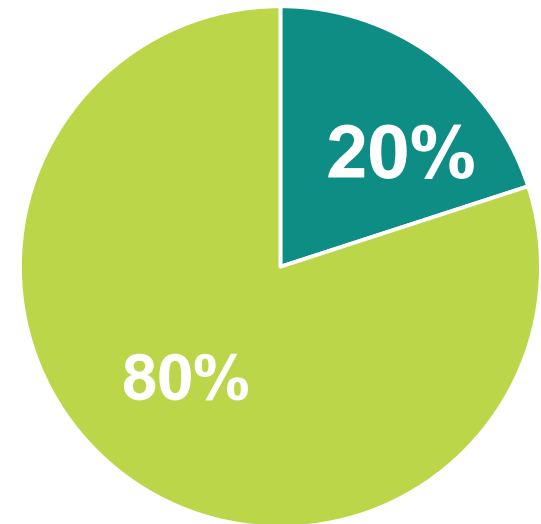
## 2013:

- » Total Population: 6.6 Million
- » **5-17 Age Group: 1.3 Million**

## 2040:

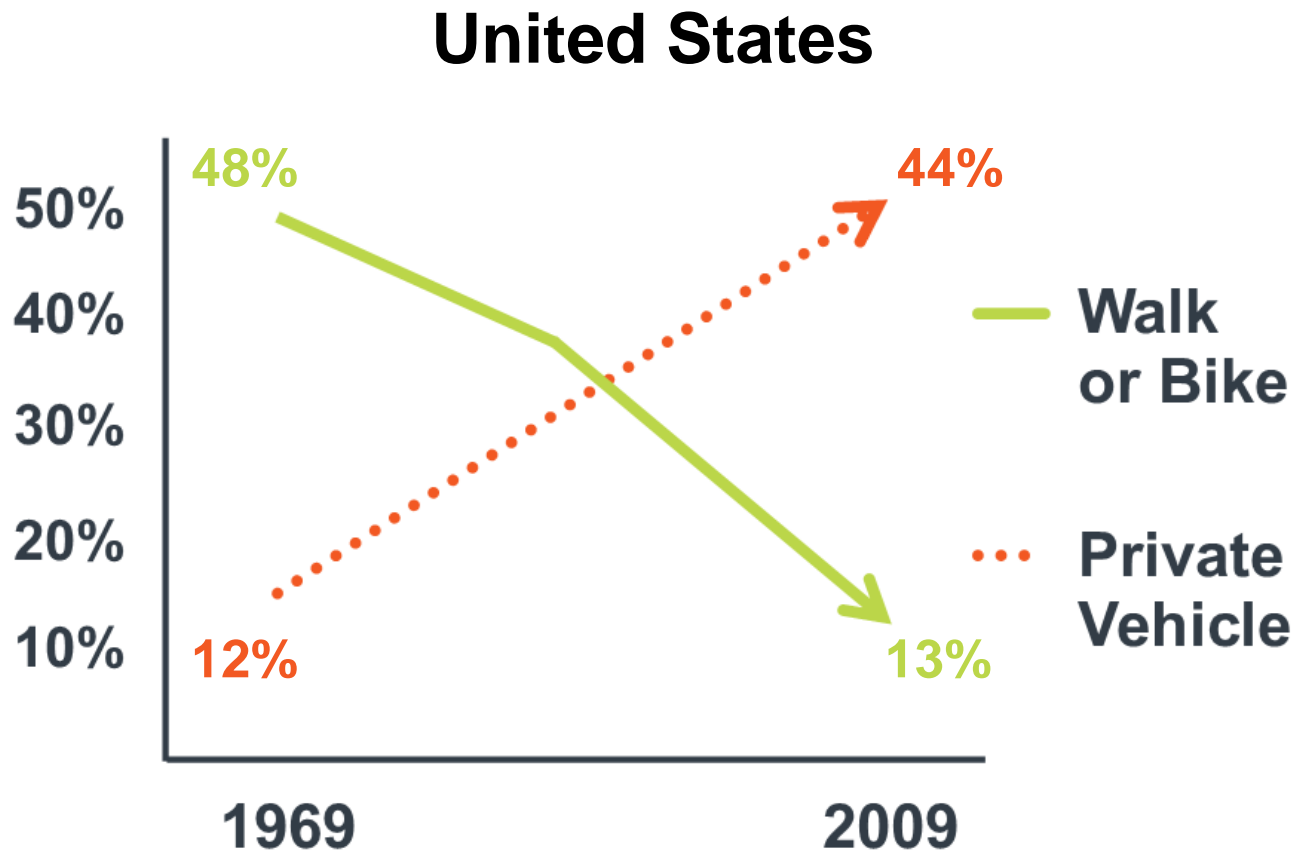
- » Total Population: 10.7 Million
- » **5-17 Age Group: ?**

## 2013 Population



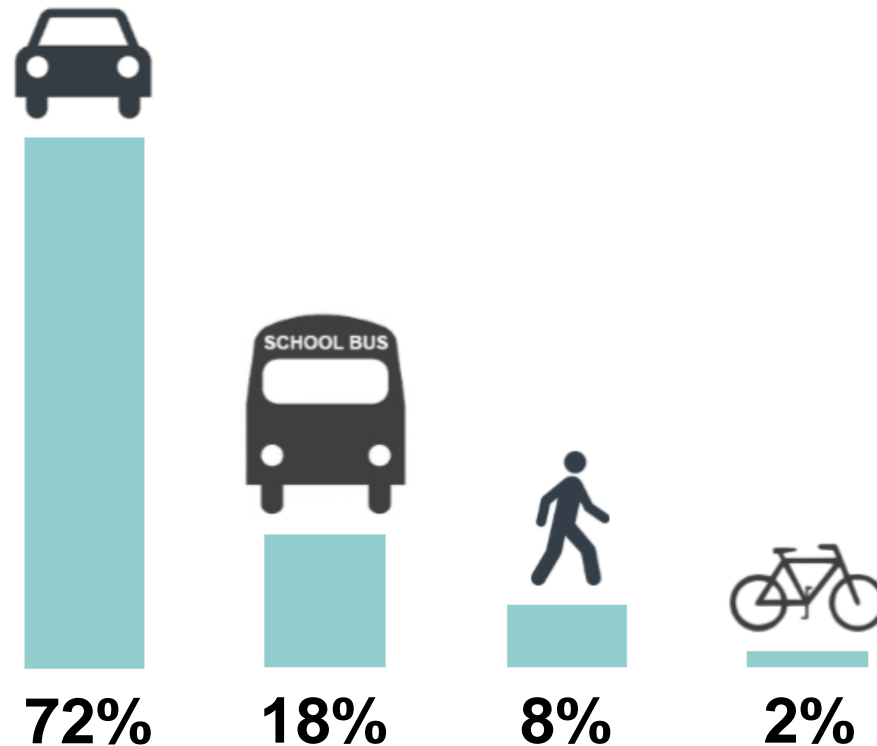
- 5-17 Age Group
- All Other Ages

# Decline in Walking and Bicycling to School



# Decline in Walking and Bicycling to School

## Dallas-Fort Worth Metro Area (2009)





# What Caused the Shift?

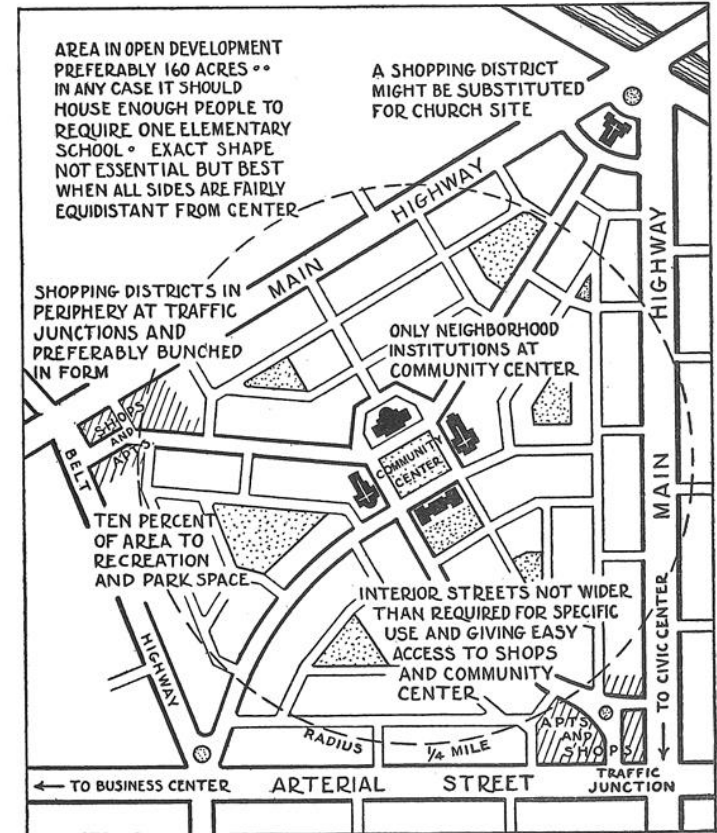


# School Siting: A Generation Ago

- » Small school size
- » Located in community centers
- » Civic landmark
- » Community anchor



Image courtesy of Highland Park ISD



Clarence Perry, *The Neighborhood Unit*, 1929

# School Siting: Today

- » Larger student enrollment (mega-schools up to 4,500 students)
- » Schools located on 10-100+ acres fringe land
- » Limited physical connections to the communities they serve



Greater Distance:

**47 percent** of students in the region live more than two miles from school.



# But It's Not Just Distance

Students living less than one mile who walk or bike to school:

**1969: 89 percent**

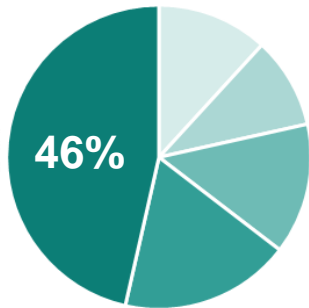
**2009: 35 percent**  
(29 percent, DFW region)



# Greatest Barriers to Walking and Biking to School?

#1

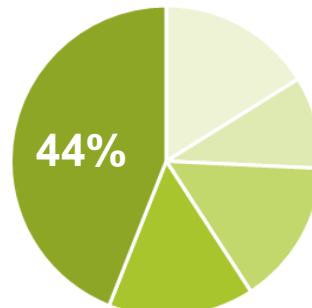
Amount of Traffic



Not an issue  
A serious issue

#2

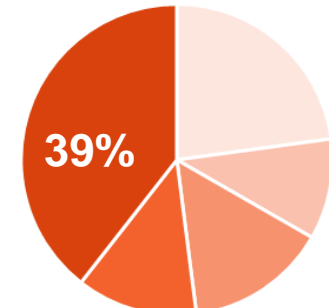
Speed of Traffic



Not an issue  
A serious issue

#3

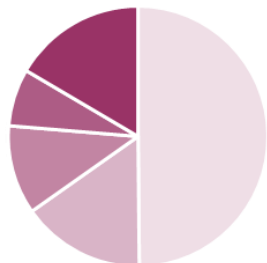
Distance



Not an issue  
A serious issue

#4

Crime



Not an issue  
A serious issue

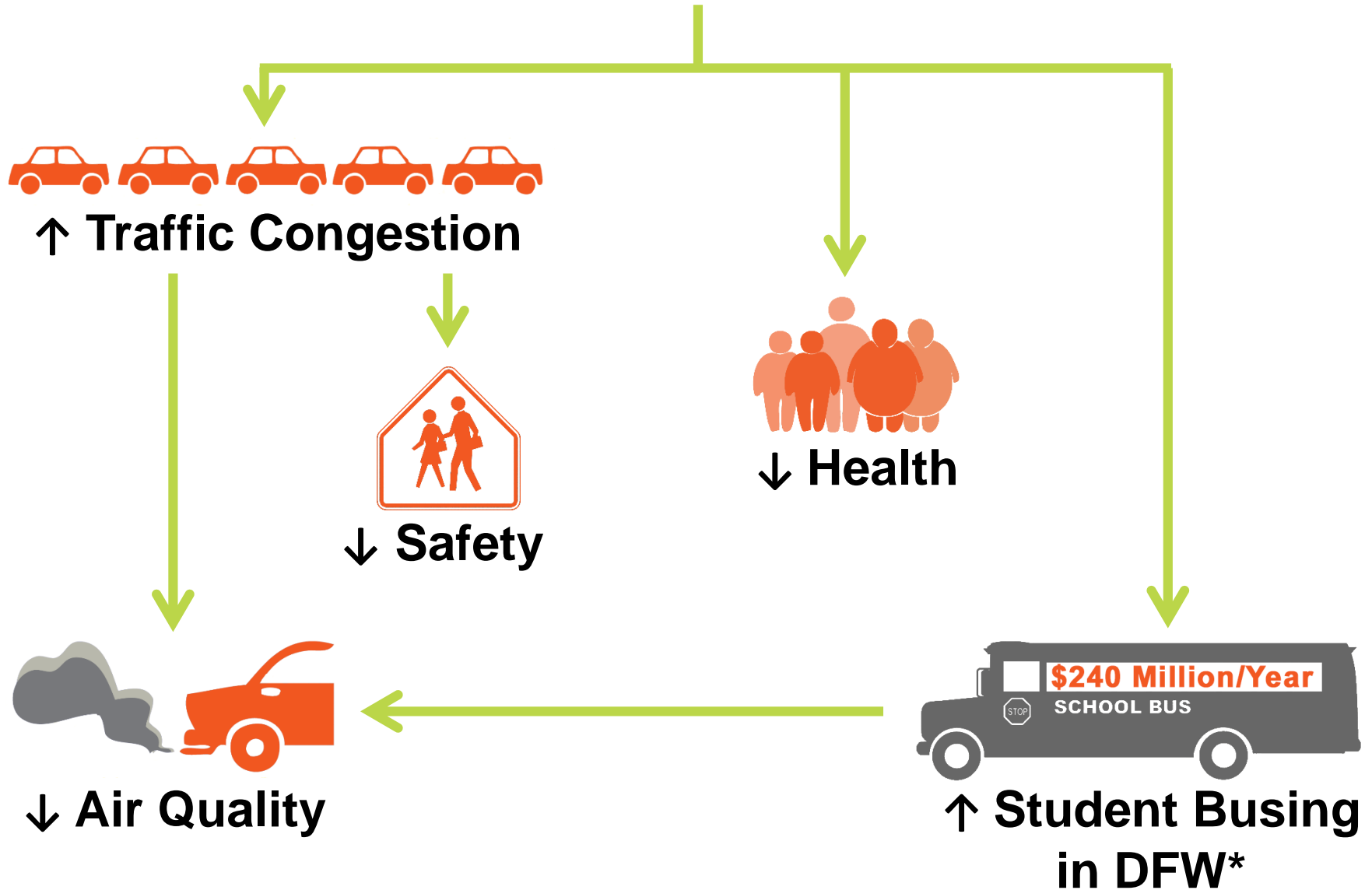
#5

Weather



Not an issue  
A serious issue

# Less Walking and Biking to School



# Traffic Congestion

During morning rush hour, nine months a year, traffic increases an estimated **10-20 percent**.



# Traffic Safety



Motor vehicle traffic crashes are the second leading cause of death for children ages 5-14 years.

Texas leads the nation in child traffic fatalities.



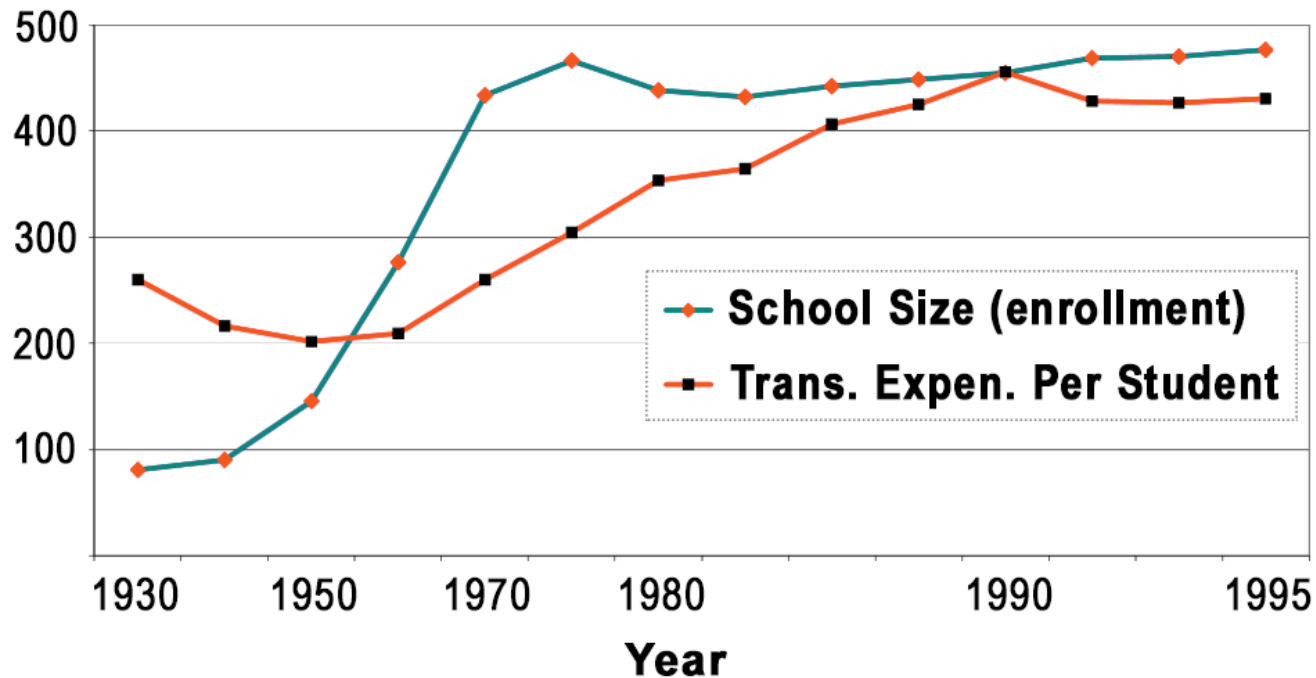


# Student Transportation

“Mega-schools”...

→ Increased distance to school

→ Increased student busing



# What Are the Opportunities?

- » Greater interagency coordination (local governments, ISDs, transit agencies, etc.)
  - » School siting ↔ residential development
  - » Student transportation ↔ public transit
- » Constructing multimodal transportation facilities
- » Educating students on bicycle and pedestrian safety
- » Innovative funding

...To name a few.

# What Are the Potential Benefits?

- » Reduced traffic congestion around schools
- » Improved air quality
- » Improved health
- » Cost savings for schools (reduce need for “hazard” busing)
- » Improved classroom behavior
- » More efficient use of tax dollars
- » Sense of community
- » Economic development

...To name a few.



# RTC School Policy (2013)

## Active Transportation:

Advocate for:

- Safe Routes to School program
- Precious Cargo program
- Transportation Alternatives Program

## Outreach & Engagement:

- Engage students to design the cover of Progress North Texas
- Advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields



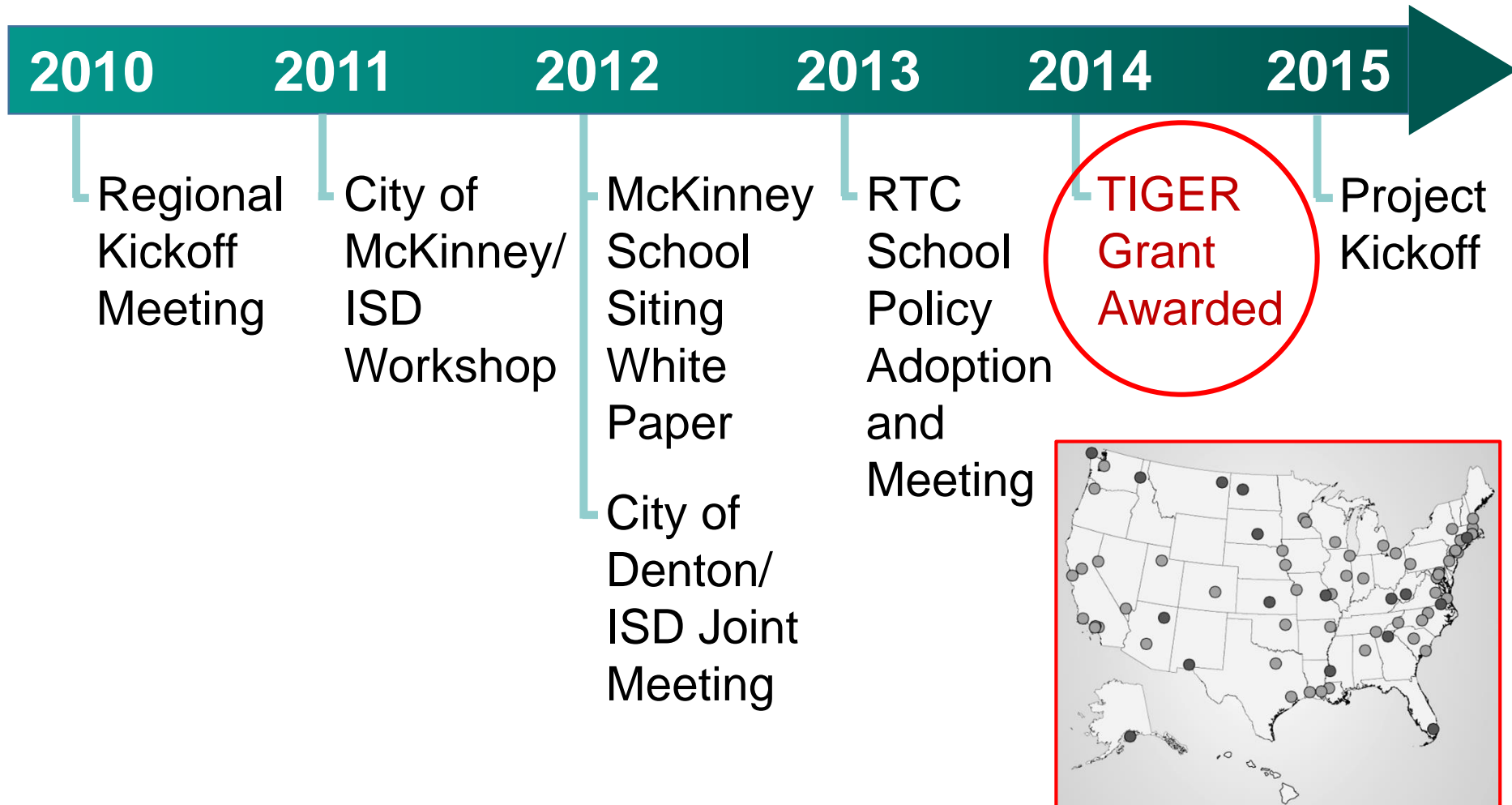
## School Siting:

- Pilot school siting programs
- School bus stop coordination
- Technical assistance for school districts

## Air Quality:

- RTC Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy
- Clean school bus programs
- Energy audit programs
- Vehicle idling-reduction programs
- Air quality-friendly contracting initiatives

# Previous Initiatives



# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

(TIGER Grant)



# Program Goals



Encourage **coordination** between ISDs, local governments, and transportation agencies.



Advance long-term planning for **school siting**.



Improve **transportation safety** near schools.



Promote **multi-modal transportation** options to schools.



# Interagency Coordination

- » Create a Regional **Working Group** of city, ISD and transit agency staff, and other stakeholders.
- » **Coordinate land use planning efforts:** ISD facility planning, city comprehensive plans and Capital Improvement Plans.
- » **Coordinate transportation planning efforts:** school transportation, city thoroughfare planning, and regional transportation planning.
- » Coordinate to **remove policy barriers** to the development of sustainable schools.





# School Siting

- » Review **state and local policies** related to school siting and land banking.
- » Research **land banking programs** and best practices.
- » Coordinate ISD, city and regional **demographic projections**.





# Transportation Safety

- » Conduct **safety audits** at pilot schools sites.
- » Develop **recommendations** for pedestrian and bicycle safety around various schools.
- » Create a bilingual pedestrian and bicycle safety **education program**, and transportation safety information guide.





# Multimodal Transportation

- » Coordinate discussions between **transit agencies and schools** related to bus schedules and routes.
- » Analyze **alternative transportation connections**, and ways to alleviate traffic congestion around pilot schools.



# Next Steps


**Next Two Months:** Survey of existing conditions/needs, and creation of a technical Regional Working Group.

**Next Six Months:** School siting research and technical reports.

## **Longer Term:**

- » Identify and implement pilot planning projects (i.e., safety audits, transportation connections, etc.).
- » Develop a process for ongoing coordination/ collaboration between municipal and ISD elected officials and their staff.

# www.nctcog.org/schools

**NCTCOG**  
North Central Texas Council of Governments

Search NCTCOG [GO](#)

Programs > Topics A-J > Topics K-Z > Departments > Services > About Us

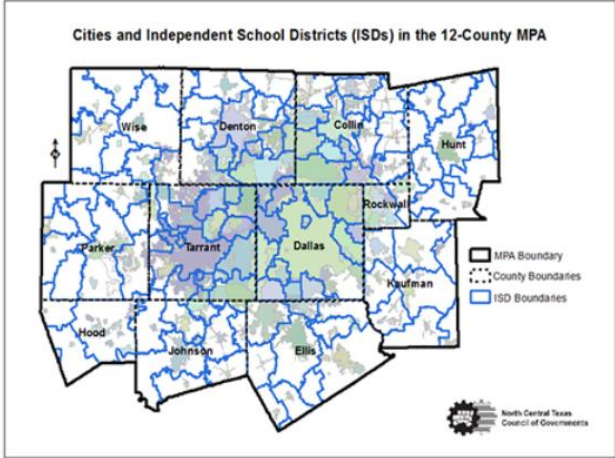
transportation

Home > Transportation > Sustainable Development > Land Use/Transportation Planning  
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[Sustainable Development](#)  
[Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation](#)  
[Sustainable Development Funding Program](#)  
[Transit Oriented Development](#)

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## Community Schools and Transportation



### HOT TOPICS

[Funding Opportunities and Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\)](#)  
  
[Quick Facts](#)  
  
[Meetings and Events](#)

Useful Links			
<a href="#">School Siting</a>	<a href="#">Safety and Access to Schools</a>	<a href="#">Education and Training</a>	<a href="#">Resources and Best Practices</a>

About Sustainable Schools

In 2013, the Regional Transportation Council adopted a Policy Supporting School Districts, encouraging participation in activities and programs such as the Clean School Bus Program, school siting coordination, and programs that advance the safety of children traveling to and from school.

### RESOURCES

[RTC Policy Supporting School Districts](#)  
  
[Technical Assistance](#)



# Contacts

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## **Kathryn Rush**

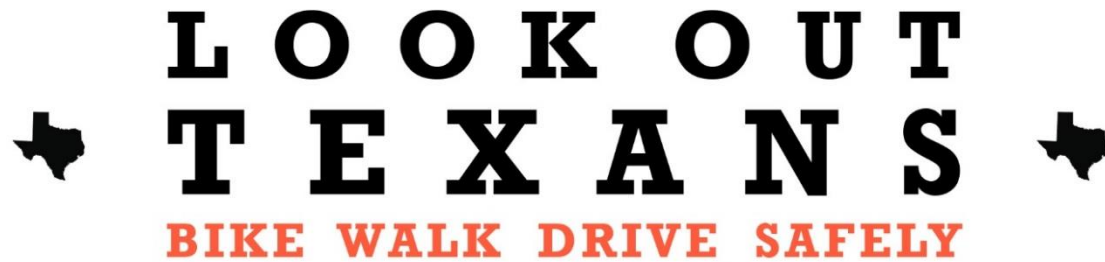
Transportation Planner

(817) 704-5601

[krush@nctcog.org](mailto:krush@nctcog.org)

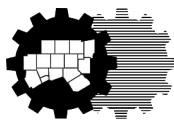


**[www.nctcog.org/schools](http://www.nctcog.org/schools)**



# REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Regional Transportation Council Workshop  
October 8, 2015



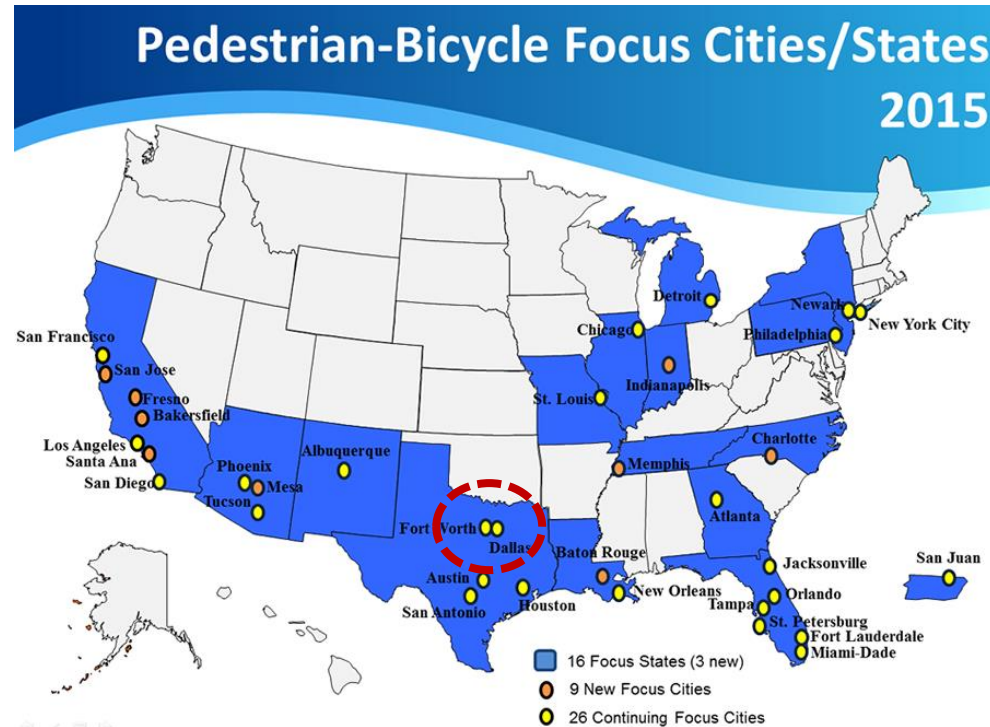
North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

- Dallas and Fort Worth are designated by FHWA as **Pedestrian-Bicycle Safety Focus Cities**
- High rates of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities in our region
- In the past five years:
  - More than **8,000 crashes\*** involving motor vehicles
  - Resulting in over **500 fatalities\***

\*2010-2014

Source: TxDOT Crash Records Information System





# Background



## Transportation Enhancement Grant from TxDOT

**Overall Goal:** Inform, encourage, educate people of various ages, races, and backgrounds of the benefits of multi-modal transportation and to promote a culture of safety around active transportation in the region.



# Audience

**Primary  
Messaging:**

**Bicyclists**



**Pedestrians**



**Motorists**



**Targeted  
Messaging:**

• **School-aged Children**



**University Students**



**Hispanic Population**



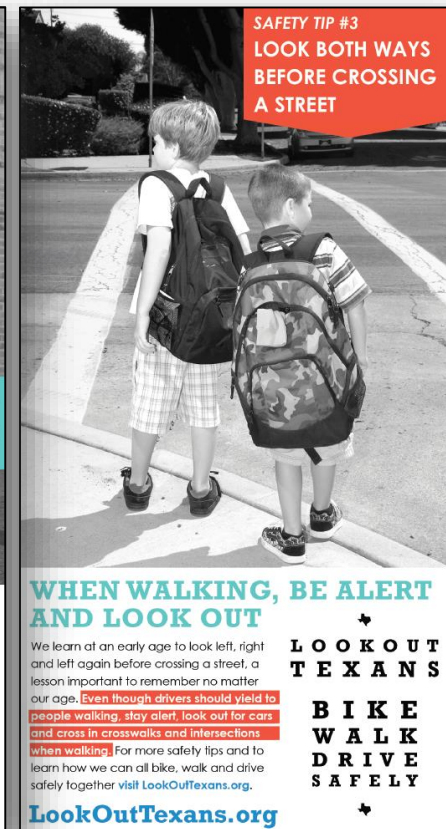
# Twenty-one Safety Tips

- Seven for motorists
  - Seven for pedestrians
  - Seven for bicyclists
- 
- Adapted from safety outreach materials



# Advertisements

- Safety messages for kids and parents
- Bicycle and pedestrian tips for any age group
- Portraits of real North Texans in ads



# School Kits and Outreach

## ☐ School kits for teachers

- TEAKS based
- Modular

## ☐ Community events

### Teacher Focus Group

#### Representatives:

Richardson ISD (2)

Fort Worth ISD (2)

Arlington ISD (2)

Irving ISD (1)

Denton ISD (3)



# LOOK OUT TEXANS

BIKE WALK DRIVE SAFELY

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[www.LookOutTexans.org](http://www.LookOutTexans.org)

