

# CHAPTER 25: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The City of Fort Worth interacts on a formal and informal basis with various entities and agencies to provide quality services to citizens, to reduce costs, and to comply with state and federal regulations. This chapter identifies and describes existing agreements and presents opportunities for additional interaction and coordination.

## BACKGROUND

The City of Fort Worth interacts with other agencies in a formal manner through interlocal agreements, membership and participation in coordinating organizations, participation in regular meetings of governing bodies, joint meetings, workshops, working groups, and special task forces. The City also relates on an informal basis through personal contact by staff and elected officials. The City Council sets intergovernmental policies and executes formal agreements.

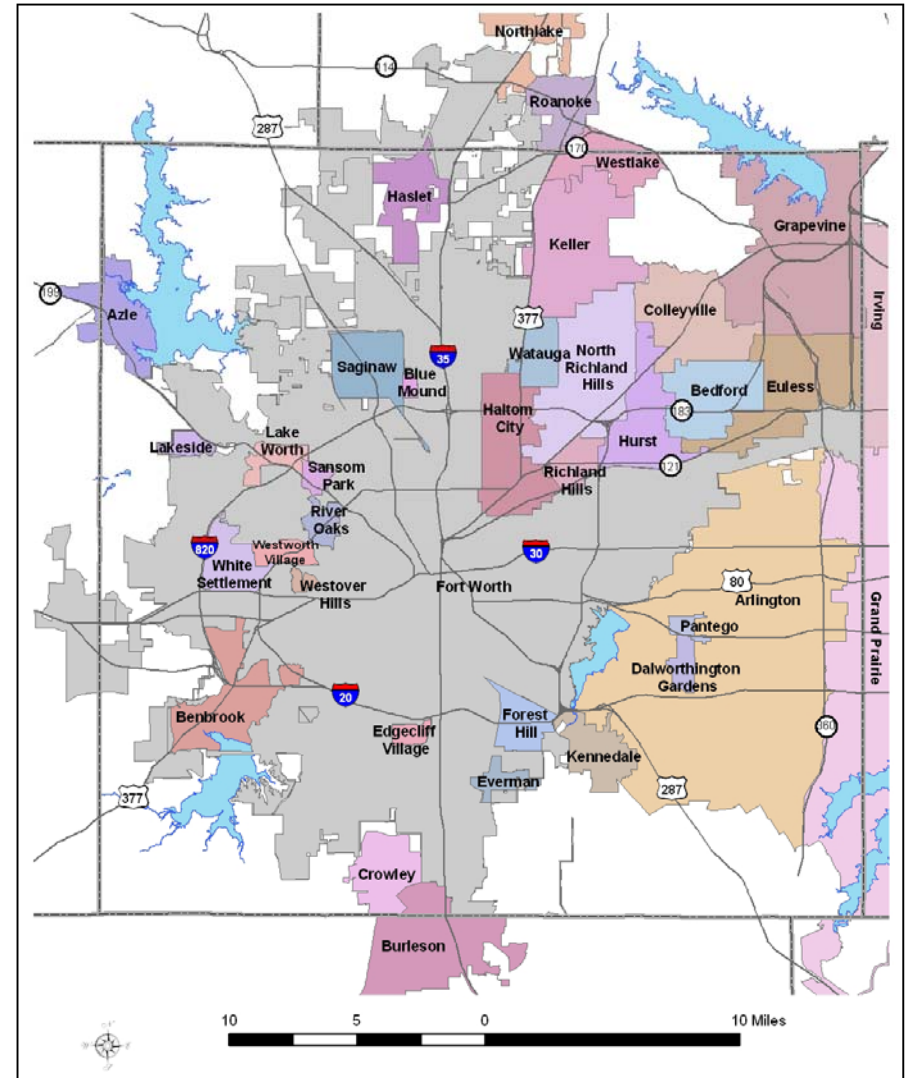
### Partnerships with Surrounding Cities

The City of Fort Worth shares its corporate limits with 28 cities. There are interlocal agreements with many of these cities, including agreements for shared facilities and coordinated provision of services, participation in household hazardous waste collections, and regulations of the Rabies Control Act. Coordinated policies and programs for particular services such as public health, libraries, parks, fire, and police are described in the corresponding chapters. Water and wastewater agreements are listed in Chapter 18: Environmental Quality.

The City of Fort Worth and the City of Dallas are joint owners of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. An 11-member board operates the Airport; the board consists of the Mayor of each city, three members appointed by Fort Worth City Council, and six members appointed by Dallas City Council. The board prepares an budget each year that must be approved by the governing bodies of both cities. Individually, the two cities have executed covenants whereby they can levy a maintenance tax to assure the airport is efficiently operated and maintained. However, neither has implemented the maintenance tax to date. The Board makes agreements with air carriers and other parties that use the airport and sets rental rates and fees to produce adequate revenues.

The Trinity Railway Express commuter rail project was originally a joint venture of the City of Fort Worth and the City of Dallas. Each city owned a 50 percent interest in right of way formerly owned by Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad that joins the two cities. The property was acquired to preserve the freight service until such time that mass transit could be re-introduced in the corridor. The Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation contributed \$31.6 million toward acquisition, and the cities jointly contributed \$2.4 million. A joint project by the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has been implemented to provide commuter rail on the existing track between Dallas and Fort Worth and will eventually connect to the

**Adjacent and Surrounding Cities**



Fort Worth shares its boundaries with 28 cities. The City has various service and facility agreements with these cities and other nearby municipalities. (Source: Planning Department, 2003.)

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. Direct commuter rail service between Dallas and Fort Worth began in December 2001, with the opening of two commuter rail stations in Downtown Fort Worth. The cities of Fort Worth and Dallas have both transferred ownership of the rail corridor property to their respective public transportation providers, the T and DART, who are responsible for implementing the Trinity Railway Express plan of services. Reporting to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the policy-making body of NCTCOG, the Trinity Railway Express Monitoring Subcommittee oversees the implementation of the Trinity Railway Express.

The Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority (AMAA), a coalition of 14 municipalities within Tarrant County (including Burleson, which is also in Johnson County) that participate by contract or interlocal agreement, oversees the administrative aspect of the emergency medical service system. The Authority assures residents within its service area an equal level of medical care by establishing uniform ambulance ordinances and operating procedures. The City registered a trade name, MedStar, for the system so that service contractors can be granted licenses to operate under the same name. MedStar provides emergency and non-emergency services, and is the only ambulance provider within the Authority's jurisdiction. The City's contract with AMAA stipulates that the Fort Worth Fire Department provide the first response to emergencies within Fort Worth city limits. Each jurisdiction has the responsibility of providing first response services within its boundaries. The AMAA Board has policy authority over MedStar. The Board consists of six members, four of whom are appointed by the Fort Worth City Council.

#### **Governmental Entities with Taxing Authority**

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T) oversees public transportation services in its service area, which includes the cities of Fort Worth, Richland Hills, and Blue Mound. The City of Fort Worth and the T have a contract whereby the T provides transportation services to the City based on a services plan that is adopted by the T's Executive Committee. The City Council appoints eight of the Executive Committee members, and the County Commissioners Court appoints one. The Authority is funded by a one-half cent sales tax.

The Tarrant County Hospital District, through the operation of the JPS Health Network, provides health services for county residents and is a primary provider of indigent health care services. JPS consists of John Peter Smith Hospital, Trinity Springs Pavilion for Psychiatric Care, and a network of community-based health centers located throughout the county. The Hospital District Board of Managers, appointed by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, is responsible for appointing the district administrator and overseeing operations of the district. The Commissioners Court sets and approves the ad valorem tax rate that provides partial funding of the Hospital District's operations. The City of Fort Worth transfers associated grant funding and a General Fund subsidy to help support health initiatives previously operated by the City that are now part of the JPS Health Network. The 2004 Tarrant County Hospital District property tax rate was .235 per \$100.

## **Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport**



The official groundbreaking ceremony, held December 11, 1968, for the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, marked the beginning of construction for the "world's biggest airport." Photos of participants and some of the extensive site work are shown above. This project is one of the most successful joint ventures in which the City of Fort Worth has engaged. The airport is currently one of the nation's top three domestic hubs. (Source: *Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, 1999.*)

The Tarrant Regional Water District is the exclusive supplier of raw water for the City of Fort Worth, and also ensures that the county maintains adequate flood control. All Water District revenue from the sale of water is used for water supply projects. Water District property taxes are used for flood control projects. The 2004 Water District tax rate was .020 per \$100.

Fort Worth Independent School District serves 52 percent of the land area in the City of Fort Worth. Fourteen adjoining independent school districts cover the remainder of the city. The independent school districts levy an ad valorem property tax for public education within each district that is collected by the county in which the property lies. Each district is governed by an elected board that has the authority to change the tax rate within the district and sell bonds to finance new facilities. A joint resolution was adopted in March of 1997 by the Fort Worth City Council and the Fort Worth Independent School District that supports the establishment of policy by both entities to promote city/school cooperation. The 2004 FWISD property tax rate was 1.658 per \$100.

Tarrant County levies an ad valorem property tax on property within the county boundaries. The tax is used to fund county services and facilities. The tax rate is adjusted annually based on appraised property values. The 2004 Tarrant County property tax rate was approximately .273 per \$100. Denton and Wise counties also levy an ad valorem property tax on property within their boundaries. The 2004 Denton County property tax rate was .255 per \$100 and for Wise was .332 per \$100.

The Tarrant County College District (TCCD) levies an ad valorem tax on property within the county boundaries. There are two taxes levied by TCCD; one is used for maintenance operations and one is used to retire bond debt. The fiscal year 2004 TCCD rate is .139 per \$100 value, of which .129 per \$100 value is for maintenance operations, and .0106 per \$100 value is to retire debt.

### **Counties**

The City of Fort Worth is located within Tarrant, Denton, Parker and Wise counties. The State of Texas establishes one agency within each county as the appraiser of property values within that county. The Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD), the Denton Central Appraisal District (DCAD), and the Wise County Appraisal District (WiseCAD) provide these services in the respective counties. The appraisal districts maintain records of ownership, applicable taxing entities, and their exemptions. TAD, DCAD, and WiseCAD forward tax roll changes to the City each month for updating. In July of each year, they provide the City with a final roll of taxable property within the City's taxing jurisdiction. City Council sets the tax rate for the fiscal year, beginning October 1, based on this information. City Council can establish ad valorem tax exemption policies within its statutory authority.

Tarrant County Health Department provides some health care services to city residents, such as vaccinations, immunizations, and WIC programs that issue food stamps and nutritional information. In case of an endemic outbreak, the City, County, and State would work together.

### **Fort Worth Transportation Authority Transit Service**



The City of Fort Worth has a contract with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T) whereby the T provides public transportation services throughout the city based on a service plan adopted by the T's Executive Committee. City Council appoints eight of the Executive Committee members. The T uses a one-half cent sales tax to provide bus and commuter rail services. (Source: Fort Worth Transportation Authority, 2001.)

The City works with the Tarrant County Community Development Division on grants and the Fort Worth and Tarrant County Housing Consortium to address affordable housing on a county level. Fort Worth resident housing needs are also addressed through Tarrant County Access to Homeless, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, Tarrant County Disability Housing Coalition, Tarrant County Mental Health/Mental Retardation, and Consumer Credit Community Services. The City of Fort Worth Housing Department works with most of these agencies in addressing housing needs of city residents. Tarrant County has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide fair housing and tenant/landlord services to all residents of Tarrant County.

On June 30, 1999, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman authorized Texas to begin implementing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. WIA requires states to streamline and consolidate their job training systems by creating a "one stop" approach for delivery of services. The Tarrant County Workforce Development Board administers the WIA, which provides grant money for skills training and job placement services.

The City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) includes portions of five counties: Denton, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise. State law determines the responsibilities and jurisdictions allowed by cities within the ETJ — for example, the review of new subdivision plats. Chapter 22: Development Regulations provides a more detailed description of this relationship.

### **Regional Agencies**

The Trinity River Authority provides planning for the Trinity River Basin, constructs dams, and supplies wastewater treatment through contracts with other agencies. The Trinity River serves as a primary water supply to more than half a million people in the upper basin centered around the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area, and an additional 4.8 million people on the upper Gulf Coast of Texas centered around the greater Houston metropolitan area. Twenty counties fall within its boundaries, which extend from the mouth of the Trinity River near Galveston Bay, up to Dallas and Tarrant Counties. Each project undertaken by the Authority has an individual advisory committee. The City of Fort Worth appoints one member to the advisory committee for each pertinent project.

### **Coordinating Agencies**

The NCTCOG is a voluntary association of government entities in a 16-county metropolitan region centered around Fort Worth and Dallas. There are currently 230 governments that are members of the NCTCOG, including 16 counties, 162 cities, 26 school districts, and 26 special districts. Its purpose is to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefits, and coordinating regional development. The City of Fort Worth is a member and pays dues based on population. The City has a permanent seat on the 11-member Executive Board. NCTCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation and air quality in the Fort Worth-Dallas metropolitan area in

## **Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority**



The Area Metropolitan Ambulance Authority (AMAA) oversees the administrative aspect of the emergency medical service system. The Authority is a coalition of 13 municipalities within Tarrant County, including Burleson, which is also in Johnson County, that participate by contract or inter-local agreement. Medstar, the registered trade name for the system, provides emergency and non-emergency services, and is the only ambulance provider within the Authority's jurisdiction. The City's contract with AMAA stipulates that the Fort Worth Fire Department provide the first response to emergencies within Fort Worth city limits. (Source: *City of Fort Worth, 2001.*)

accordance with federal law. NCTCOG is responsible for maintaining a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for all modes of travel for the region, as well as regional air quality programs.

The City is a member of a number of different agencies that coordinate with cities and city leaders in an attempt to address common issues.

- The City of Fort Worth is a member of the North Texas Commission, a regional, independent, nonprofit economic development consortium made up of municipalities, chambers of commerce, and corporations established to develop regional programs to market the North Texas Region on the national and international level. The City pays membership dues and has a position on the Board of Directors.
- The Texas Municipal League consists of all cities in the State of Texas. It provides services, such as lobbying the state legislature, that individual cities do not have the financial resources or political strength to do alone. Professional organizations also participate in committees to provide and share information.
- Collaborative Leadership Council consists of members and representatives of City Council, Fort Worth Independent School District, chambers of commerce, Tarrant County commissioners, United Way of Tarrant County, the T, Fort Worth Housing Authority, the Crime Prevention Resource Center (CPRC), JPS Health Network, Intel Corporation, Thos S. Byrne, Inc., TXU, and the Burnett Foundation. Topics of mutual interest are discussed, and dialogues are opened among the various entities.

### State

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is involved in nearly every aspect of transportation within the state. It administers state and federal funds for transportation projects selected at the regional, state, and federal levels. The majority of the City of Fort Worth is within TxDOT's Fort Worth District. However, the portion of the city that is within Denton County is within TxDOT's Dallas District. The districts are responsible for selecting projects for various funding categories in their local areas.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) was created to administer a comprehensive preservation program under state law. The agency also administers the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It has a 18-member council, which plays an important role in selecting recipients of state grants for preservation projects. Projects in Fort Worth that are federally funded are subject to a historic review process administered by THC under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. THC also consults with citizens and organizations to preserve architectural, archeological, and cultural landmarks, and it sponsors educational conferences. The City of Fort Worth is a Certified Local Government with a Historic Preservation Officer and a Historic Landmark Commission, making it eligible for grants from the THC.

The Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) provides financial, medical, and social services to eligible families, children, elderly people, and people with

## North Central Texas Council of Governments



The NCTCOG purpose is to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefits, and coordinating regional development. It serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation and air quality in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metropolitan area in accordance with Federal law. (Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments, 2001.)

disabilities. Texas Works and the Aged and Disabled Programs are provided to Fort Worth residents through Tarrant County.

The Texas Department of Health records all births, deaths, marriages, and divorces in Texas through its Bureau of Vital Statistics. The Bureau of Vital Statistics also develops, analyzes, and disseminates information used to plan and evaluate public health programs and to identify specific problem areas, such as infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and tobacco use. The Department of Health is also charged by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce asbestos and lead paint removal programs. The City of Fort Worth contracts with it for the removal of asbestos and lead paint identified at sites. In case of an endemic outbreak, the Texas Department of Health would assist. It also inspects summer and institutional programs within the Fort Worth city limits that are not sponsored by the City.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the state's air quality regulatory agency. It is responsible for developing the emission reduction plan for the region. The City of Fort Worth assists the TCEQ with air monitoring and inspects and reports violations. Notices of violation are sent to the violator and to the TCEQ, who decides the type of enforcement that is applicable and what measures should be taken to address the situation. TCEQ and NCTCOG have developed a State Implementation Plan for North Texas to improve air quality in conformance with EPA standards described in the Clean Air Act.

Texas Parks and Wildlife operates 123 state parks and historic sites across Texas. It provides technical and funding assistance to local park programs. There are 25 parks operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife within 100 miles of the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex.

The Texas Department of Economic Development administers economic development programs, including enterprise zones and projects, tourism, and funds for certain job training programs. The City's Economic and Community Development Department works closely with the state on business development and reports annually on the status of enterprise zones and projects; tax abatements in the zone; and local Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs).

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is Texas' lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community development, and community assistance programs, as well as the regulation of the state's manufactured housing industry. The Department directed over \$400 million to affordable housing and community affairs activities in FY 2000, the overwhelming majority of which was derived from mortgage revenue bond financing and refinancing, federal grants, and federal tax credits. The Department is the source agency for several local programs, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program, which serve the low-income residents of Tarrant County.

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services is charged with protecting the rights of children and the rights of adults who are elderly or disabled.

## Trinity River Trails



The Trinity River trails are a good example of coordination among various agencies. Federal transportation funds and City funds pay for the construction of the trails. The City and Tarrant Regional Water District have an agreement that provides for shared responsibility of maintenance and expansion of the greenway system. *Source: Streams and Valleys, 2006.*

The department also licenses group day-care homes, day-care centers, and registered family homes.

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts is one of the largest agencies in state government, and collects state revenue; tracks state expenditures; and monitors the state's financial condition. It serves as the state's chief fiscal officer, bookkeeper, and economic forecaster. It collects 26 state taxes, including sales tax. The Research Division studies and reports on all sectors and geographic regions of the Texas economy. The Economic Development Division provides information about federal and state grant opportunities; distributes data about local economies; and helps businesses find purchasing and training opportunities.

### **Federal**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements major federal environmental legislation. The Clean Air Act (1970 and 1990) established emission standards for both motor vehicles and point source emitters of airborne pollutants, and set pollution control standards that require communities and industries to meet air quality standards. The City of Fort Worth Environmental Management Department assists the EPA with air monitoring, permitting, and enforcement. The Clean Water Act of 1987 established a permitting program and criteria for the discharge of pollutants into the country's waters, including minimum water quality standards. The City has a federal permit to discharge storm water into local water bodies. The City is responsible for inspecting and enforcing the Clean Water Act based on terms of the permit.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) attempts to protect people, property and infrastructure from all types of hazards through comprehensive emergency management programs of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It administers the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 which established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In order for property owners to purchase federally guaranteed flood insurance, a community must adopt and enforce flood plain management ordinances that meet NFIP requirements. FEMA now rewards local governments that make efforts to reduce flood losses through its Community Rating System. If a community receives a good CRS rating, flood insurance rates are lowered for property owners within the community. The City is a participant in the NFIP.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers the Community Development Block Grant program, HOPE VI public housing redevelopment funding, HOME, Empowerment Zone, and other federal programs to assist municipalities with housing and community development. The Fort Worth Housing Authority and the City of Fort Worth receive funding through HUD programs.

The Army Corps of Engineers is the primary enforcement agency for the Rivers and Harbors Act, which regulates all activities affecting the navigable waters of the United States, including activities in wetlands and the construction of bridges, roads and docks. Permits are required from the Corps of Engineers before dredging and

## **Evans and Rosedale Improvements**



The City has been awarded federal grants from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for improvements to the Evans and Rosedale area in Near Southeast Fort Worth. The City also conducted environmental site assessments on property in the area using a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). (Sources: Huit-Zollars, Inc., Planning Department, 2004.)

filling in wetlands around the Trinity River in Fort Worth and Dallas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Endangered Species Act. It establishes the criteria for listing plants and animals as threatened or endangered; issues permits for development sites that are five acres or greater to ensure listed species' habitats are not destroyed during development, and prepares Habitat Conservation Plans for endangered and threatened species. The agency keeps information on a county level.

## STRATEGIES

Each chapter in Parts II, III, and IV of this plan provides goals, objectives, and policies for addressing the existing and future needs of the City of Fort Worth. Many of these provide the opportunity for and will require cooperation among the government agencies that provide services and facilities for Fort Worth residents and businesses. Opportunities for cooperation among government agencies are identified below for those chapters.

### Land Use

- Coordinate development with adjacent cities to ensure compatibility, to address increased traffic, and to ensure efficient provision of services.
- Coordinate with ISDs that serve Fort Worth to ensure that new schools are located in appropriate areas and that anticipated development can be accommodated.
- Coordinate with FEMA and Tarrant Regional Water District on issues regarding the Trinity River Corridor.
- Support the initiatives of the NCTCOG Center for Development Excellence.

### Housing

- Coordinate services with Tarrant County and the state to ensure that City residents have access to county and state programs and services.
- Continue to work with other cities, the private sector, the Fort Worth Housing Authority, and other public agencies to diversify regional housing options, alleviate concentrations of poverty, and help address the affordable housing needs of Fort Worth.
- Work with local school districts to encourage the construction of new schools in locations that are compatible with nearby housing and that are centers for community building in neighborhoods.

### Parks and Community Services

- Work with adjacent cities, counties, and the NCTCOG to complete 250 miles of regional trails.
- Coordinate with Streams and Valleys, Inc., the Tarrant Regional Water District and the Army Corps of Engineers to implement *Trinity River Vision* recommendations.
- Work with the Tarrant Regional Water District to preserve the Trinity River

## Public Outreach Libraries



The facilities for Butler Outreach Library (BOLD) and Cavile Outreach Opportunity Library (COOL) are provided by the Fort Worth Housing Authority, while the Fort Worth Public Library provides the materials, programs, and staff. (Source: *Public Library*, 2001.)

Corridor as park and open space.

- Work with NCTCOG to implement the *1999 Fort Worth City Blueprint for Bicycling*.
- Coordinate with the Texas Historical Commission to identify and preserve archeological and cultural landmarks.
- Continue working with Texas Parks and Wildlife to ensure a quality park system and to receive funding assistance.
- Coordinate with ISDs that serve Fort Worth to take advantage of opportunities for shared facilities and joint programs.

**Libraries**

- Continue coordinating with adjacent cities to ensure that citizens on the periphery of the city are provided with convenient library services.
- Continue working with ISDs to provide educational programs that meet the needs of the community.
- Work with ISDs to determine the possibility of sharing library facilities.
- Maintain agreement with the Fort Worth Housing Authority for use of facilities as satellite libraries and determine additional opportunities for providing library services in areas with special needs.
- Maintain agreement with Benbrook, Burleson, Haltom City, Keller, Richland Hills, and Watauga (Metropac) by which residents of the seven (7) cities may use their library card from the city in which they reside in any of the public libraries without charge.

**Economic Development**

- Continue to use federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Economic Development Initiative (EDI), and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds for local economic development activities.
- Continue to work with the Texas Department of Economic Development to provide state and local incentives within state-designated empowerment zones.
- Use federal brownfields programs to assist in central city revitalization and environmental cleanup.
- Monitor other federal and state economic development initiatives, including grant programs, in which the City may be eligible to participate.
- Work with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority to improve transportation access to employment centers.
- Continue to work with the Chambers of Commerce, North Texas Commission, and the state to market Fort Worth to business prospects.
- Coordinate with adjacent municipalities in the effort to revitalize shared commercial corridors.
- Continue to work with redevelopment organizations, such as Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., Historic Camp Bowie, Fort Worth South, Southeast Fort Worth, Inc., and community development corporations in their efforts to expedite central city revitalization.

**City and ISD Shared Facilities**

Park/School Site	Shared Facility
Daggett Park	Includes a play field that City leases from FWISD and parking lot built by the City.
Diamond Hill High School	City built 4 tennis courts on land leased from FWISD.
Eastern Hills High School	City built 4 tennis courts and a play area on land leased from FWISD.
Morningside Middle School	City built and maintains park facilities on land leased from FWISD.
Ridglea Hills	City built and maintains a tennis court on land leased from FWISD.
O. D. Wyatt School	City built 6 tennis courts which are maintained by FWISD.
Southwest Park and Community Center	Portion of park facilities and parking areas on land leased from FWISD.
Atwood McDonald Elementary School	Parks Department installed and maintains play equipment donated by the school's Parent Teacher Organization. Site is adjacent to Sunset Hills Park.
Thomas Place	City leases land and a building from FWISD for a small community center.
Van Zandt-Guinn	Portion of park facilities built on land leased from FWISD.
Westwind Parks	Portion of park facilities built on land leased from FWISD.
Seminary Hills Park	FWISD leases land from City for use as elementary school/park site, and provides for joint use of site as school and neighborhood park.
Summerfield Northwest Park	Joint development agreement with the Keller ISD.

The 13 agreements listed above are examples of cooperation between the City and the Independent School Districts (ISDs), including Fort Worth ISD and Keller ISD. The agreements provide for shared facilities and maintenance and allow for the efficient provision of services and facilities. (Source: *Parks and Community Services Department, 2001.*)

### **Transportation**

- Develop and implement an Intelligent Transportation System Plan for Fort Worth, in coordination with TxDOT, NCTCOG, and other Metroplex cities.
- Continue to work with the T and NCTCOG on commuter rail, bicycle, and pedestrian studies.
- Coordinate with adjacent cities and the NCTCOG so that increased traffic demands on the shared street system can be accommodated.
- Coordinate with adjacent cities and counties to ensure that new streets in subdivisions align with existing streets and that medians and curb cuts are properly spaced on major arterials and state highways.
- Coordinate with ISDs to establish children's school routes and to expand the City's School Safety Program.
- Coordinate with the NCTCOG to implement the *1999 Fort Worth City Blueprint for Bicycling*.
- Work with NCTCOG and Metroplex cities in the implementation of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's plan to reduce mobile source emissions, and comply with Clean Air Act regulations.
- Continue to coordinate with Dallas Area Rapid Transit, the T, the City of Dallas, and NCTCOG to implement and expand the Trinity Railway Express commuter rail project. Transportation modes will need to be coordinated so that links can be established between the different modes.
- Coordinate with NCTCOG on the long-range planning, funding, and construction of certain street improvements and traffic management systems.
- Work with the T to accommodate the routes and schedules of persons entering the work force after coming off public assistance.
- Ensure collaboration among City departments, the T, and the community to address issues concerning coordination between the various transportation modes.
- Develop a Mobility and Air Quality (MAQ) Plan in coordination with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority.

### **Education**

- Work with Independent School Districts (ISDs) to discover opportunities for shared library facilities and to continue providing educational programs at Fort Worth Public Library facilities.
- Continue working with ISDs to take advantage of opportunities for shared park and recreation facilities.
- Collaborate with ISDs to acquire grant funds to provide youth programs.
- Promote collaboration among City Council and school board members to provide the best possible education opportunities for Fort Worth youth.
- Continue to work with the ISDs to encourage individuals and groups to improve the quality of children's lives through such initiatives as Vital Link and Adopt-a-School.
- Continue working with local universities to coordinate redevelopment efforts.

### **Trinity Railway Express Commuter Train**



The Trinity Railway Express commuter rail project is a joint venture between the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Commuter rail service between the two cities began in December 2001, with the opening of two downtown commuter stations in Fort Worth. (Source: Planning Department, 2001.)

### **Historic Preservation**

- Work with Fort Worth ISD to preserve historic schools and sites.
- Continue working with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to nominate structures and districts for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to secure funding for historic preservation projects.
- Work with local nonprofit organizations to utilize the Receivership option for historic properties in the Texas Local Government Code.
- Work with other Texas communities, the Texas Historical Commission and Preservation Texas Building Industry Council to provide preservation-training programs to municipal code enforcement officials.
- Work with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to encourage its award of federal transportation enhancement funds to historic preservation projects.
- Work with both public and independent school systems to develop curricula related to Fort Worth's history and the reasons for historic preservation.
- Encourage property owners to nominate eligible properties for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Identify, in concert with nonprofit organizations, significant sites that no longer qualify for historic landmark designation but, based on the memories of such an area, are recognized as historically important.
- Work with the Fort Worth ISD School Board toward the local designation of its historic neighborhood schools and the determination of their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Explore the creation of a façade rehabilitation loan program and/or a revolving loan fund to be administered by either the City or some other appropriate entity.

### **Urban Design**

- Coordinate with NCTCOG to implement the *1999 Fort Worth City Blueprint for Bicycling* and to complete a pedestrian plan for the City of Fort Worth.
- Coordinate with Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., the U.S. General Services Administration, and the T to create a transit plaza at Hyde Park.

### **Arts and Culture**

- Coordinate with the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County to implement a public art program, prepare a Cultural Plan, and expand the Neighborhood Arts Program.

### **Police Services**

- Continue agreements between the City and the Independent School Districts that serve Fort Worth concerning the joint funding of police officers in schools.
- Work with Tarrant County College to provide training for police officers and civilian support staff.

### **Fire and Emergency Services**

- Coordinate training programs with Tarrant County College to improve professional development opportunities for City staff, as well as the training of recruits.
- Continue working with Tarrant County to acquire grant funds to purchase

**Flatiron Building**



The landmark Flatiron Building, located in Downtown Fort Worth, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service (NPS), with the assistance of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), lists buildings and sites of local, state, and national significance in the National Register of Historic Places. National Register designation is an example of local, state, and federal cooperation. Properties listed in the National Register are eligible for consideration for financial incentives from the Texas Historical Commission. (Source: Planning Department, 2001.)

equipment and provide personnel training to combat terrorism.

- Continue coordination and planning of disaster assistance and relief with adjacent cities, Tarrant County, FEMA, American Red Cross, and other appropriate state and federal agencies.
- Continue working with ISDs to provide fire prevention educational programs for students.

### **Environmental Quality**

- Continue working with the EPA, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, NCTCOG, and other cities and counties in the Metroplex to develop programs and initiatives that reduce ozone-forming air emissions and bring the Metroplex into compliance with the Clean Air Act.
- Work with ISDs that serve Fort Worth to develop a storm water/wastewater curriculum to educate students on the importance of maintaining water quality.
- Work with FEMA, the Tarrant County Water Control District, and the Army Corps of Engineers to increase the capacity of the existing drainage system to reduce flooding.
- Work with surrounding cities, counties, and Tarrant Regional Water District to prepare a study that would consider overall effects of development on watersheds.
- Work with surrounding cities and counties to prevent pollutants in areas of new development and/or extensive redevelopment from entering water bodies through stormwater runoff.
- Work with the Tarrant Regional Water District to obtain future raw water rights along the Sulfur River.
- Develop a strategy for regional mass public transportation by working with NCTCOG, the T, and other cities in the Metroplex to provide efficient and integrated light rail, bus, and commuter rail services throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth region.
- Work with adjacent cities and counties to encourage the development of industries with minimal air emissions within the Metroplex in order to meet strict federal emissions standards while encouraging economic growth.
- Establish environmental education programs through coordination between NCTCOG and the City of Fort Worth's Environmental Management Department. Use redevelopment incentives provided through the EPA's Brownfields Initiative to stimulate the reuse of formerly contaminated sites within the central city.

### **Public Health**

- Continue working with ISDs and Tarrant County Health Department to ensure that student health needs are met and to provide educational programs for teens.
- Coordinate with the Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Human Services, and Tarrant County Health Department to create and maintain a vital statistics database that can be shared with health service providers.
- Encourage public health agencies to jointly create a means of distributing information to clients that clearly defines the programs that are offered.