



# T MASTER PLAN 2015



## STATE OF THE SYSTEM REPORT

Introduction

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**N** NELSON  
NYGAARD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:  
AJM CONSULTING  
PUBLIC INFORMATION ASSOCIATES  
PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF





## INTRODUCTION

Tarrant County has changed significantly in the past decade, both economically and demographically. The county has grown significantly and will only continue to grow: between 2000 and 2013, Fort Worth grew by 42% and ranked as the fastest-growing city in the U.S. among cities with a population of more than 500,000. By 2040, Tarrant County's population is projected to increase by another 40%, reaching 2.5 million residents. At the same time, transit services have not kept up with the fast pace of growth in Tarrant County. Community leaders have recognized the importance of strengthening alternative modes of transportation as a strategy to continue to meet local mobility and accessibility needs.

The T Master Plan is the vision for transit in Tarrant County and beyond. The plan will recommend the actions needed for The T to provide great transit service over the next 20 years, with a particular focus on what can be accomplished in the next five years. The T Master Plan will look at the transit service that exists today, identify the opportunities to expand transit service to meet the growing needs of the region, and determine how to make it all happen. Ultimately, the plan will provide a blueprint for transit projects and policies that will make the growing region a better place to live and do business.

The first step of the T Master Plan process was to assess the state of the existing transit system. This State of the System Report provides an overview of existing transit services and an evaluation of how well these services match transit demand in Tarrant County both today and 20 years in the future. Based on those findings, this report presents the key issues facing The T and serves as a starting point for the development of strategies and recommendations that will inform the final T Master Plan.

This report is comprised of:

- **Overview of Existing Services.** An overview of The T's current services and operating characteristics. A careful review of the existing transit services is one piece of understanding where transit in Tarrant County needs to change and will inform the vision for improving services.
- **Market Analysis.** An analysis of the underlying demand for transit throughout Tarrant County, at present and in 2035, based on population, employment, and demographic data as well as regional travel patterns
- **Peer Review.** A comparison of the transit service, spending, ridership, and other characteristics of the transit system in Fort Worth and Tarrant County compared to similar areas across the country.
- **Assessment of the Existing System.** An assessment of The T's existing system in light of current performance, transit demand, and feedback from stakeholders and members of the community. The assessment identifies key issues that The T Master Plan will need to directly address through specific strategies based on the local operating environment and national best practices.