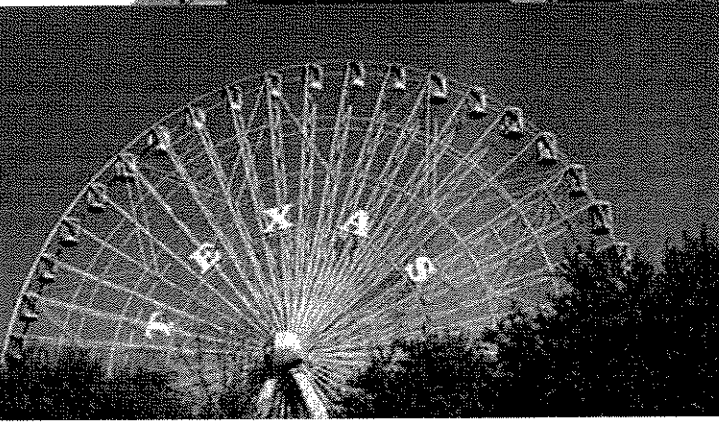
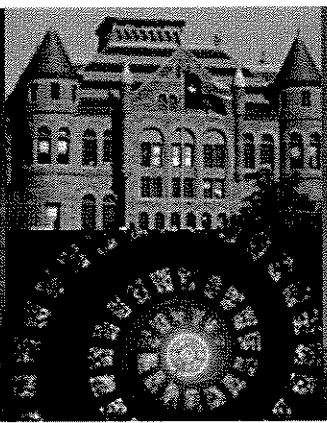
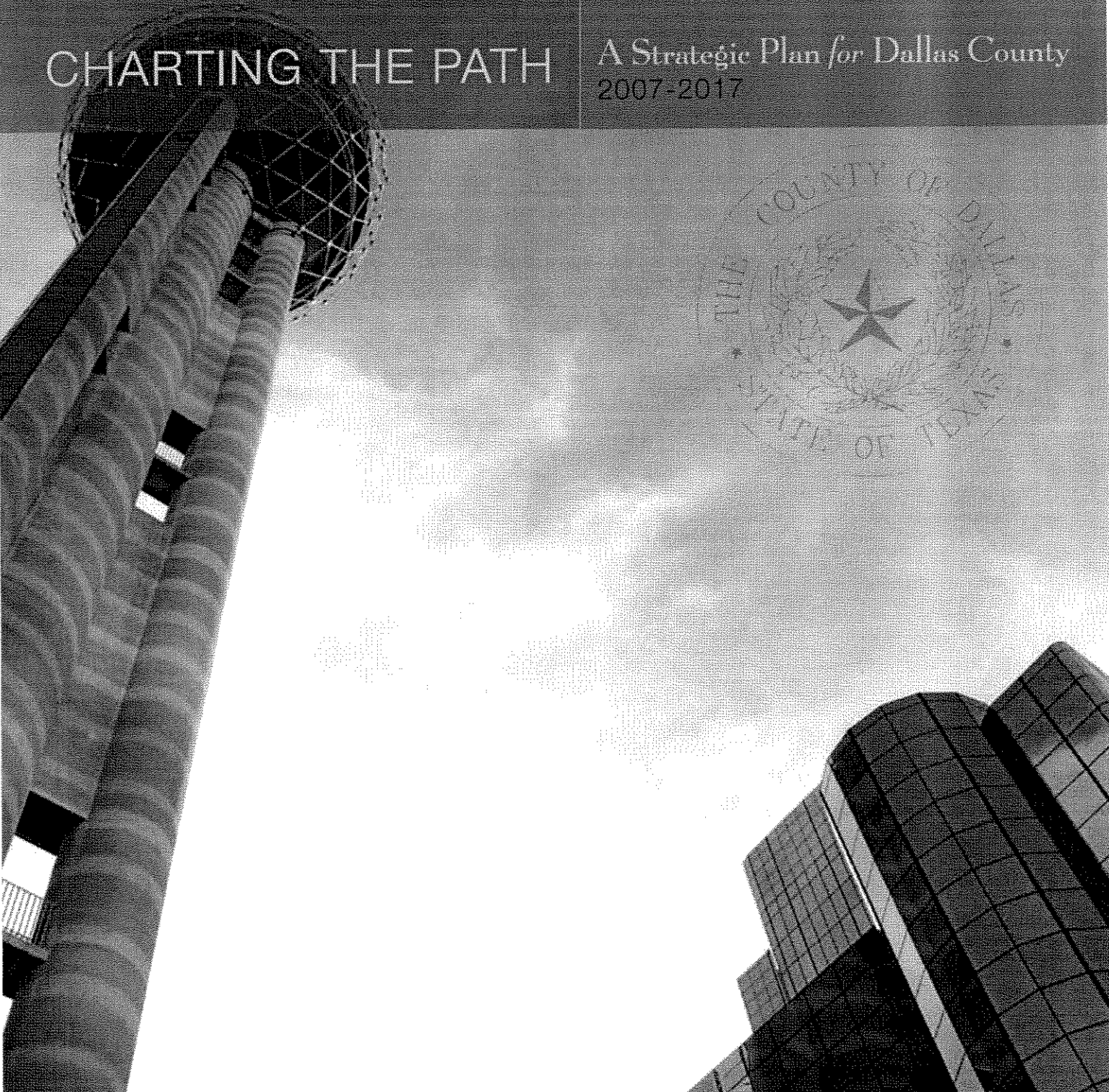
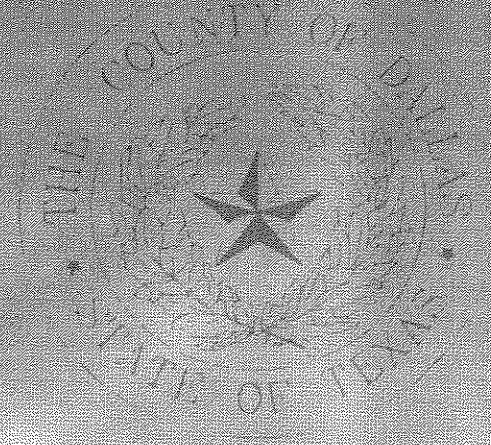
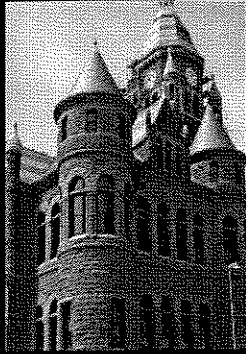


CHARTING THE PATH

A Strategic Plan for Dallas County
2007-2017





CHARTING THE PATH MAJOR ELEMENTS OF DALLAS COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2017

The strategic plan for Dallas County establishes five goals---visions---that the County will pursue over the next ten years. These visions and the strategies by which they can be implemented are as follows:

Vision 1: Dallas County is a model interagency partner.

Strategies: *Commissioners Court provides leadership and establishes a vision for Dallas County.*

Elected officials reach consensus on roles, responsibilities, and functions of Dallas County government.

Vision 2: Dallas County is a healthy community.

Strategies: *Provide disease prevention, health promotion, and human service programs to County residents.*

Network with County cities and regional partners to increase operational efficiency.

Support a regional indigent medical and mental healthcare network.

Vision 3: Dallas County is safe, secure, and prepared.

Strategies: *Synergize public safety programs and services across the County.*

Coordinate programs and systems to reduce crime.

Implement a county-wide emergency response plan.

Maximize effectiveness of County's criminal justice resources.

Vision 4: Dallas County proactively addresses critical regional issues.

Strategies: *Implement programs and conduct activities to address Dallas County air quality.*

Implement programs and conduct services to address Dallas County transportation.

Vision 5: Dallas County is the destination of choice for residents and businesses.

Strategies: *Improve/maintain Dallas County as a driver of economic development.*

Partner with cities, local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations to conduct a coordinated economic development plan.

Coordinate/undertake programs and services to improve Dallas County quality of life.

As the County implements these visions and strategies, its role will be, depending upon the vision/strategy, either that of:



- A **Traditional Service Provider** whereby the County ensures the maintenance and delivery of services to its stakeholders;
- A **Leader** whereby the County assumes a pro-active leadership position on key issues which affect the North Central Texas region;
- A **Convener** whereby the County facilitates discussions with cities, community groups, state government, and other counties and entities on key issues; and/or
- An **Architect** whereby the County conducts innovative activities which distinguish the County and the region.

A number of activities related to each vision have been identified. The implementation of these activities will serve as an "indicator" that the County is pursuing the visions contained in this plan.

Vision 1 Indicators

- Clearly define and develop consensus on the roles and responsibilities of the Commissioners Court.
- Publish an annual report on the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Prioritize mission-critical, statutory, and mandated programs and services.
- Represent County on state, regional, and local committees.
- Adopt clear, concise, and unified mission statement.
- Achieve consensus with stakeholders on the roles and responsibilities of the County.
- Clearly articulate County's role and responsibilities to the public.
- Use operational procedures to manage the Commissioners Court's meetings and external dialogue.
- Assess and stream-line County workforce for efficiency and operation.
- Develop a ten-year forecast that identifies revenue threats and opportunities.
- Adopt customer-friendly rules and policies.
- Provide mission-critical programs and services to public.
- Synchronize and align data collection and storage procedures across County governmental entities.
- Increase e-business capacity across County offices and departments.
- Use innovation and modified procedures to increase accuracy and efficiency in the billing and collection of County fees, fines, and taxes.
- Maintain County facilities and information systems.
- Implement incentive-based compensation plan to motivate and reward employee performance and loyalty.

Vision 2 Indicators

- Benchmark County public health indicators against similarly-sized metropolitan areas.
- Map communicable disease morbidity for use in operation of prevention and treatment programs.
- Assess child and adult public health care programs in highly-impacted areas.
- Develop consensus among community for clear definition of "public health."
- Assess current and future public health issues/trends which impact disease trends and develop a response plan.
- Promote healthy living and wellness programs across the County.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate or consolidate public health programs with cities, community organizations, and governmental entities.
- Establish partnerships with community organizations and governmental entities to identify critical health issues and to develop a region-specific action plan.
- Map community-based health resources with needs and identify gaps in service delivery and utilization.
- Convene community organizations, cities, and other partners to develop a regional health plan.
- Work with Parkland Hospital to maximize the use of its facilities and resources.
- Convene local and regional partners to implement key items of the Parkland Blue Ribbon Commission.

Vision 3 Indicators

- Develop common definition of “public safety.”
- Identify a public safety champion for Dallas County.
- Synchronize data collection systems and processes across local governmental entities and departments.
- Develop a coordinated and aligned public safety plan for Dallas County.
- Eliminate “silos” that cause communication and collaboration barriers for public safety.
- Facilitate public engagement and hold a conference of cities to discuss public safety issues and strategies.
- Benchmark Dallas County crime statistics with similarly-sized metropolitan areas.
- Assess capacity of the County jail and regional partners to provide alternative sentencing options.
- Align crime prevention and prosecution goals with County and other governmental entities.
- Leverage impact in the County by implementing best practices.
- Establish a formal community planning effort to address criminal justice issues.
- Identify a central point of contact for Dallas County homeland security issues.
- Join local, regional, and state committees that address homeland security.
- Assess ability of first responders to communicate across the County.
- Evaluate allocation of adult and juvenile justice resources around Dallas County.
- Benchmark County jail operations with similarly-sized entities across the nation.
- Convene local criminal justice partners to identify and expand detention and sentencing alternatives.

Vision 4 Indicators

- Develop a “green plan” that assess County-owned infrastructure and that identifies and addresses emission sources.
- Participate in local, regional, state, and national planning groups that develop and implement policies and programs affecting air quality.
- Support flexible work initiatives to decrease day-time emission sources.
- Rank outside of the top 50 most polluted counties in Texas.
- Convene key Dallas County industries to identify challenges and meet air quality standards.
- Rank outside of the top 10 Texas counties with air quality-related health risks.
- Work with regional affiliates and counties to leverage the County’s influence.
- Meet the NAAQS ozone attainment standard.
- Achieve a congestion index of 1.5.
- Support regional public transportation projects which ease congestion and increase efficiency.
- Continue to partner with County cities on local transportation projects.
- Participate in local, regional, state, and national planning groups that develop and implement policies and programs that affect transportation.
- Leverage County’s resources and influence to ensure appropriate allocation of resources to the region.
- Synchronize road and bridge projects with city partners to ensure optimal operation and selection of projects.
- Support flexible work initiatives which will decrease congestion.

Vision 5 Indicators

- Coordinate and tailor County investment/reinvestment in underdeveloped areas.
- Collaborate with regional partners to provide tax incentives to facilitate economic development and enhancement in targeted areas.
- Assess/promote County resources to help recruit and retain businesses.
- Serve as a convener/architect to develop joint planning and implementation projects which cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- Collaborate with local cities to develop specific plans.
- Continue/increase funding for County trail program.
- Increase County’s emphasis on facilitating/initiating economic development and on improving the area’s quality of life.
- Continue/increase the County’s efforts to improve the attractiveness of its facilities.