

A Profile in Regional Aviation Systems Planning: North Central Texas Council of Governments

October 2011

About NCTCOG

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is a 16-county planning agency spanning the Dallas and Fort Worth urbanized areas with over 240 member governments and home to more than 6.5 million people. In addition to serving as the MPO, NCTCOG is the association established by, and for, local governments to lead regional planning and forecasting efforts in local and national initiatives related to transportation community services, emergency preparedness, environment and development, technical research and information services, transportation and workforce development.

North Central Texas is home to a variety of public and private aviation facilities. Of the more than 400 aviation facilities, 56 are public use, with 31 facilities included in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS):

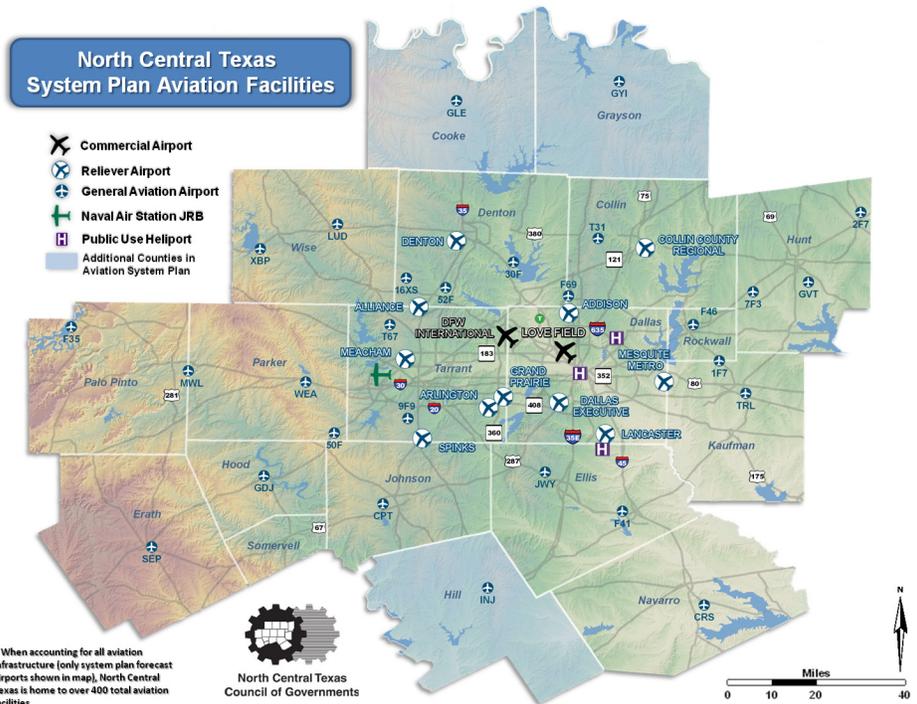
- 2 Primary Commercial Service Airports
- 11 Reliever Airports
- 16 General Aviation Airports
- 2 Public Use Heliports

History of RASP

As the organization responsible for regionally integrated planning and development, NCTCOG completed its first regional aviation system plan (RASP) in 1976, with updates in 1983 and 1991. Through its current efforts, NCTCOG seeks to chart a new strategic vision for advancing general aviation and heliport resources in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Currently, the regional plan update includes various airports in the NCTCOG region, as well as airports in surrounding counties, which have a meaningful impact on aviation in the planning area.

The RASP efforts will identify and expand on market demands, system deficiencies, assessment of the aviation system's needs and the economic impacts of North Central Texas' airport and heliport system. Ultimately, the current RASP will require heightened coordination and planning efforts with federal, state and local agencies and municipalities to ensure regional priorities are considered in planning and funding decisions.



Goals

- Set a new strategic vision for advancing general aviation and heliport resources in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth urban area.
- Advance planning and development in the North Central Texas regional aviation system.
- Provide input to the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, the Texas Airport System Plan and other NCTCOG's planning efforts.

Objectives

- Update the regional inventory of aviation assets, activity data and airspace in the region.
- Assess needs related to general aviation, heliports, air cargo, surface access and land use planning.
- Gauge the impact of new technology on the regional aviation system, including business/corporate aircraft, satellite-based air traffic control, very light jets among other assets.
- Forecast future demand on the region's aviation assets and related ground access infrastructure.
 - Review and document major airspace capacity issues in North Central Texas.

- Analyze alternative future scenarios related to the region's aviation needs including the effects of larger aircraft, small business jets, fuel prices and continued effects related to September 11, 2001.
- Identify current market demand, forecasted future demand and needed improvements.

Aviation System Planning Benefits

Aviation facilities in North Central Texas will collectively benefit from NCTCOG's combined planning efforts. NCTCOG anticipates that this regional planning process will help identify system efficiencies and excess system capacity for future use in the region. It will improve public and private capital investment decisions, preserve growth opportunities at aviation facilities and guide policies related to increasing the competitiveness of the North Central Texas regional aviation system. General aviation activity in North Central Texas creates more than 28,000 jobs, \$4.2 Billion in economic output and \$1.1 Billion in payroll expenditures.

As the nation's largest inland port and the fourth largest metropolitan area, North Central Texas relies heavily on aviation facilities to sustain growth and economic prosperity. Through connectivity to global markets, the region's aviation facilities provide economic development opportunities, the ability to engage in business activities related to aviation and movement of cargo, and leisure and tourism opportunities throughout the world. As such, the region's airports serve as a non-conventional inland port system, connecting us globally and enhancing the regional economy. Improving and maintaining surface access and land use compatibility is crucial to preserving the regional system of aviation facilities.

Integration into LRTP

Due to aviation's regional economic impact, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) supports aviation planning goals related to landside access not becoming a limiting factor and impacting growth at the region's airports. Ideally these airports should be able to grow to their airside limit without delays due to roadway congestion. This includes intermodal connectors as defined by the National Highway System (NHS), which

provide access for intermodal shipments to airports. Additional planning initiatives supported by RTC in the region's long range transportation plan (LRTP) include:

- Data collection and performance tracking,
- Continuous regional system planning,
- Encroachment prevention and compatible land use planning,
- Regional military compatible land use planning, and
- Integrated and comprehensive regional aviation education system.

Partners/Stakeholders

In support of NCTCOG and RTC aviation planning goals, coordination partnerships were formed with the FAA and their Airport Improvement Program, TxDOT and their Texas Aviation Facilities Development Program, regional airports and airport sponsors as well as those interested in the region's general aviation system on a multi-year effort to produce a Regional General Aviation and Heliport System Plan for NCTCOG. These planning efforts include a Regional Aviation Inventory Update, Development of an Online Regional Aviation Data Management System (ORADMS), an Analysis of Current and Forecast Aviation System Demands, and Resources for Regional Airport Sponsors.

North Texas has an exceedingly rich history in aviation. It is home to major aerospace and defense contractors that employ thousands as well as an expansive system of commercial and general aviation airports that provide access to the traveling public and offer essential services such as emergency medical and public safety to our communities. It is apparent that our region could not thrive without aviation. As we continue to grow to an anticipated population of nearly 10 million by 2035, I believe it is an essential function of regional planning to improve and maintain these assets while promoting compatible development.



*The Honorable Bobby G. Waddle
Former Mayor, City of DeSoto, TX
Past President, NCTCOG Executive Board
Colonel, United States Air Force (Ret.)*



About the North Central Texas Council of Governments

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is a voluntary association of, by and for local governments, and was established to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions. For additional information, please visit www.nctcog.org.



NARC

Building Regional Communities

About the National Association of Regional Councils

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. NARC's member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. For additional information, please visit www.NARC.org.

The National Association of Regional Councils

202.986.1032 phone

202.986.10328 fax

www.NARC.org