



Making Progress Towards the Vision in 2010 through Advocacy and Regional Coordination

2010 Program of Work Highlights:

- ◆ **Improving coordination of regional infrastructure**
 - Convene two Regional Forums on efficient infrastructure
 - Spotlight visionary projects at the *Fifth Annual ECT Community Stewardship Awards Luncheon* and feature keynote on regional coordination
 - Promote and disseminate the *Central Texas Greenprint for Growth* to help identify areas to preserve as “natural infrastructure” as well as sites prime for development
 - Analyze success of the first year of Central Texas Greenprint for Growth at Planner Roundtable
 - Increase cooperation through a Regional Mayors Forum
- ◆ **Advocating for policies, tools and resources to support the Vision**
 - Advocate for and seek collaborations on county land use authority, transportation funding and other issues
 - Preview 82nd Texas Legislative Session at ECT Forum
 - Seek Texas inter-regional collaboration and coordination on key issues
 - Explore collaboration on the Quality Growth Toolbox

Envision Central Texas

- **Why Envision Central Texas?**
Our five-county Central Texas Region is projected to double in 20 to 40 years. If we are to preserve things that are important to us and our children, we need to think about the pattern of our future growth. Envision Central Texas (ECT) was created in 2001 to assist in the public development and implementation of a regional Vision addressing the growth of Central Texas, with an emphasis on land use, transportation and the environment.
- **Our Mission:**
Envision Central Texas serves as a catalyst for regional cooperation and planning in order to realize a common Vision for Central Texas which preserves and enhances our natural resources, economic vitality, social equity and overall quality of living.
- **Our Imperative:**
We must improve how we grow in order to sustain our region’s quality of life and competitiveness. The focus of ECT is on what, where and when we build, and how that impacts natural resources and mobility.

For more details, see reverse side.

Additional details on the 2010 Envision Central Texas Program of Work

◆ Improving coordination of regional infrastructure

• Host two Regional Forums on efficient infrastructure

Central Texas has critical infrastructure needs and severely limited resources. Envision Central Texas will lead a regional dialogue at two forums to help inform the hard choices that must be made by regional leaders about infrastructure development, and help illuminate the discussions surrounding the CAMPO 2035 Plan. There is a need for greater awareness about our regional growth challenges, how issues are interconnected, the trade-offs inherent in various approaches to growth and the need for better regional coordination. Fiscal deficits for funding new infrastructure and ongoing maintenance, and ever growing demands on limited natural resources will require growth patterns that maximize efficiency and produce multiple benefits rather than isolated advantages or detrimental unintended consequences.

• Spotlight visionary projects at the Fifth Annual ECT Community Stewardship Awards Luncheon and feature keynote on regional coordination

On May 7, 2010, at the Hilton Austin, ECT will conduct the Fifth Annual Luncheon. At this event, ECT will spotlight the innovative people, projects and processes that are addressing the growth challenges facing our region in ways that will move us closer to a future that preserves and enhances our natural resources, economic vitality, social equity and overall quality of living. The Keynote Address will focus on regional infrastructure coordination.

• Promote and disseminate the Central Texas Greenprint for Growth to help identify areas to preserve as “natural infrastructure” as well as sites prime for development.

• Analyze success of the first year of Central Texas Greenprint for Growth at Planner Roundtable

ECT, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Capital Area Council of Governments, completed its Central Texas Greenprint for Growth initiative in 2009. This unique tool can help people and communities identify opportunities to preserve and enhance their “green infrastructure” by identifying land conservation priorities as well as serve as a “blueprint” and help inform larger infrastructure and planning projects, including roads, rail and utilities. In 2010, ECT will ensure that the Greenprinted is distributed and promoted throughout the five-county region. ECT will also design metrics to measure its usage and analyze best practices that can be shared at an ECT Planner Roundtable

• Increase cooperation through a Regional Mayors Forum

ECT will continue to provide a forum for discussion of important regional growth and infrastructure issues and coordination by launching a regular meeting of mayors.

◆ Advocating for policies, tools and resources to support the Vision

• Advocate for and seek collaborations on county land use authority, transportation funding and other issues

• Preview 82nd Texas Legislative Session at an ECT Forum

• Seek Texas inter-regional collaboration and coordination on key issues

In 2009, ECT began advocacy activities on county land use and local option transportation funding. ECT has created working groups on both these issues as well as position papers. Between sessions, ECT will seek to conduct educational activities about these issues. ECT will also seek out other organizations within the region and in other parts of the state for potential collaboration on these and other issues that would help advance the Vision. In summer 2010, ECT will host a preview of the topics that will be important at the 82nd Texas Legislative Session by convening members of the Central Texas delegation at an event similar to two that have been held in 2008 and 2009.

• Explore collaboration on the Quality Growth Toolbox

The Quality Growth Toolbox was developed in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin and is an online collection of more than 100 resources and tools designed to assist communities as they plan for growth. ECT will explore collaboration with other organizations interested in quality growth so that we might expand the resources to improve the toolbox content and usage.

◆ ECT Implementation Committees and Task Force

These groups contain about 100 volunteers and help ECT plan and conduct its initiatives and events.

◆ Community Design Committee

Working on detailed case studies of successful projects in the region that have elements of the Vision and assists with the Planner Roundtables.

◆ Community Outreach Committee

Working on opportunities for outreach on the ECT Vision and issues throughout the region and assisting with various events and materials.

◆ Natural Infrastructure Committee

Working on the promotion of the *Central Texas Greenprint* and other initiatives relating to natural infrastructure.

◆ Transportation and Land Use Committee

Working on current transportation and land use issues including the CAMPO 2035 Plan, transit planning and planning throughout the region.

◆ Benchmarks and Goals Task Force

Selecting measurable indicators, benchmarks and goals to demonstrate progress toward the realization of the Vision and to show changes.