Thank you to 100 Resilient Cities, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation

Dallas is honored to be selected as one of only 100 cities around the world to participate in the prestigious 100 Resilient Cities (100rc) program, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. This innovative program is dedicated to helping cities become resilient to the environmental, social, and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. Dallas has become a member in a global network of the world’s most distinguished cities to share information, explore cutting edge ideas, and lead resilient change for 21st century cities.
For 50 years, people around the world saw our city through the lens of the John F. Kennedy assassination. Through that tragedy, modern day Dallas was born, a great city. Those of us who love this city always knew there was so much more to Dallas than that awful day in 1963.

In recent decades, Dallas has grown to become one of the great American cities, a place where an increasingly diverse mix of people come to live, work, and prosper. Despite all our progress, terror struck Dallas on July 7, 2016. The soul of our city was pierced, as a deeply disturbed gunman killed four Dallas Police officers and a transit officer. It was the worst attack on law enforcement in our city’s history, and the worst in the country since 9/11. In the days that followed, we launched an intensive investigation and searched a massive crime scene. We watched a heartfelt memorial grow at DPD Headquarters as hundreds of police officers traveled from across the country to pay their respects and show support for our officers. We were embraced by the entire nation.

In moments of self-doubt, I have asked myself, “why Dallas?” Upon reflection, I discovered the truth. Dallas is strong and resilient. Over the past decade, we have set a high standard for community policing by building strong bonds with our residents and community leaders.

Nevertheless, this is a complex and emotionally charged time in America’s history, and we cannot shy away from the fact that we as a city, as a state, and as a nation are divided and struggling with racial issues that threaten our peace of mind, our physical security, and our prosperity. This is the eminent challenge of our day.

Dallas faces difficult work ahead. Can we as a community come to truly and deeply understand the pain and suffering that racial discrimination has created through history? Can we talk honestly about the disparity that impoverishes cities today and work to build a society that genuinely gives all residents the opportunity for happy, healthy, and prosperous lives? I believe we can.

This is Dallas’ chance to lead and build a new model of community, for our city, and for our country. To do this, we must start by building unity. Saint Paul said, “In the end, three things remain: faith, hope, and love.” We will need all three as we move forward. Faith in each other; hope and belief that tomorrow holds a brighter future for all our residents, and love for one another, knowing that our differences could make us stronger.

Mike Rawlings
Dallas Mayor
BIG THINGS HAPPEN HERE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Building a Resilient Future

Travel the world and everywhere people know Texas. Texans are enthusiastically confident, optimistic, and admittedly unrealistic in their exuberant conviction to success. Dallas embodies this Texas ethos and was built through visionary leadership, bold ambition, and big ideas. Our maxim is, “BIG THINGS HAPPEN HERE!”

A look at Dallas’ history reveals that big visions, big dreams, and a big heart has propelled Dallas to become the 9th largest city in America, and one of the most prosperous regions in the world.

What has energized this success? Simply the Dallas ethos –

**Bold Action in Pursuit of a Big Idea**

Over her 150 year history, Dallas has never shied from a challenge. To prepare for our next 150 years, Dallas embraces the concept of resilience.

What is urban resilience?
The capacity of individuals, institutions, businesses, and systems to anticipate, adapt, and recover from the social, economic, and physical challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.

**Said another way, it’s pure Dallas grit!**
Dallas is the largest city and economic powerhouse that fuels the robust North Central Texas region. The heartbeat of this prosperity is Downtown Dallas. Downtown Dallas is the Tiffany address for finance, real estate, insurance, banking, and silk-stocking law firms housed in distinctive Class A office buildings of celebrated architectural design.

Downtown Dallas is the residential destination of choice for Millennials and new immigrants who are willing to work hard and gamble on an innovative business venture; or Boomers eager to enjoy an enriched quality of life in the center of art, culture, and fine dining. Downtown Dallas embodies the soul of the region with the largest contiguous arts district in the country, a renowned collection of prestigious buildings, and the heart of an expansive, regional multi-modal transportation system.

With all of these competitive advantages, Dallas’ resilience should be unquestioned. However, stakeholder interviews, supported by research and analysis, reveal several worrying trends that could compromise Dallas’ ability to lead in the future unless bold action is taken to change the trajectory.
Dallas has a long history of transformative ideas that underpin our resilient future.

1861 | Dallas Water Utilities founded
1881 | Dallas Water and Light Company began operation
1889 | Trinity River levees constructed to create a riverfront industrial district
1889 | University of Texas Southwestern Medical School was founded
1889 | Dallas became the 7th largest city in the US
1889 | Dallas Market Center opened
1890 | Dallas and Fort Worth collaborated to build DFW Airport, at almost 50 square miles, DFW airport is larger than Manhattan Island
1890 | Dallas became the 7th largest city in the US
1923 | John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas
1957 |冷冻龙舌兰(Margarita)的发明
1962 | The first episode of the well-known television show aired.
1963 | Dallas Voters approved Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART).
1965 | Flood waters flooded Baylor Hospital, over 60 businesses reported property damage, and Interstate 30 was shut down.
1966 | New 2.8 million-square-foot Parkland Hospital campus opened.
1969 | Roger Staubach signs with the Dallas Cowboys and, together with Coach Tom Landry, they marshalled an unprecedented period of success and popularity for the football team that became known as the Dynasty.
1971 | The Go Big or Go Home Plaza was opened as Dallas becomes known as the Silicon Prairie.
1977 | The Dallas Morning News began publication.
1980 | Dallas become one of the 50 biggest direct sales companies in the world.
1990 | Mariano Martinez invented the frozen Margarita.
1993 | Internet service providers were created in Dallas.
1995 | Ross Perot sold a controlling interest to IBM, controlling nearly 30% of the world's processing data.
1999 | Texas Voters approved Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART).
Today, many low-skill adults and disconnected youth lack the necessary training and skills to be successful in the traditional labor force. Dallas must build partnerships and support efforts to establish career pathways for these individuals so they can be positioned to take advantage of the growing demand for middle-skill jobs in expanding economic sectors like health-care and information technology. Through these partnerships, Dallas can harness the strength and momentum of the North Central Texas economy to create economic resilience for all Dallas residents.

Big Healing for a Strained Healthcare System – Healthy Communities
Healthcare is a $52 billion dollar a year industry that provides almost 600,000 jobs throughout the region, yet not all residents have access to this wealth of care. Dallas has one of the highest rates of uninsured in the country, almost double the national average. For the first time in history, poor children growing up in high-risk neighborhoods have lifespans predicted to be shorter than their parents. Advancements in tele-medicine and virtual care offer big promise to improve public health outcomes for Dallas residents. Dallas must pioneer partnerships to ensure all our residents will lead healthy, resilient lives.

Big Change for a Transportation System that Moves – Transportation Equity
Dallas was designed for the automobile and transportation infrastructure is the backbone of our city. However, 21st century urban mobility will be constructed on mobility access, not lane miles. A superior transportation system will be one that provides convenient, affordable access to all aspects of urban living – employment, education, health care, shopping and services, and recreation and entertainment. Today, many of Dallas’ poorest residents lack access to good jobs, good schools, healthy food, and basic services. Dallas should seize the opportunity of rapidly changing technology to improve transportation equity for all Dallas residents.

DALLAS HAS NEVER ALLOWED HER DESTINY TO BE CONSTRAINED BY CHALLENGES.

Big Home in Hometown Dallas – Thriving Neighborhoods
Dallas is a city of neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are the fertile gardens of rich social life. They nurture human bonds and encourage us to care about our neighbors. They inspire friendships, foster social cohesiveness, and strengthen civic engagement. Resilient neighborhoods lift up families and build strong community leaders. Neighborhoods in the southern reaches of Dallas have experienced decades of disinvestment and decline. Children cannot safely play outside, schools do not adequately prepare students for careers, and business cannot germinate and thrive. These neighborhoods no longer seed opportunity; they have failed their residents. As Dallas prepares for the next bond program, we must rebuild these pockets of despair to become neighborhoods of enduring value and re-instill pride in our hometown.

Big Heart for Opportunity – Economic Equity
The ubiquitous concern among Dallas leaders is the quality of education available to Dallas school children and our ability to prepare young people for college and the 21st century economy. As the income disparity gap widens in conjunction with inadequate educational attainment, corporate leaders ask whether Dallas will be capable of supplying a future workforce to nourish the insatiable appetite of the robust North Central Texas economy.

Notwithstanding the wealth, prosperity, and vigor that has successfully propelled Dallas and the North Central Texas region over the past half century, many Dallasites live on the edge of economic failure. Census numbers indicate that over 39% of Dallas residents are poor or struggling financially. Stakeholder interviews, workshop participants, and survey respondents agree that Dallas’ biggest threat is not the devastation of a tornado, flood, or other natural disaster. Nor is it the tragedy of a horrific event such as the July 7th attack on the Dallas Police Department. Rather, it is the economic vulnerability of Dallas’ poor who struggle to provide for themselves and their families. Through research, analysis, and consultation with experts and residents, we have selected four Discovery Areas that will be examined in the Resilient Strategy.

Bold actions in pursuit of big ideas

BOLD ACTIONS IN PURSUIT OF BIG IDEAS

Notwithstanding the wealth, prosperity, and vigor that has successfully propelled Dallas and the North Central Texas region over the past half century, many Dallasites live on the edge of economic failure. Census numbers indicate that over 39% of Dallas residents are poor or struggling financially. Stakeholder interviews, workshop participants, and survey respondents agree that Dallas’ biggest threat is not the devastation of a tornado, flood, or other natural disaster. Nor is it the tragedy of a horrific event such as the July 7th attack on the Dallas Police Department. Rather, it is the economic vulnerability of Dallas’ poor who struggle to provide for themselves and their families. Through research, analysis, and consultation with experts and residents, we have selected four Discovery Areas that will be examined in the Resilient Strategy.
introduction

THE 100 RESILIENT CITIES PROGRAM

Dallas was selected as one of only 100 cities around the world to participate in the prestigious 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) program, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. This innovative program is dedicated to helping cities around the world become resilient to the environmental, social, and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. Dallas has become a member in a global network of the world’s most distinguished cities to share information and develop best practices for cutting edge 21st century cities.

Dallas has begun the initial work on what resilience means for our city today and in the future. The following section presents some of the research, data, and findings that guided the development of Dallas’ four Discovery Areas – economy, healthcare, infrastructure, and mobility. The complete research reprint is provided in the supplement to this Preliminary Resilience Assessment.

Resilient cities demonstrate seven qualities that allow them to withstand, respond to, and adapt more quickly to shocks and stresses.

1. Reflective: using past experiences to inform future decisions
2. Resourceful: recognizing alternative ways to use resources
3. Robust: well-conceived, constructed, and managed systems
4. Redundant: additional capacity purposely created to accommodate disruption
5. Flexible: willingness and ability to adopt alternative strategies in response to changing circumstances
6. Inclusive: prioritize broad consultation to create a sense of shared ownership in decision making
7. Integrated: bring together a range of distinct systems and institutions

BIG SOLUTIONS FOR BIG CHALLENGES
THE DALLAS RESILIENCE PROCESS

OVERVIEW OF 100RC STRATEGY PROCESS

The 100 Resilient Cities program has provided a well-documented and field-tested strategy guidance manual to shepherd cities through the process of creating a robust resilience strategy. This guidance manual details step-by-step processes and timeframes, introduces and explains new analytic tools, and provides templates, case studies, and practical examples that are transferable to cities all across the globe. Dallas has methodically adhered to these processes and utilized the analytic tools outlined in the Strategy Guidance Manual.

This Preliminary Resilience Assessment presents the completion of Phase One of the Strategy Development Process, and documents the data collection, analysis, review, and findings of this holistic scan of the city’s current state of resilience. This Preliminary Resilience Assessment serves as a summary of the work undertaken during Phase One.

Through desktop research, stakeholder interviews and workshops, and consultation with subject matter experts, the Dallas Office of Resilience has:

- Identified, and catalogued significant past, present, and future actions that contribute towards the sound functioning of Dallas services
- Assessed the condition and sensitivity of Dallas’ physical assets to multiple shocks and stresses
- Discussed and analyzed how future demographic and economic scenarios could change this outlook

THE CITY RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK AND THE RESILIENCE LENS

The City Resilience Framework (CRF) developed by the Rockefeller Foundation provides a framework and common vernacular to understand the array of interdependent dimensions of a city and the drivers that contribute to its resilience.

The CRF categorizes a city into its basic social, physical, and economic systems. These city building blocks are defined as the “essential dimensions” of urban resilience: Leadership and Strategy, Health and Well-being, Infrastructure and Environment, and Economy and Society. Each of these four essential dimensions are further broken down into subsets or ‘drivers.’ This organizing framework is used as a basis for inquiry, analysis, and review to assess and understand the strengths and gaps within a city.
Dallas Civic Leadership

Along with a wealth of economic, physical, and environmental resources, Dallas profits from an abundance of residents and businesses, professional and technical experts, philanthropic foundations and social service providers, as well as academic institutions, all of whom are committed to effective civic involvement. The Dallas Resilience process relies heavily on extensive community participation and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Input was gathered through a variety of ways that acknowledge and respect the similarities as well as the notable differences inherent in Dallas’ economically and socially diverse population.

This resilience process integrates the insight and wisdom gained through many forms of participation, and uses that knowledge to understand trends and conditions identified by surveys, desktop research, and other analytic tools. It was also critical that “ground truth” obtained through interviews and listening sessions verify research findings and general assumptions. The comprehensive perspective gained through the resilience process is also used to identify gaps that would normally go unobserved by more traditional research methods. The extensive involvement by Dallasites served to strengthen knowledge-building for this process while also attaining genuine community support and trust building.

Leadership and Strategy
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Communities Foundation of Texas
Greater Dallas Planning Council
American Planning Association
American Institute of Architects
North Texas Commission
Dallas Youth Commission
Dallas Innovation Alliance
Dallas Citizens Council
Dallas Women’s Foundation
Downtown Dallas Incorporated
Mayor’s Taskforce on Homelessness
Mayor’s Taskforce on Poverty

Economy and Society
Dallas Federal Reserve Bank
Greater Dallas Regional Chamber
Oak Cliff Chamber
Paul Quinn College
Mayor’s LGBT Task Force
Revitalize South Dallas Coalition
SMU Hunt Institute
SMU New Cities Institute
SMU Embrey Human Rights
Society of American Military Engineers
South Fair CDC
Harvard Government Performance Lab
Dallas County Community College
University of North Texas
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Austin
Toyota Mobility Foundation
LH Holdings, Inc.

Health and Wellbeing
Habitat for Humanity
Commit Dallas
CitySquare
DCCI
Children’s Health and Wellness Alliance
Dallas County
Dallas Faces Race
Friendship West Baptist Church
North Texas Food Bank
Neighborhood
The Senior Source
UT Southwestern Medical District
Dallas Housing Authority
North Texas Fair Housing

Infrastructure and Environment
 Oncor Electric
 Atmos Energy
 AT&T
 Dallas Area Rapid Transit
 Regional Transportation Council
 Regional Emergency Managers
 Texas Nature Conservancy
 Earth Day Dallas
 Trust for Public Lands
 Oak Cliff Conservation League
 Texas Trees
 Trinity Trust Foundation
 Texas Department of Transportation
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 U.S. Green Building Council Texas
A chronic stress weakens the fabric of a city and tears at its soul. The pernicious conditions of concentrated poverty and spreading blight, stubborn pockets of high unemployment and low educational attainment, or a lack of basic infrastructure and services coalesce to trap people in broken neighborhoods with little hope for economic advancement.

Acute shocks are sudden events or episodes that threaten a city, such as civil unrest and violence, extreme weather events, or disease outbreaks that require strong emergency planning, response, coordination and recovery efforts.

**CHRONIC STRESSES** of Dallas:
- Income disparity
- Access to reliable public transit
- Low educational attainment
- English language acquisition
- Drought/weather variability

**ACUTE SHOCKS** of Dallas:
- Extreme weather events: hail storms, floods, tornados
- Civil unrest
- Pandemics
DISCOVERY AREAS

TO ADVANCE A RESILIENT DALLAS

Building from our strengths to solve big challenges

Notwithstanding the wealth, prosperity, and vigor that has successfully propelled Dallas and the North Central Texas region over the past half century, Dallas like all cities faces daunting challenges. Stakeholder interviews, workshop participants, and survey respondents agree that Dallas’ biggest threat is not the devastation of a tornado, flood or other natural disaster. Nor is it the tragedy of a horrific event such as the ruthless attack on the Dallas Police Department on July 7th. Rather, it is the myriad and complex inter-related issues that confront Dallas’ poor and vulnerable residents, who, despite their best efforts, struggle to provide for their families.

Dallas resilience is weakened and threatened by the sheer magnitude of our societal and economic equity challenges. These are not sustainable trends. The Mayor’s Taskforce on Homelessness reports that Dallas now has 10,000 homeless individuals. Census numbers indicate that poverty has increased by 42 percent over the past 15 years, and now more than 39 percent of Dallas households struggle financially on the edge of economic collapse. The problems these residents grapple are numerous and intertwined: lack of skills or language barriers limit employment opportunities to only low paying jobs; lack of health insurance often leads to poor health and medical emergencies; lack of reliable transportation limits access to jobs, education, and even healthy food; and the substandard and dangerous conditions in Dallas’ poorest neighborhoods limits residents’ opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty.

While reversing the trajectory of the poverty trend line may appear to be an insurmountable challenge, Dallas has a long history of pursuing iconoclastic ideas and daring approaches to achieve results that elude the less ambitious. After all, the Dallas ethos is Bold Action in Pursuit of a Big Idea.

DALLAS HAS THE Grit TO BUILD AN EQUITABLE 21ST CENTURY DALLAS.

Through research, analysis, and consultation with experts and residents, the Office of Resilience will examine four Discovery Areas to understand how these interdependent systems can be improved to ease the burden these residents bear and provide opportunities to build resilience for their families. Resilient Dallas must now set a vision for building an equitable 21st century city.

1 DISCOVERY AREA — Inclusive Economy

BACKGROUND

The U.S. economy has only recently begun to create new jobs to replace those lost in the Great Recession, and economists have branded this economic period: the “Jobless Recovery.” Cities, industries, and individuals in many parts of the country continue to struggle to find an economic foothold and to regain the financial security they once had. Economic studies examine the plight of a dwindling middle class and warn that growing economic disparity portends an uncertain future for people and their families. Leading thinkers now ask whether the American Dream is still within reach for the average American family.

Within this economic reality, North Central Texas appears to be one of the few places bucking the current trend. Enjoying an economic boom rivaled by few others, Texas’ job creation is the envy of the nation.

Almost 9 million jobs were lost during the Great Recession, and while this devastating decline in employment was shared across the country, the Dallas Federal Reserve District did not suffer the severity of loss that other parts of the country endured. As indicated by the chart above, the Dallas District led the turnaround beginning in late 2009, and continues to outpace the nation.
DALLAS IS THE LARGEST CITY IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS AND THE VIBRANT, URBAN CORE OF THIS THRIVING, PROSPEROUS REGION.

The North Central Texas population grew an eye-popping 35 percent between 2000 and 2014 and is projected to reach 10 million by 2040, overtaking Chicago as the nation’s 3rd largest metro area. Per capita income soared by 46 percent during this same time period. DFW is consistently ranked as one of the top destinations for corporate relocations because of its central location, expansive transportation infrastructure, and low tax, business-friendly regulatory climate. Other trends driving this super-charged growth are the diversity and strength of the economy and the relatively low cost of living, especially in housing prices.

Amidst all of this prosperity, Dallas’ economic resilience and stability should be unquestioned. However, stakeholder interviews reveal a prevalent concern that several disturbing trends and indicators may compromise Dallas’ ability to continue to lead the region in the future.

The most predominant theme that surfaced during these interviews was the ubiquitous concern for the quality of education available to Dallas school children, and the ability of Dallas Independent School District (DISD) to prepare students for college and the 21st century economy. Inextricably linked to DISD’s performance is the flight of Dallas’ middle income families, of all races and ethnicities, to the surrounding suburbs.

This steady migration is fueled by young professionals, as they flock to Dallas to experience a hip, urban lifestyle: only to flee the urban core once they are married in search of quality education for their children and less expensive starter homes for their growing families. This unremitting exodus of middle income families has drained Dallas ISD of economic diversity, and left the school district with an urban poverty rate of 86 percent, higher than that of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Newark.

As educated, middle income families propagate these upstart communities, they pull the economic center of the region further and further north as employers follow in pursuit of this abundant supply of talented, highly-skilled employees. The lack of affordable housing in these new communities, promoted by exclusionary zoning and land use practices, excludes the region’s poor and low-skilled workforce, further disconnecting these residents from economic opportunity for themselves and quality schools for their children.

Dallas has over 1 million jobs and boasts an impressive job to household ratio of 2.5:1. This means that Dallas has well over 1 job for every person of workforce age who resides here. Yet today, Dallas doesn’t have enough qualified residents to fill these jobs. Businesses must therefore import 625,000 people every day from the surrounding suburban cities to satisfy the employment demand. Dallas is dependent on the suburbs to supply labor talent for nearly two-thirds of its highest paying jobs. Many of Dallas’ own residents lack the essential skills and education necessary for employment; and employers are finding it increasingly difficult to hire employees ready to work on day one. When interviewed, prominent voices convey their lack of faith in Dallas ISD’s ability to slow or reverse this worrisome trend and lament the City’s ability to produce a viable 21st century labor force.

Inter-related stakeholder concerns focused on educational attainment and workforce development for low-income workers. In recent months, Dallas thought-leaders have engaged in several significant community conversations about growing income disparity, the need for appropriate social and financial safety nets, and the immense need for financial education and improved financial literacy. Attendant reports have analyzed the precarious economic position of the working class who live “one paycheck away from poverty” despite laboring one or more full-time jobs. Estimates report that more than 39 percent of Dallas households are asset poor. These discussions and studies underscore the need for Dallas to examine and understand the current skills gap, identify impediments or barriers to participation to the traditional labor force, and discover potential solutions to assist workers struggling to provide a decent, financially viable quality of life for themselves and their families.

DESPITE THE REGION’S REMARKABLY LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 3.7 PERCENT, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT STUBBORNLY PERSISTS IN MANY LOW INCOME DALLAS NEIGHBORHOODS.

Although poverty is a growing problem across the U.S., an examination of census data reveals that Dallas’ rising poverty rate outpaces the nation, the state, and the region. From 2000 to 2014, the poverty rate in Dallas grew by 42 percent. Moreover, racial disparities are strongly correlated with financial circumstances. Very low income and low income census tracts represent those who earn below 30 percent and 50 percent of the area median income, respectively. Out of the 88 low and very low income tracts in Dallas, 85 are minority majority (over 50 percent minority). In contrast, of the 86 Census tracts where income is more than 120 percent of the area median income (i.e. high income families), only 6 tracts are minority majority. Dallas’ income disparities clearly parallel her racial disparities.

Although disparities are a growing problem across the U.S., an examination of census data reveals that Dallas’ rising poverty rate outpaces the nation, the state, and the region. From 2000 to 2014, the poverty rate in Dallas grew by 42 percent. Moreover, racial disparities are strongly correlated with financial circumstances. Very low income and low income census tracts represent those who earn below 30 percent and 50 percent of the area median income, respectively. Out of the 88 low and very low income tracts in Dallas, 85 are minority majority (over 50 percent minority). In contrast, of the 86 Census tracts where income is more than 120 percent of the area median income (i.e. high income families), only 6 tracts are minority majority. Dallas’ income disparities clearly parallel her racial disparities.
A close examination of one particular neighborhood, Fair Park/South Dallas, reveals extremely disturbing indicators. Despite its close proximity to the Central Business District, Fair Park/South Dallas is an inner-city neighborhood that has been allowed to atrophy for decades. The residents have grappled with concentrated poverty for generations, and visible evidence of disinvestment and decline are prevalent. Census numbers register an incredulous 18.5 percent unemployment rate. When coupled with the number of people who have given up looking for work, the percentage of adults who are not in the labor force is a staggering 60 percent. The average per capita annual income of South Dallas/Fair Park residents is only $12,500, and 43 percent of families with children live below the poverty line.

Educational attainment figures may explain some of this disparity. Twenty-seven percent of residents do not have a high school diploma, and less than 3 percent hold a bachelor’s degree or higher. For the past three school years, Lincoln and Madison High Schools, both located in this area, reported lower percentages of seniors graduating college and career ready than other Dallas ISD high schools and the state.

These troubling trends hold bleak promise for the children of Dallas’ poor and struggling families, and the condition of Dallas’ most vulnerable neighborhoods present substantial challenges for our city. The pressing question for Dallas is whether she will overcome these disparities and remain the vibrant, urban core of North Central Texas, or become the dying nucleus of an otherwise prosperous region.

**Discovery Area: Healthy Communities**

**Discovery Area: Healthy Communities**
Understand how the robust North Central Texas economy could provide market-driven opportunities to Dallasites who have been excluded from the traditional labor force.

**Potential Diagnostic Questions:**
Who are the Dallasites most disconnected from the region’s labor force, and what are the barriers that prevent them from maintaining living wage employment?

What are the gaps in Dallas’ existing support network for vulnerable individuals seeking to join the workforce, and where should the City and its partners participate?

**2 DISCOVERY AREA — Healthy Communities**

**BACKGROUND**

The jewel in the crown of Dallas’ healthcare facilities is undeniably the UT Southwestern Medical District which ranks among the top academic medical centers in the world. Among the distinguished faculty at UT Southwestern are seven Nobel prize recipients, 19 members of the National Academy of Sciences, and 20 members of the Institute of Medicine. The expansive Medical District campus covers more than 1,000 acres, and is home to five major medical institutions including Parkland Health and Hospital System, Children’s Medical Center Dallas, UT Southwestern Zale Lipshy University Hospital, UT Southwestern William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Adjacent to Interstate 35E, the Medical District has excellent highway access and is served by two light rail lines, a commuter rail line, and a transit center that accommodates stops from nine different bus routes. The five hospitals of the medical district employ a workforce of more than 29,000 people who provide care to 2.6 million patients visiting clinics and hospitals each year. As an employment center, the greater UT Southwestern medical district area is second only to Downtown Dallas with an aggregate workforce that tops 100,000 jobs.

Looking more broadly, healthcare comprises a $52 billion industry and provides close to 600,000 jobs in the greater Dallas area. This booming economic sector has seen considerable growth over the past 15 years, yet Dallas still slightly lags the national average of 226 physicians for every 100,000 residents. While the more affluent areas of Dallas have a high concentration of primary care physicians and specialty health care providers, other parts of Dallas are health deserts.
Poverty is both a cause and consequence of poor health. The Community Needs Index tool examines five socio-economic indicators that contribute to health disparity, or the differences in the health status of different groups of people. These socio-economic indicators are: income, culture/language, education, housing status, and insurance coverage. The Community Needs Index uses these indicators to geographically locate and rank neighborhoods at risk for poor health.

As illustrated on the map above, disparity is pervasive in many parts of Dallas, and all but the most affluent neighborhoods are exposed to higher levels of risk than the national average. Not surprisingly, the most acute areas of concern overlap the areas of concentrated poverty making the residents who reside there particularly vulnerable to factors that contribute to poor health and a public health outbreak or incident.

Dallas has one of the highest rates of uninsured in the country, almost double that of the national average. Of the largest 25 metro areas, Dallas ranks 23rd, trailed by Miami and Houston, for the percentage of residents without health insurance. A recent study undertaken by Parkland Hospital and Dallas County Health and Human Services reports that 38 percent of citizens in southern Dallas still do not have healthcare coverage. Lack of coverage combined with a dearth of primary care and specialty care providers practicing in these neighborhoods leaves residents with limited opportunity to obtain adequate health care and optimize healthy living choices. This situation is further complicated when residents who either do not own a vehicle, or who are not capable of driving, lack adequate transportation to access healthcare services.

Although DART maintains an extensive bus fleet, anecdotal information suggests that current routes, the need for multiple transfers, service schedules, and safety concerns do not offer safe, efficient travel for transit dependent people to access healthcare services. Without safe, convenient, efficient transportation to healthcare services, residents often forego preventative healthcare, or do not attend to the routine care necessary to maintain manageable diseases and disorders. The unfortunate effect of these three inter-related constraints - lack of healthcare coverage, absence of healthcare providers, and insufficient transportation access to healthcare services - often leaves residents with no other option than to rely on ambulance service and emergency room visits as a primary provider for healthcare services.

Dallas Fire and Rescue operates a fleet of 43 ambulances with 1,200 trained paramedics. These highly trained health professionals make almost 203,000 runs a year and 69,000 transports to area hospital emergency rooms. The average cost of one ambulance run is $1,575. For those patients that are uninsured, Medicaid only covers 21 percent of the cost of these services and Medicare only covers 32 percent. The costs of these services that are not reimbursed by either governmental program, or private insurance companies, leaves the Dallas taxpayer absorbing millions of dollars in uncollected fees each year.
Parkland Hospital has analyzed the type of care provided during emergency room visits and determined that 60 percent of these visits are non-life threatening emergencies that could be treated in other settings at a much lower cost. The use of emergency room departments and ambulance transport for conditions that could have been suitably treated in primary care clinics or doctors’ offices is not optimal healthcare for the patient, is not a prudent use of resources, or a judicious use of tax payer dollars.

Neighborhoods in the southern sector of Dallas have experienced decades of disinvestment and decline. Many neighborhoods don’t have adequate basic infrastructure, such as curb and guttered streets, sidewalks, street lights, or fire hydrants spaced at appropriate distances to adequately fight fires. Many neighborhoods have been left gap-toothed by dozens of vacant lots and are blighted by abandoned, dangerous structures.

Numerous neighborhoods in the southern sector lack adequate cell phone coverage or basic internet service, a reality of life that would not be tolerated in more prosperous neighborhoods. This technology divide denies students the ability to make use of their school-issued tablets, conduct home-work research on the internet, or simply enjoy entertainment choices that their peers in other parts of the region take for granted. Adults are precluded from accessing on-line opportunities for skills advancement, training, job searches, or just communicating with family and friends.

The current disparity in the physical condition of Dallas’ neighborhoods prompts the questions “What is the 21st century standard for Dallas neighborhoods?” and “Does Dallas have a solid understanding of the financial commitment necessary to build and maintain this 21st century standard?”

One of the forward-thinking questions 100 Resilient Cities asks cities to contemplate is, what aspects of resilience have not yet been addressed?

The impact of climate change on the man-made and natural infrastructure is clearly one of those gaps. Severe weather events and weather variability have strained the quality and capacity of the City’s infrastructure. Unfortunately, Dallas has not yet begun to quantify those impacts nor undertaken the necessary modeling or predictive analytics to understand the impact or the future needs.

An additional area of exploration that represents a prominent gap is the role technology will play in 21st century infrastructure. Whether it’s embedding sensors in river levees, equipping street signals for driverless cars, building streets with photovoltaic concrete, or equipping fire fighters with drones that stream live video during search and rescue efforts, we must now begin to explore how to build a 21st century Dallas, rather than merely repairing and replacing a 20th century city.

Discovery Area:
Identify how the City of Dallas can make a meaningful contribution to improving public health outcomes for its vulnerable residents.

Diagnostic Questions:
What are the economic, physical, social, and health conditions that contribute to traumatic environmental stress in Dallas’ neighborhoods of concentrated poverty?
How can the City of Dallas improve health outcomes for its most vulnerable residents?
What are the impacts of increased non-emergency EMS calls, and what role could the City of Dallas play to reduce non-emergency EMS calls, improve public health outcomes, and increase health literacy?

3 DISCOVERY AREA — Thriving Neighborhoods

BACKGROUND

In preparation for the 2017 Dallas Bond Election it is widely understood that the City cannot adequately address all of the needs identified by elected officials, inventoried by staff, or requested by Dallas citizens. The Public Works Department prepares and maintains a Needs Inventory that assesses the current condition of infrastructure and estimates the cost of repairing, upgrading, or replacing existing infrastructure, and providing new infrastructure in areas not previously served. The Needs Inventory captures a wide range of infrastructure such as roadways, sidewalks, traffic control devices, and street lights. It also includes buildings and facilities such as libraries, fire stations, and parks and recreation facilities.

Although Dallas is a relatively young city, our existing infrastructure is reaching the end of its useful life. In 2006, the Dallas voters approved the largest bond program in Dallas history at $1.3 billion. That significant investment made tremendous headway on improving basic infrastructure and addressing public services. Unfortunately, that progress was curtailed during the Great Recession when the City’s tax base declined sharply and revenues for infrastructure investment were scarce. From 2008 until today, the City’s investment in deferred maintenance and infrastructure has been limited to only a few critical needs. The 2012 bond program of $642 million focused almost exclusively on street repairs and flood protection. During this period, infrastructure has continued to deteriorate and deferred maintenance has compounded the needs of declining facilities.

Although the tax base has rebounded and now exceeds pre-recession levels, the estimates of unmet infrastructure needs currently run into the tens of billions of dollars. Given this staggering deficit, the City of Dallas must think differently about its approach to infrastructure provision, and apply a resilience lens to prioritize the most critical needs exploring co-benefit projects and leveraging the city’s investment with innovative funding sources. Finally, Dallas must build equity into its decision-making processes.

Discovery Area:
Assess the adequacy of infrastructure in Dallas’ low and moderate-income neighborhoods and explore the impacts of extreme weather events on the natural and built environment.

Diagnostic Questions:
Which elements of basic infrastructure are missing in Dallas’ low and moderate-income neighborhoods?
How can Dallas use data-driven, objective analysis to inform investment decisions concerning public subsidy, bond funds, and other resources and strategically deploy those resources in underperforming real estate markets to catalyze private investment, stimulate redevelopment, and positively impact market trends?
What programs, funding sources, and other resources exist and how can those be optimized while also ensuring a sustainable mix of public subsidy, philanthropic support, and private capital exists in individual neighborhood market segments?
What are the long-term financial commitments, funding mechanisms, and policies necessary to build and maintain economic and social resilience in neighborhoods of disparity?
How could extreme weather events affect Dallas’ natural resources and critical infrastructure?
4 DISCOVERY AREA — Transportation Equity

Dallas was designed for the automobile and transportation infrastructure is the backbone of our city. Dallas’ growth exploded during the heyday of the private automobile, and the physical form of the city reflects the celebrity of the automobile. Decades of highway spending have exacerbated urban sprawl and resulted in an increase in congestion, a decline in air quality, an increase in impervious cover, stormwater runoff, heat island effect, and a deeply segregated population.

Mobility advocates critical of these negative impacts call for drastic change. Although social attitudes and the traveling behaviors of millennials and boomers are beginning to shift, the vast majority of Texans still cherish their automobiles. While Dallas may not yet be at the critical inflection point to marshal a wholesale change to the current transportation system, prescient leaders realize now is the time to begin the public dialogue about Resilient Dallas’ equitable mobility options.

What will define Dallas’ 21st century transportation system?

A superior transportation system must be one that provides convenient, affordable access to all aspects of urban living – employment, education, healthcare, shopping and services, recreation, and entertainment. As a relatively young, post-war city, Dallas’ auto-centric physical form and transportation network exemplifies a low-density separation of land uses, and disperses employment centers in all but a small portion of the city. This urban structure best serves middle and upper-income families who reside in amenity rich suburban communities and who can afford to own and operate multiple vehicles. Quality schools, plentiful shopping, and an abundance of services sustain these neighborhoods despite the inherent need to drive to each destination.

However, this suburban-style physical layout fails our residents in neighborhoods that lack basic services. In poor and low-income neighborhoods, access to jobs, food and retail goods, healthcare, and quality educational opportunities are a daily struggle for individuals and families who must also rely on public transit. Urban planners have recently begun to study the “desert effect” in poor and low-income neighborhoods that lack services. As the illustration here indicates, planners now can reliably and accurately map social, physical, economic, and health disparity.

Leveraging our transportation investments to create transit equity, attain economic and social resilience for residents, and rethink mobility options for a 21st Century Dallas.

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 2010
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

Data Sources: ASTDR GRASP.
Notes: Overall Social Vulnerability: All 14 variables. *Census tracts with 0 population.
Map data includes: Multi-unit, mobile homes, crowding, no vehicle, and group quarters.

Data Unavailable
After housing, transportation costs are the largest household expense for most American households. The cost of owning, operating, maintaining, and insuring a vehicle, when combined with housing costs, can easily exceed 50 percent of a low income family’s budget. According to a study by the Metropolitan Research Center in 2015, only 28.3 percent of HUD assistance properties in the Dallas-Plano-Irving region were considered affordable when factoring in transportation costs. A study of commuting patterns in Dallas finds that our poorest residents, those who live predominately in the south, have the longest commute, typically to low paying jobs in the north.

A study by the Brookings Institute found that only 19 percent of jobs in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area are accessible in 90 minutes via public transit. Anecdotal information tells us that lack of reliable transportation is the main reason people lose their jobs. While this will necessitate the more obvious changes in transportation priorities and investments, it will also require a new approach to city building and urban design. Dallas must begin to embrace greater density and promote balanced mix of land uses. Transportation engineers must reclaim portions of the public realm to accommodate the range of travel choices, commerce, and social interaction.

Streets must be physically redefined to safely accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit in addition to the private automobile. The gradual and successful transition of all these aspects will not only build a superior transportation system, it will build economic and social equity for people who today are denied opportunities available to their more affluent and mobile counterparts.

Discovery Area:
Identify how Dallas can leverage transportation investment to strengthen access to economic opportunities and improve the quality of life in low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Diagnostic Questions:
What is the current state of transportation equity, in terms of accessibility, reliability, and level of service, in the Dallas-Fort Worth region and what are the policy impediments, funding constraints, and organizational structures and challenges that impact transportation equity for Dallas residents?

What projects and policies could Dallas’ transit providers implement to provide transit dependent populations with improved access to employment, education, healthcare and basic retail services while also balancing the need to attract new riders?

NEXT STEPS
Phase II begins a deep dive into the preliminary findings surfaced during Phase I. Four multi-sector working groups, one devoted to each of the Discovery Areas, will be convened to conduct innovative diagnostic research and analysis on these complex and interdependent issues. A fifth group, the Steering Committee, will be composed of the chairs of the individual working groups in addition to key City of Dallas staff. This multi-disciplinary committee will be empaneled to guide and validate the work of the Discovery Area working groups while ensuring an integrated and comprehensive approach that identifies synergies across the Discovery Areas and leverages the resources of a broad range of diverse stakeholders. Over the next several months, all five groups will work to develop new knowledge, strengthen partnerships, explore opportunities, and grapple with challenges that constrain Dallas’ resilience today. This work will culminate in the development of a Resilience Strategy. Dallas’ Resilience Strategy will be a visionary document as well as a tactical roadmap for building resilience. It will identify goals and actions for each of the Discovery Areas that aim for broadly equitable and inclusive outcomes designed to strengthen resilience for all Dallas residents.

Potential Partners
- City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management
- Dallas Police Department
- Dallas Fire and Rescue
- Dallas County Health and Human Services
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Dallas Medical Operations Center
- Dallas Hospital District
- FEMA Region 6
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- US Department of HHS

Potential Partners
- Office of Economic Development, City of Dallas
- Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- Southern Methodist University
- Greater Dallas Regional Chamber
- Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas
- JP Morgan Chase
- Dallas County Community College

Potential Partners
- Dallas AIA
- USGBC Dallas
- University of Texas at Austin

Potential Partners
- Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- University of Texas at Arlington
- SMU
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit
- Regional Transportation Commission
- HUD
- Department of Transportation

1 Inclusive Economy
2 Healthy Communities
3 Thriving Neighborhoods
4 Transportation Equity

Steering Committee