



UTC Project Information – Cooperative Mobility for Competitive Megaregions (CM²)

Project Title	The Evolving Texas Megaregion: Developing a Sustainable Megaregion Mobility Planning Blueprint
University	The University of Texas at Austin
Principal Investigator	Lisa Loftus-Otway
PI Contact Information	Email: loftusotway@mail.utexas.edu Phone: +1-512-232-3072
Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided (by each agency or organization)	U.S. Department of Transportation: Other: Other:
Total Project Cost	\$160,676.00
Agency ID or Contract Number	UTDOT Grant number: 69A3551747135
Start and End Dates	September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2022
Brief Description of Research Project	<p>With two-thirds of the nation's population expected to live in an identified megaregion by 2050, transportation policies, planning, and funding streams will be needed to be created for integration across the megaregion scale. These will be essential to ensure the economic competitiveness of connected metropolitan areas and to address mobility issues and challenges. The changing demographics of the states are in part a shift in how we, as citizens, are interacting into a globalized and technologically changing economy, that has seen massive transformational changes in transportation delivery in the past few years. The recent impact of Covid-19 however, will interject new challenges to our large city spaces as well as to the rural areas along equity, environmental justice, and mobility contours. Therefore, we believe a paradigm change in vision, funding, data needs, and fluidity in transportation planning, that has hitherto not been seen, will be necessary to adapt to expected COVID-19 impacts and new trends emerging. In many ways, it will require our transportation planning partners within the departments of transportation and metropolitan planning agencies to shift to a focus that is more visionary in scope.</p> <p>The European Union in 2013 developed a new transportation planning process called Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP). The raison d'être for this was to put the needs of people and their quality of life, including social equity, health, and environmental equity, and economic viability at the planning documents core. It aims to achieve a shift towards sustainable mobility by building on existing planning practices and taking due consideration of integration, participation,</p>

	<p>and evaluation principles. The SUMP methodology proffers an opportunity to develop a more targeted and comprehensive approach to the traditional mobility planning required.</p> <p>We believe that SUMP has scalability for the megaregion dimension which we are calling SUMP+ (Sustainable Urban Megaregion Mobility Planning).</p> <p>The goal of this project is to (i) develop a blueprint for how a SUMP+ process could be structured for the Texas Megaregion and (ii) assess how the Texas megaregion may be changing over the next 30 years across multiple dimensions to ensure that the SUMP+ process can be integrated, agile, equitable, sustainable, and rationally defended. As a single state megaregion, the Texas Triangle Megaregion offers an ideal opportunity to evaluate SUMP+ and develop the factors that would be needed in a blueprint.</p> <p>This project will work hand-in-hand with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the current Texas Triangle to identify research, data, and information needs that could be utilized to create a Texas-sized SUMP+. By using the Texas Triangle as the unit of analysis, the project will assess how the Texas megaregions may change in the future.</p>
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)	Project has not begun yet, so no outcomes have been realized.
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)	Project has not begun yet, so no impacts have been realized.
Web Links (to reports, project website, etc.)	N/A