



3.2 SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

In this section of the report, the Irving/DFW Corridor (also referred to as the Project Corridor) is defined as a geographic area one-half mile wide on either side of the proposed light rail line alignment. For the light rail stations, a one-half mile radius around each station footprint was defined as part of the Project Corridor.

The socio-economic profile was developed from several data sources: United States Census Bureau (1990 and 2000), North Central Texas Council of Governments, City of Irving, City of Dallas, and other local sources of information. This section describes characteristics of the population and economy that are important to transportation planning. This includes characteristics of employment in the region and the Project Corridor, development and growth trends, population distribution patterns, demographic profile of existing population, and population projections for the future. Neighborhoods within the Project Corridor are also identified.

3.2.1 Population Dynamics and Demographic Profiles

This section describes the population distribution patterns and trends within the region, Dallas County, the City of Irving, the City of Dallas, and the Project Corridor. It also provides a demographic profile of the populations residing in these areas.

Region, County and Corridor Cities Population Dynamics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is one of the ten most populated metropolitan areas in the United States and is the most populated metropolitan region in Texas. It ranked number nine in total population in the United States in 2000 and had experienced the highest population growth rate among the top ten urban areas during the previous decade. The growth rate was 29.3 percent between 1990 and 2000. This growth rate is more than twice the national rate of 13 percent for the same time period. In 1990, the Dallas/Fort Worth area had over 4 million residents. By 2000, that number had grown to over 5.2 million. This growth accounted for nearly one third of the total population growth in the State of Texas for that time period.

Within the Metroplex, Dallas County experienced the highest population increase. It grew during the 1990's by 366,089 residents from 1,852,810 to 2,218,899. It had the second largest population increase in the State. Among Metroplex cities, the City of Dallas led in total absolute growth during that same period. Dallas experienced an 18 percent growth rate adding 181,703 residents bringing the 2000 population total to 1,188,580. Dallas was the 8th largest city in the United States in the Year 2000. Irving also experienced high growth during this time period. The City was among the top five cities in the region for population growth from 1990 to 2000. Irving grew by 23.6 percent adding 36,578 to a total 2000 population of 191,615 residents.

Table 3-5 outlines these population changes.

TABLE 3-5 POPULATION CHANGE 1990-2000 REGION, COUNTY AND CORRIDOR CITIES				
Area	1990 Population	2000 Population	1990-2000 Change	% Change
Dallas-Fort Worth CMSA	4,037,282	5,221,801	1,184,519	29.3%
Dallas County	1,852,810	2,218,899	366,089	19.8%
City of Dallas	1,006,877	1,188,580	181,703	18.0%
City of Irving	155,037	191,615	36,578	23.6%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

NCTCOG, which is the governmental agency responsible for preparing long range forecasts for the ten counties surrounding Dallas and Fort Worth, is projecting these trends to continue. By 2030, NCTCOG predicts population growth of over 4 million bringing the region total to over 9.1 million persons. (The region as defined by NCTCOG is a slightly smaller geographic area than the CMSA)