



INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO TEMPLE

From railroad developers to manufacturers to pioneers in medicine, Temple has been built on the legacy of visionaries who found success here, laying the groundwork for a prosperous future. Throughout its history, Temple has managed to cultivate and maintain a quality of living and community identity that has contributed to the City's ability to attract new businesses and residents.

In the last decade, Temple has begun to identify the elements that contribute most to its community character and prosperity, and is poised for a strong and resilient future. The City's leadership is committed to proactively planning for Temple's future under a unified vision and action plan, led by its citizens.

The 2020 Comprehensive Plan is a culmination of broad input from the community, solidified in the goals of this document, presented here in an action plan for the future. Continued, community-led planning efforts will ensure that Temple's future success is, truly, by design.



ATSF Passenger Train Station and Railway Depot - Temple, Texas



WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A comprehensive plan is a long-range planning document that guides the growth of a city over time. It articulates a vision for the future of the community and serves as a blueprint for new development and redevelopment based on that community-established vision. This comprehensive plan provides a guide for growth and development decisions that ensures that the Temple of the future remains a great place to live, work, and play.

The English Oxford Dictionary defines comprehensive as “including or dealing with all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.” What makes a plan comprehensive is that it doesn’t focus on just one element or area of a community; rather, it recognizes that the varying elements and aspects of the community are interrelated. The plan assesses how all of these factors and influences work together, taking into consideration the historical and regional context, and using them to define and accomplish its vision and goals.

A comprehensive plan does not replace zoning regulations, budgets, capital improvement programs, or any other regulatory documents. Rather, it is designed to be the foundation for which the preparation of such implementation documents begins. This is a starting point, one that requires attention and focus for sustained success.

Plan Timeframe

This plan is an update to the 2008 Temple Comprehensive Plan (Choices '08) and provides guidance for generally a 10-year time frame, with an outlook of up to 20 years. Given current growth trends of the region and unforeseen future impacts, this plan should be evaluated annually with more significant updates every five years. Evaluation of progress toward implementation should be documented for the public annually to assess the success of the implementation action plan.

Planning Authority

Texas municipalities are not mandated to prepare and maintain comprehensive plans; still Chapter 213 of the Texas Local Government Code (LGC) states “for the purpose of promoting sound development of municipalities and promoting public health, safety, and welfare... The governing body of a municipality may adopt a comprehensive plan for the long-range development of the municipality.”

The Local Government Code suggests that a comprehensive plan may: (1) include but is not limited to provisions on land use, transportation, and public facilities; (2) consist of a single plan or a coordinated set of plans organized by subject and geographic area; and (3) be used to coordinate and guide the establishment of development regulations.

While basic components are recommended, the Local Government Code also gives municipalities the freedom to “define the content and design of a comprehensive plan,” so it is not unusual for communities that are engaged in the comprehensive planning process to incorporate a “comprehensive” list of defined topics to develop an integrated work program. These generally include, but are not limited to, population, housing, economic development, environmental and cultural resources, public facilities, transportation, downtown revitalization and other community-specific topics.

PLAN ELEMENTS

The Comprehensive Plan is generally divided into four broad categories:

Community Context

The introduction and context sets the stage as to who the community is and examine the state of the community today. This initial phase includes a historical and current development patterns and growth trends, demographics and population. This phase results in an initial overview of the community's needs and opportunities.

Engagement and Vision

The next step in the planning process is to decide what Temple's citizens want the City to be in the future. This section provides the results from purposeful public engagement derived from stakeholder meetings, public open houses, surveys, and workshops that further clarify and validate key issues facing the City and discuss opportunities for the future. The input gathered through this process informs the vision and goals for the plan.

Direction and Recommendations

The bulk of the plan is found in an analysis of existing conditions and recommendations for the future. In this section, the document details recommended plan actions that create a blueprint for future growth and change. Grouped into elements, these recommendations will weave existing and future efforts into an integrated plan.

Implementation

The final phase of the Plan answers how the community will work toward progress and fulfillment of the plan. This component prioritizes the action plan recommendations into an overall plan strategy for executing the comprehensive plan, and describes how the document will be administered and maintained moving forward.

Community Context

Answers where the City has been and demographic makeup of its citizens.

Engagement & Vision

Determines the community's vision for the future.

Direction & Recommendations

Provides the blueprint to how to make the vision a reality.

Implementation

Creates a prioritized, accountable action plan for the future.

WHY A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

As communities grow, they also change. New issues arise, new stakeholders have interests, new opportunities are presented. Without oversight, unfettered growth may produce unwanted side effects such as loss of natural amenities, undesirable development, and inefficient use of public services and infrastructure. Planning allows the City to proactively consider future growth and development rather than react to it on a case-by-case basis. Planning also encourages the private sector to invest in the community with confidence.

Temple population has grown by 15.4 percent between 2010 and 2018 bringing the population to 76,256. Additionally, Temple saw the addition of nearly 4,000 new jobs between 2012 and 2017 and is poised to continue economic and residential growth in the next decade.

The City is no stranger to growth; as economic opportunities and the population have increased, the City has embarked on studies to meet the needs of its growing City while also maintaining a diverse economic base and enhancing the City's quality of life. Given the growth pressures and mounting development opportunities, this planning process allows Temple to build upon past efforts and achievements in a unified fashion.

The planning process often proves as valuable as the plan itself. The process involves significant evaluation of community-wide issues and opportunities, as well as decisions about how much and where growth should occur. These include the nature of future development, and where the community can afford to provide the necessary public services and facilities to support this growth.



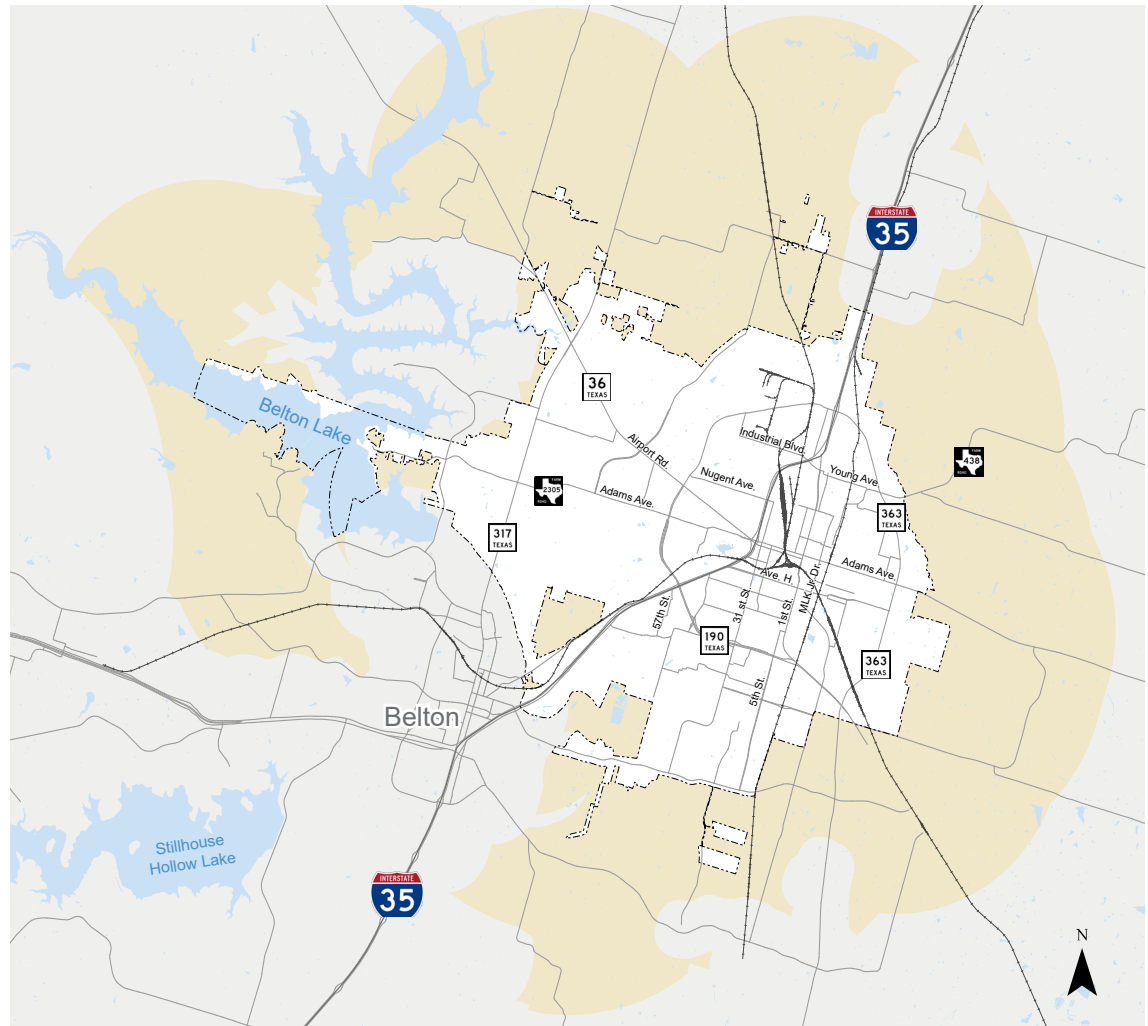
Interstate Highway 35 - Temple, Tx

PLANNING AREA

The planning area for the Comprehensive Plan includes the current incorporated area of the City of Temple as well as the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), generally within 3.5 miles of the City limits. Within these areas, the City has varying regulatory authority. Accordingly, the plan informs future decisions made by City staff, elected officials, and other community leadership to understand the impact of growth in each of these defined areas.

Today, the incorporated area of the City of Temple includes approximately 75.25 square miles, and the ETJ adds an additional 162 square miles to Temple's planning area. See Figure 1.1, *Temple Planning Area*.

FIGURE 1.1: TEMPLE PLANNING AREA



REGIONAL CONTEXT

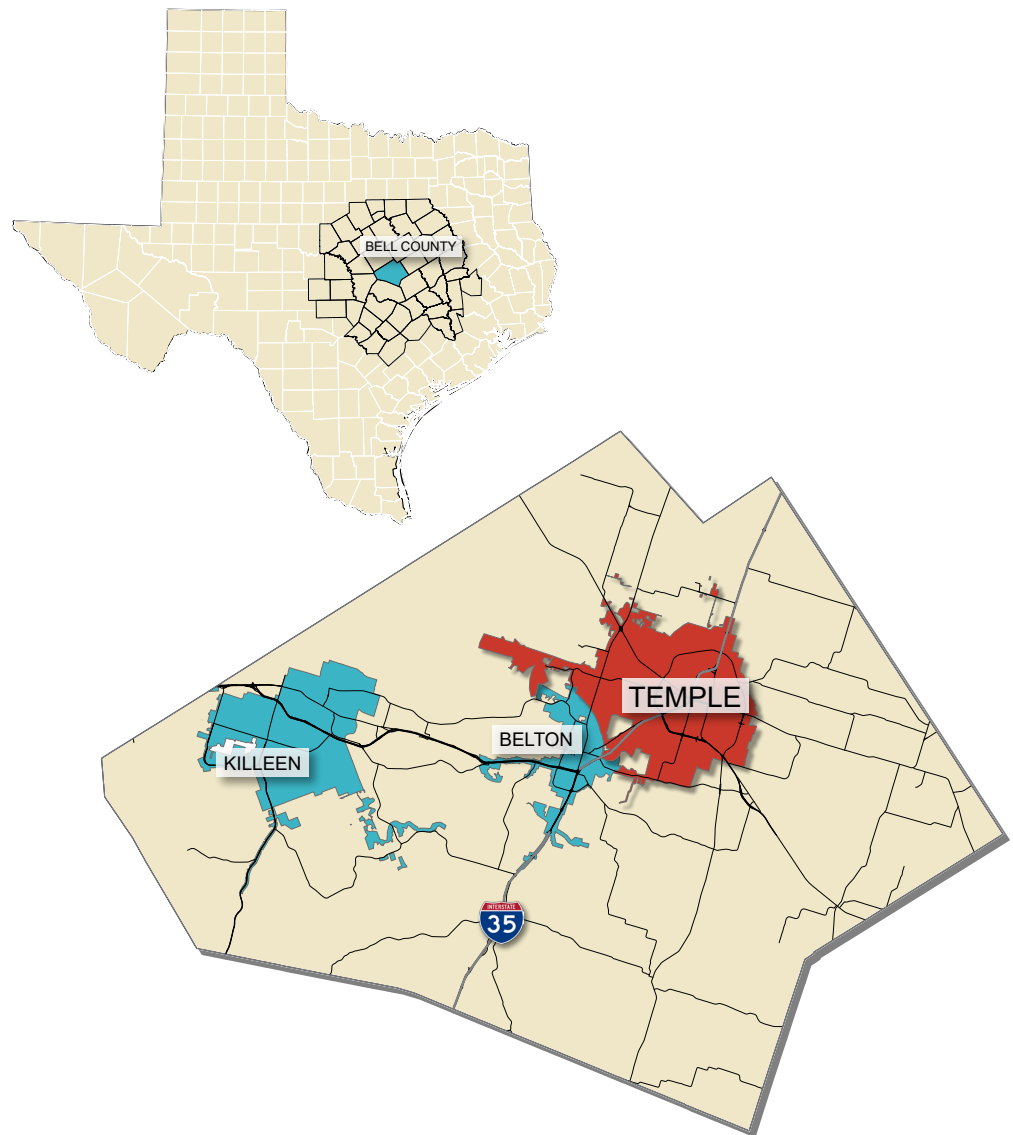
Temple's regional context can influence the City; its population characteristics and economic opportunities. This information provides context and foundation for identifying potential issues and opportunities for the planning process.

Overview

Temple is located in the Central Texas region along Interstate 35 in Bell County, approximately halfway between San Antonio (146 miles south) and Dallas (128 miles north). A “principal City” in the Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood Metropolitan Statistical Area, Temple is the second largest City in Bell County, by population, after Killeen. Belton, the Bell County seat, is adjacent to and immediately southwest of Temple.

Approximately 27 miles along US 190/I-14 make up the MSA, about the distance between Killeen and Temple. Temple is connected to the region by multiple state and national highways that intersect the City, including US Highway 190, Interstate 35, State Highway (SH) 36, SH 53, and SH 95. See Figure 1.2, *Regional Context*.

FIGURE 1.2: REGIONAL CONTEXT



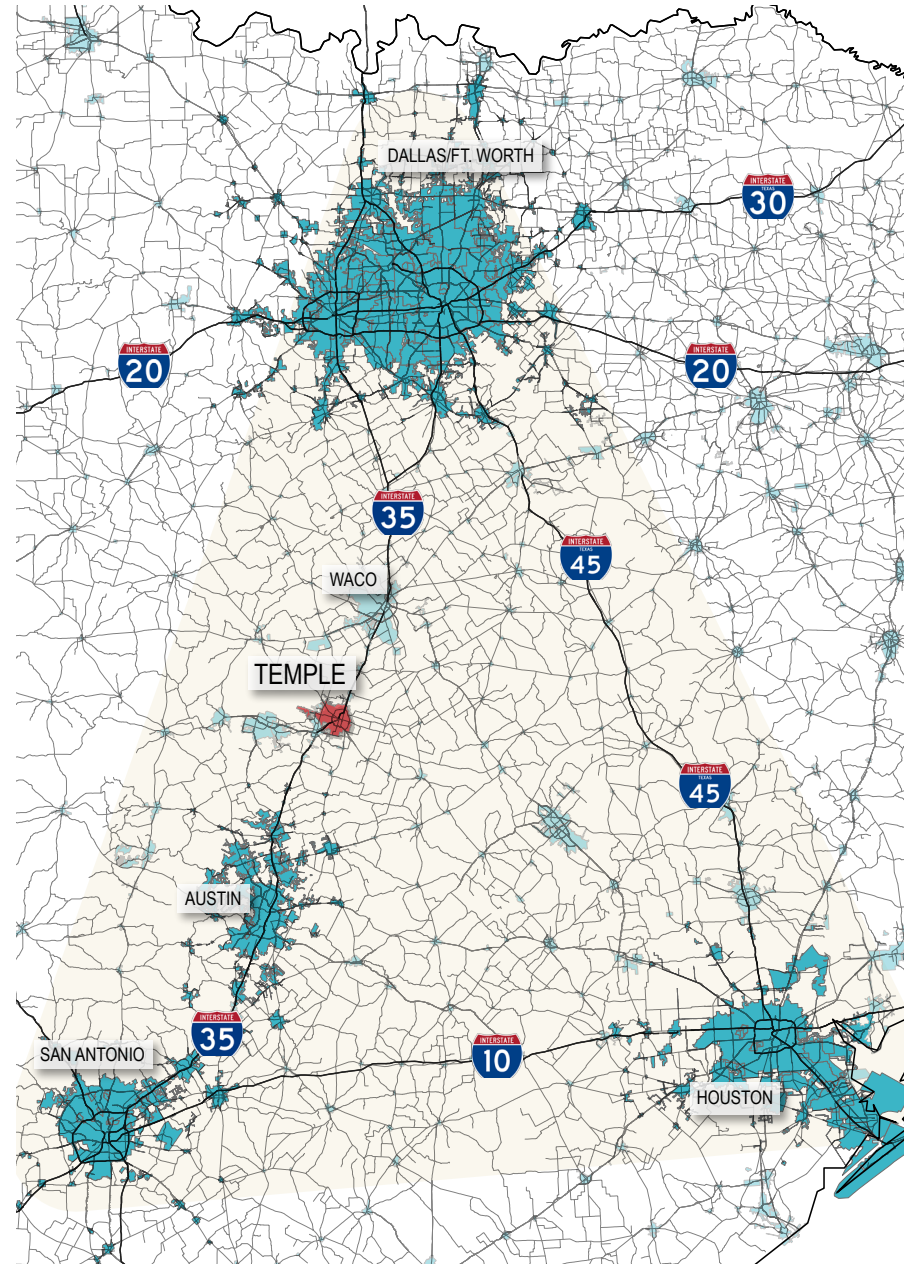
Locational Importance - Statewide

Location and connectivity have played an important role in Temple's historical growth and prosperity and will continue to do so in the future. Temple is located on the western side of the "Texas Triangle," a mega-region containing three of the top 10 largest cities in the United States: Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. See Figure 1.3, *Locational Importance*.

This region is estimated to have a population of nearly 20 million, and Temple is within a two and a half-hour drive to each of these metropolitan areas. Temple is also located along the newly designated Interstate 14, also known as the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway, which is anticipated to ultimately stretch from West Texas to Eastern Georgia. Being centrally situated among and systematically connected to these major cities, it is estimated that approximately 84 percent of the population of the State is within a three-hour drive from Temple.

Temple's freight rail system continues to be important for its future, particularly from an economic development standpoint as the City contains two active rail-lines, BNSF and Union Pacific. Temple's proximity to Fort Hood ensures a strong population base will remain in the area as the Fort is a critical military institution with a population of approximately 33,700. Temple's future prospects, however, rest firmly with its location along the important Interstate 35 corridor. Expanding growth from Austin and recent renewed interest in Waco, to the north, bode well for Temple's ability to attract and retain businesses and professional talent.

FIGURE 1.3: LOCATIONAL IMPORTANCE



PAST PLANNING INITIATIVES

In order to plan for its consistent growth, Temple has a long history of engaging in planning initiatives, dating back to its origins as a railroad company town. Throughout the years, Temple has conducted special studies and plans for targeted needs, particular districts, corridors, and unique areas of the City.

The predecessor to this Plan, Choices '08, was adopted in 2008. The plan consolidated nine previously-adopted small area plans into one comprehensive document that integrated residential, commercial, and industrial needs and visions.

The following planning initiatives are relevant and applicable planning efforts that have been considered at the outset of this planning effort.

- **Choices '08, The Temple Comprehensive Plan (2008):** *The previous Temple Comprehensive Plan, Choices '08, was created as an outline for directing upcoming growth, redevelopment, and community improvements in Temple and in the adjacent planning area in the following 20 years. The plan includes sections regarding urban design and future land use, growth, transportation, housing, and economic development. A few of the*

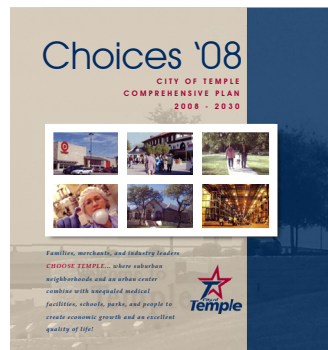
goals of the Choices '08 Plan include the following.

- *Renewed vitality & development interest in Temple's oldest neighborhoods*
- *Adequate public safety facilities, equipment & professional staffing to meet current needs & prepare for future demands*
- *A mobility system that offers a variety of choice in modes of travel*
- *An expanding housing stock that offers local buyers & renters both affordability & value*
- *Excellence in Temple schools & higher education to assist in attracting employers & employees*

- **Downtown Strategic Plan (2014):** *The Downtown Temple Strategic Plan was finalized in 2014 by TBG. The plan assisted City leaders, property owners, and potential developers in the formation of a cohesive plan, consisting of a variety of urban areas. Important topics were recognized that need to be addressed, if the downtown is going to achieve its maximum potential. These topics include the following.*

- *Culture;*
- *Walkability;*
- *Historic significance; and*
- *Activity.*

The plan divided the downtown into five districts: Town Center, Santa Fe Plaza, First Street Corridor, South Gateway to TMED, and MLK District. The plan presented ideas for the whole area, involving land use/zoning; street standards; parking standards; and designated food truck locations.



Choices '08 Comprehensive Plan (2008)

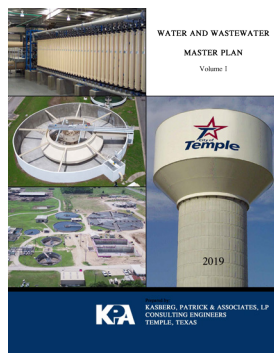


Downtown Strategic Plan (2014)



Temple Target Industry Analysis (2018)

- **Temple Target Industry Analysis (2018):** This plan evaluates individual industry sectors that the Temple Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) should be tracking and to create an advertising strategy to manage its business recruitment endeavors. This plan consists of a target industry analysis overview and marketing recommendations. The goals of the plan include general marketing and lead generations recommendations and sector-specific recommendations.
- **Water/Wastewater Master Plan (2019):** The Water and Wastewater Master Plan gives a full assessment and examination of Temple's existing utilities and infrastructure enhancements necessary to serve citizens in 2070. The plan contains an analysis of the existing water and wastewater systems and phasing plan.
- **Parks and Trails Master Plan (2020):** The 2020 Parks and Trails Master Plan guides the City's parks, recreation and open space efforts and included an update to the citywide trails plan. The prior update, in 2015, led to a successful bond program that implemented most of the recommendations of that plan, requiring a new master plan. The Temple community had a strong desire to expand the trails system and provide better pedestrian connections to parks, schools and other destinations. In addition, Temple's recent playground and park enhancements were very popular with the public and additional similar improvements were prioritized for key neighborhood and community parks.
- **City of Temple's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan:** The City of Temple's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, completed in 2019, sets out organizational direction for the city government to complete some key goals for the next five years. The plan was developed by City staff and City Council and includes a set of core organization values and commitments under a framework of four key focus areas. The commitments and initiatives in this document will be a key driver in the annual budget process and is closely aligned with the framework of the action plan in the comprehensive plan update.
- **Quality of Life 2030 Master Plan (TRZ) (2019):** The TRZ 2030 Quality of Life Master Plan (QLMP) conveys the desires, goals, and priorities of the City to assist in presenting a framework to guide Temple's RZ Board of Directors, City Staff, and City Council in the future. The Plan presents a baseline of indicators from which to evaluate progress over time, and dedicates the City via a performance-based process to achieve those goals.



Water/Wastewater Master Plan (2019)



Parks and Trails Master Plan (adopted 2019)



City of Temple's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan



Quality of Life 2030 Master Plan (TRZ) (2019)

PAST PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the Choices '08 Comprehensive Plan, the City has taken steps towards achieving community priorities, some of which were ongoing during the creation of this planning document. Successful planning efforts must produce achievable results to retain the support of the community. Since 2008, particular highlights of community achievements include the following:

- *I-35 Corridor Zoning Overlay (2009)*
- *Temple Health and Bioscience District creation (2009)*
- *TMED (Temple Medical and Education District) plan and zoning (2010 and 2011)*
- *Downtown Master Plan (2014)*
- *Parks Master Plan (2014)*
- *Airport Master Plan (2015)*
- *Community-wide Sidewalk Inventory (in-house by Public Works in 2015)*
- *TMED South Master Plan (2017)*
- *RZ (Reinvestment Zone) Quality of Life Master Plan (2018)*
- *5 + 1 (Year) Business Plan*
- *Water Master Plan (2019)*
- *Wastewater Master Plan (2019)*
- *Overall Strategic Plan (2019)*
- *Templeton Demographic Study (2019)*
- *Parks and Trails Master Plan (2020)*
- *Drainage Master Plan (2020)*
- *Parking Action Plan (2020)*



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