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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Mobility Master Plan?

As the City of Temple grows and develops, so will its transportation system. The best of both the country and the city meets in Temple; friendly small-town culture, a prime Central Texas location, and the amenities that accompany urbanized areas will bring in thousands of new residents by 2045. The increase in residents and jobs will require Temple to upgrade and expand the transportation system; the overarching goal is to ensure safe and efficient travel within the city and the surrounding region.

The City of Temple is planning for such growth. The project team, in collaboration with key stakeholders and local citizens, developed this Mobility Master Plan (MMP) with a state-of-the-practice multimodal transportation system in mind. As a blueprint for all future modes of transportation, the plan includes recommendations for the development of roadways, transit systems, aviation, freight networks, and bike and pedestrian infrastructure over the next 25 years. This MMP document will serve as a guide for implementation of the multimodal transportation system, so the system is one that best serves the Temple community as growth continues.

A Mobility Master Plan is:

“A strategic plan to improve the movement of people and goods in a community.”



1.1.1 Elements of the Plan

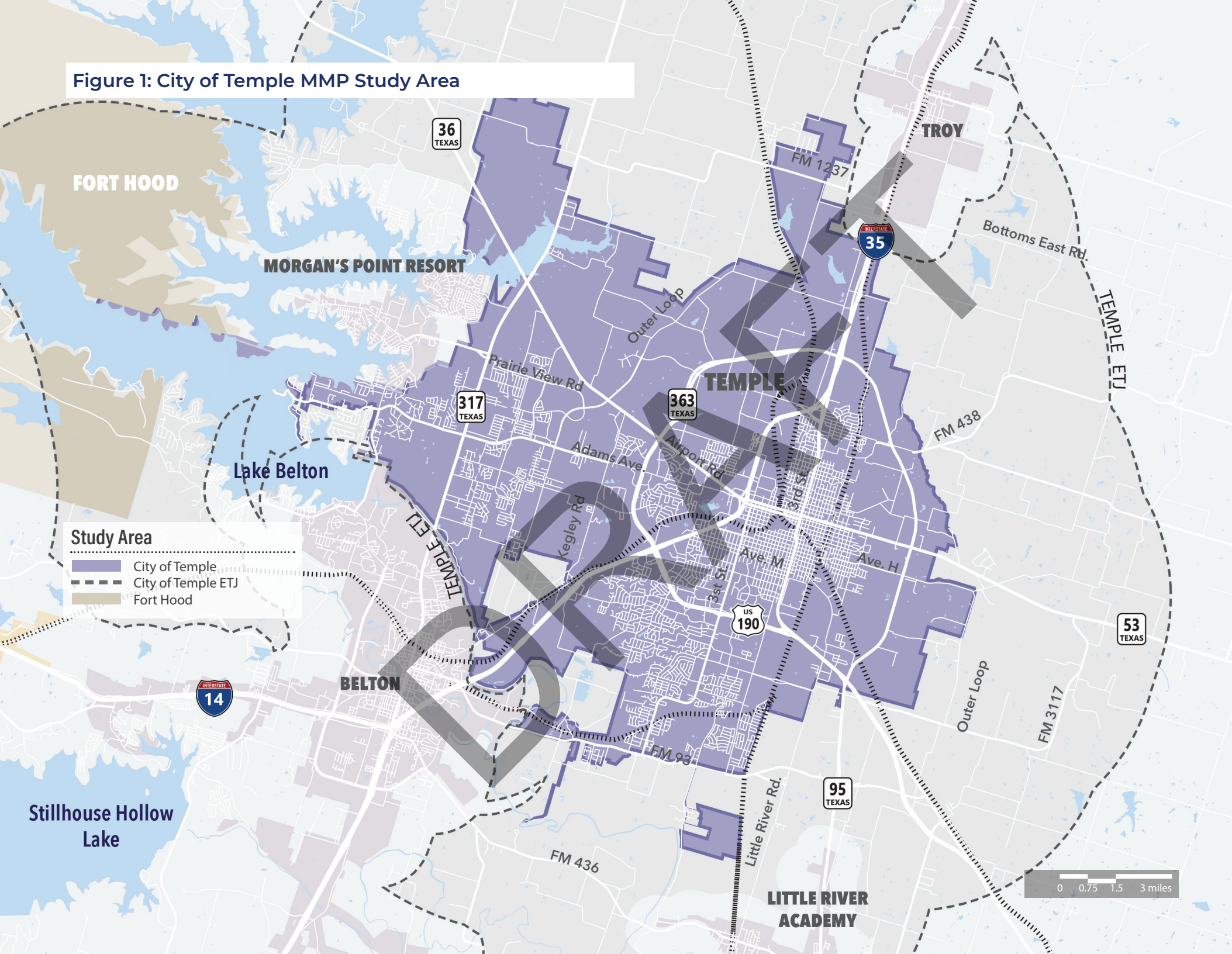
An MMP is defined as “A strategic plan to improve the movement of people and goods in a community.” This MMP offers guidance on how to improve movement through Temple by increasing the overall efficiency and sustainability of the current system. To ensure the resulting transportation system is comprehensive and equitable, the recommendations in this plan include prioritized investments in infrastructure for all modes of transportation, including vehicular travel, transit, bicycling, and walking.

Examining the multimodal transportation system holistically provided a “big picture” view of the transportation system. Using this multifaceted approach to analyze the Temple study area, the city gained insight on what investments would best serve the community and how the elements of this MMP connect to other guiding plans in the Temple MMP area.



- **Unifying** - Similar to how it brings all the different modes together, the MMP also brings goals together, unifying all transportation plans. The MMP will work with other city plans, not against them –ensuring the hard work that has already been done isn’t overlooked or contradicted.
- **Community** - One of the key identifying factors of an MMP is that it is built on the community’s vision. The community voice was incorporated in all phases of the MMP, from the start to the finish.
- **Strategic** - Mobility master plans are strategic. They provide a vision for the future. Temple is growing fast and having a document that provides guidance for growing well can help ensure Temple is a desirable place to live for generations to come. An MMP can also help get funding for the projects Temple needs most, by identifying projects that can qualify for capital improvements funding.
- **Progressive-** the MMP is future-oriented and includes discussion of emerging technologies, such as autonomous and connected vehicles. By taking a proactive approach to planning as the technology is still developing, the City of Temple will be ready to implement technologies when they become more readily available to the public.
- **Active Transportation Plan** – the MMP will include an analysis of the existing active transportation (AT) networks—such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and other shared use paths—as well as a plan for how to best connect key destinations using AT infrastructure and resolve AT gaps along major corridors.
- **Multimodal Transportation Plan** - The MMP will include recommendations for all transportation modes, including walking, biking, driving, and taking transit. Any method of getting around Temple that can address the mobility needs of residents and visitors will be in the plan.
- **Capital Improvement Plan and Implementation** – Since the MMP projects will occur alongside other projects, all MMP recommendations will be appropriately prioritized to ensure a realistic implementation plan.
- **Conceptual Transit Plan** – The MMP will include high-level recommendations for the future of transit in Temple.

Figure 1: City of Temple MMP Study Area



1.2 Planning Area

The Planning Area used for the MMP includes Temple's City boundary and it's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). However, regional connections are considered as part of the study to evaluate their impact on the transportation network.

1.3 Past Planning Initiatives

The project team conducted a thorough review of other planning documents and reports, drawing from the aspirational goals and development of a community vision for Temple in other plans together to ensure cohesion with the MMP. The summaries of each plan acted as a resource in the development of the MMP by providing guidance, background, and a variety of goals and objectives from previous plans. The insights gained from this review were the foundation for the goals of the MMP, and the plan review supported the city goal of an MMP that supports a unified community vision. The following plans and reports were included in the review:

- Safe Routes to School Masterplan – 2009
- Mobility Report – 2012
- Downtown Strategic Master Plan – 2014
- Airport Master Plan – 2017
- Quality of Life Master Plan – 2019
- Water and Wastewater Master Plans – 2019
- Ferguson Park Neighborhood Plan – 2019
- Population Analysis – 2019
- Comprehensive Plan – 2020
- Parking Action Plan – 2020
- Parks and Trails Master Plan – 2020
- Bellaire Neighborhood Plan – 2020
- Midtown Neighborhood – 2020
- 2021 Proposed Business Plan – 2020
- Mobility CIP (Section of 2021 Proposed Business Plan) – 2020

