THE GREATER DALLAS PLANNING COUNCIL’S
AGENDA FOR CHANGE

We need to look to the future and new technology to improve the resiliency and sustainability of our communities. Long-term vision and flexible planning will be necessary to cope with a dynamic environment. The mission of the GDPC is to shape, promote and advocate a creative, sustainable future for the Dallas region. Key components of planning a sustainable future include compact, efficient land use, transit options, low energy and water use, leveraging the natural environment into planned infrastructure, and diverse neighborhoods promoting livable, healthy communities.

Following is a set of recommendations and our advocacy agenda:

GDPC’s AGENDA FOR URBAN DESIGN:  Follow principles of New Urbanism.

The GDPC strongly supports the principles of new urbanism advanced by the Congress for New Urbanism: Walkability, Connectivity, Mixed Use and Diversity, Mixed Housing, Quality Architecture and Urban Design, Traditional Neighborhood Structure, Increased Density, Green Transportation, Sustainability and Quality of Life. Applying these principles to the Dallas region leads to the following agenda for change:

- Social Equity through Urbanism – All North Texans should be afforded access to affordable housing, transportation and employment in healthy and safe environments.
- Density vs. Urbanism – Use principles of good urbanism to address concerns over the pressure to accommodate density.
- Coordinate Regional Efforts – Strengthen Dallas as a growing polynuclear city composed of interconnected villages, districts, open spaces, and cultural settings.

GDPC’S AGENDA FOR TRANSPORTATION:  Redefine what transportation looks like and how it functions.

High-density city living minimizes humanity’s footprint on the planet while making it possible for people to walk, bike and take transit – the solution to lowering carbon emissions. Following are the principles we advocate in the transportation arena:

- Develop a new approach to design and function of transportation systems.
- Develop a multi-modal approach to transportation and related land use policies.
- Make Dallas a hub for high speed rail and hyperloop travel.
• Develop key roadway corridors that tell a story, while enhancing place-making in communities.
• Link the North Texas region through a system of drives, parkways, and trails that enhance our region’s waterways and ridges.
• Restrict overhead freeways and deck subsurface freeways at key locations.
• Develop a thirty-year plan to bury overhead utilities along area roads.

GDPC’s AGENDA FOR NATURAL RESOURCES: Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of our natural resources.

We must commit to reducing our carbon footprint and eliminating food deserts, designing our cities and our life systems to be resilient to the hazards that will inevitably confront them while making them thriving, healthy places to live. Holistic planning, in the form of One Water/integrated urban planning and design will be essential in this effort.

To Achieve Our Goals of Healing, Sustainability, Resiliency, Connectivity, Diversity and Economic Growth, and reducing our impact on the planet the following is necessary:

• Utilize new technology to improve the environment.
• Preserve Water Resources.
• Improve Air Quality.
• Develop renewable energy sources.
• Strengthen our regional food system and better manage municipal waste.