

DDCT

**Development District
of Central Texas**

January 8, 2026

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Agenda

Development District of Central Texas

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Central Texas Council of Governments Building
2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas 76513

Regular Meeting: 9:30 AM

Virtual Link: [DDCT
Meeting](#)

Call in Number: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](#)

Access Code: [599-946-797](#)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Opportunity for Public Comment.
3. **Action Item:** Regarding approval of meeting minutes of the Oct 12, 2025, meeting. *(pgs. 6-10)*
4. **Discussion Item:** Regarding 2022–2026 CEDS Status Review and Launch of 2026 CEDS Revision Process *(pgs. 12-16)*
5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Formation of CEDS Steering Committee in accordance with EDA requirements *(pgs. 18-20)*
6. **Discussion and Action Item:** Approval of CEDS Revision Scope, Timeline, and Process *(pg. 22)*
7. **Discussion and Action Item:** Establish meeting dates for CEDS Steering Committee and subcommittee meetings *(pg. 24)*
8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding updates on regional broadband initiatives. *(pg. 26)*
9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding legislative updates impacting economic development. *(pg. 28)*
10. Staff Update. *(pg. 30)*
 - a. DDCT Outreach Efforts
 - b. CEDS Revision Planning and EDA Coordination Update
 - c. In-Kind Reporting Requirement for Board members
11. Board of Directors Comments.
12. Other Business: Next meeting date Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 9:30 AM.
13. Adjourn.

The Development District of Central Texas is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity for effective communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the DDCT office at 254-770-2379 24 hours in advance if accommodation is needed. Citizens who desire to address the Board on any matter may sign up to do so prior to this meeting. Public comments will be received during this portion of the meeting. Comments are limited to 3 minutes maximum. No discussion or final action will be taken by the Board.

ITEM #3

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes

Attached are the meeting minutes from the October 2, 2025 meeting for review.

Action Needed: Approval of DDCT Meeting Minutes from the October 2, 2025 meeting.

Development District of Central Texas (DDCT)

Thursday, October 2, 2025

9:30 AM

Regular Meeting Minutes

2180 North Main Street

Belton, TX 76513

Appointment	Entity	Member	Attended	Alternate Member
County	Bell County	Vacant		
County	Coryell County	Vacant		
County	Hamilton County	Vacant		
County	Lampasas County	Vacant		
County	Milam County	Vacant		
County	Mills County	Vacant		
County	San Saba	Vacant		
CTCOG	CTCOG	Vacant		
CTCOG	CTCOG	Vacant		
Individual	City of Killeen	Ramon Alvarez	N	
Individual	City of Mullin	Vacant		
Individual	City of San Saba	Vacant		
Individual	Belton EDC	Cynthia Hernandez	Y	
Individual	Bartlett Activities Center	Dean Roome	Y	
Individual	Cameron Industrial Foundation	Ginger Watkins	*	
Individual	Hamilton EDC	Vacant		
Individual	Nolanville EDC	Brian O'Connor	*	
Individual	Rockdale MDD	Jim Gibson	*	
Individual	Bartlett ISD	Dr. Teddy Clevenger	Y	
Individual	Workforce Development Board	Linda Angel	Y	
Individual	Salado Chamber of Commerce	Amanda Organ	N	
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		

Y= Attended Y/A= Alternate Attended N=Did not attend

*denotes online attendance

1. **Call to Order:** Dr. Teddy Clevenger called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.
2. **Opportunity for Public Comment:** No comments received from the Public, in person or online.
3. **Action Item:** Approve meeting minutes from the July 10, 2025, meeting.

The minutes from the July 10, 2025, meeting (pages 7-11 in the packet) were presented for approval.

Ginger Watkins made a motion to approve the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding election of DDCT officers.

Staff provided an overview of officer term limits and the annual re-election cycle.

Ginger Watkins made a motion that the residing officers remain, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Membership and Bylaws

Staff provided an update on the proposed 2025 revisions to the Bylaws, which expand membership, clarify quorum and officer terms, and modernize language.

Dean Roome made a motion to approve the membership and bylaws as presented with the noted corrections, seconded by Cynthia Hernandez; the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion Item:** Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Implementation.

Staff provided an update regarding the 2022-2026 CEDs Implementation. Discussion was focused on how to evaluate existing strategies, test preparedness, and begin identifying priorities for the next cycle.

7. **Discussion Item:** Regarding the Central Texas Water Alliance.

Judge David Blackburn gave a presentation updating the board on the Central Texas Water Alliance.

8. **Discussion Item:** Regarding updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives.

Staff provided an update on various broadband initiatives and opportunities for the region.

9. **Discussion Item:** Regarding legislative updates impacting economic development.

Staff provided a summary of federal and state legislative updates for economic development.

10. **Staff Update.**

Staff provided an update on website redesign efforts as well as TX HB563.

11. **Board of Directors Comments:** A board member commented on a couple of upcoming events.

12. **Other Business:** Next meeting date Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 9:30 AM.

13. **Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.**

These meeting minutes were approved by DDCT at their meeting on _____.

Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director

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ITEM #4

Regarding 2022–2026 CEDS
Status Review and Launch of
2026 CEDS Revision Process

Regarding 2022–2026 CEDS Status Review and Launch of 2026 CEDS Revision Process

Our current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was approved in March 2022 and covers fiscal years 2022-2026. To keep in compliance with EDA requirements and remain eligible for federal funding, a new CEDS will need to be submitted in Fall of 2026.

The proposed timeline for this revision will last approximately 10 months from launch to ratification, beginning Jan 8, 2026 and ending in early October 2026.

The process involves a mandatory 30-day public comment period and extensive stakeholder workshops and interviews; starting now ensures completion before our grant renewal application. Therefore, we are asking the board to formally approve the launch of the CEDS revision process today and direct staff to begin organizing the Steering Committee.

Review of our 2022-2026 CEDS

The 2022-2026 CEDS prioritized key regional themes, most notably economic resilience, business attraction, workforce development, and enhancing community vitality. It identified our central location and military presence as key strengths, but also highlighted persistent weaknesses like limited rural broadband, a lack of high-paying jobs, and job growth that has lagged behind the state average. While we have initiated important actions, such as coordinating emergency planning and promoting regional marketing, these challenges remain.

Key Takeaways:

1. Strategic focus on workforce, entrepreneurship, resilience, and emergency preparedness.
2. Strategy implementation was largely successful, with 83% of actions outlined either underway or completed; strategies not implemented were largely due to a broad scope and low manpower, or shift in regional priorities.
3. Current CEDS goals and objectives are largely transferable to our new CEDS.
4. Stakeholder engagement needs to be expanded and retained.
5. Scope needs to narrow, grow as we go.

Gaps Identified :

1. No regional metrics tracking effectiveness of actions and implementation
2. Some strategy goals are broadly defined without measurable outcomes
3. Stakeholder feedback slowed post-ratification
4. Underrepresentation of emerging sectors
5. Progress updates need to be formalized

Action Needed: Approval of CEDS Revision Commencement.



OBJECTIVE: Improve and formalize emergency operational and communication protocols within and across jurisdictions.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Prepare municipalities to function in remote/mobile formats during emergencies.	CTCOG technical advisement to jurisdictions	High	Near Term	\$	FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
Resume periodic emergency drills on various scenarios, including rehearsals for key generator hookups.	CTCOG to sponsor	High	Near Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Evaluate scenarios for how people will access emergency medical services & supplies (including temperature-sensitive medicines) in consideration of rural areas' distance to hospitals.	CTCOG coordinate	High	Near Term	\$	FEMA EMPG
Develop and maintain jurisdiction-specific protocols for emergency communications and operations, including Severe Weather Emergency Response Plans. Protocols should include regional communication; consider municipal leadership overturn; address backup power use; and address use of radio/TV and local or county emergency preparedness web pages for residents without social media. Appoint a CTCOG staff member to serve as a point person for advising municipal leaders in times of crisis and for performing checks that protocols are annually updated.	CTCOG to coordinate and provide templates where appropriate and needed	High	Near Term	\$	FEMA EMPG
Host a "Small Town Summit" and coordinate basic emergency planning meetings on an ongoing basis.	CTCOG as lead; leverage FEMA NIMS materials	High	Mid Term	\$\$	N/A; staff time only
Create local volunteer task forces composed of residents willing to perform physical infrastructure checks and advise municipal leadership where roads, water distribution, and electric poles are out; seek participants that own drones.	Municipalities	Med	Mid Term	\$	FEMA EMPG
Educate jurisdictions on how to leverage the Defense Support of Civil Authorities program to secure generators, water, etc. from Fort Hood during crises.	CTCOG with DSCA program and National Guard	Med	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Develop and centrally store templates for municipalities to send out emergency information (e.g. boil notices).	CTCOG	Low	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only

OBJECTIVE: Prepare and harden infrastructure needed for emergency communications, emergency services, & resilience.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Identify facilities that can house displaced/evacuated residents and serve as command-and-control centers. Prepare them with backup generators, caches of food/water, and transportation plans.	Rural communities	High	Near Term	\$	FEMA EMPG
Evaluate the cyber preparedness of CTCOG's 7-county 911 system.	CTCOG	High	Near Term	\$\$	FEMA EMPG
Procure and place generators (esp. diesel with 5-7 day capacity) at additional priority locations that will serve as warming/cooling centers.	CTCOG coordinate with municipalities and service providers	High	Mid Term	\$\$	FEMA EMPG
Adopt rural healthcare innovation models that provide for rural urgent care and health emergency response teams, leveraging Texas A&M Health.	Counties, Texas A&M Health (OnMed collaboration)	High	Mid Term	\$\$	Texas A&M Health program supported by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas
Continue investing in and hardening broadband and cellular networks (e.g. improved battery backup and/or solar on cell towers/repeaters).	CTCOG coordinate with municipalities and service providers	High	Long Term	\$\$	Municipal funds
Invest in roadways needed for emergency services.	CTCOG advise communities on prioritization of maintenance investments	High	Long Term	\$\$\$	Killeen-Temple Metropolitan Organization (KTMPO)
Set up social media channels for individual jurisdictions to build following for improved outreach during emergencies.	Individual jurisdictions, with CTCOG technical assistance	Med	Near Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Explore and develop capability for CTCOG to deliver alerts to all phones active in the region, building on the existing local CodeRED systems.	CTCOG	Med	Near Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Educate jurisdictions on resources available for cyberattack prevention and mitigation.	CTCOG, leveraging Texas Municipal League and State resources	Med	Mid Term	\$	FEMA EMPG
Invest in backup power and communications; consider use of solar for redundancy.	CTCOG coordinate municipalities	Med	Mid Term	\$\$	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program & Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

OBJECTIVE: Educate and prepare residents and businesses to better sustain themselves during disasters.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Assist businesses in developing continuity plans and accessing resources/programs for recovery and resilience. Leverage U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Guides.	CTCOG with SBDCs, local chambers, EDCs, and "SBA Regional Navigator" designee	High	Mid Term	\$	SBA programs
Develop and disseminate educational materials to households regarding preparations they can make to sustain themselves longer without utilities or transportation.	CTCOG prepare materials; municipalities disseminate	Med	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Develop and disseminate informational materials to residents of mobile homes and other vulnerable structures to encourage repairs and other measures to make them more resistant to storm impacts, including information about financial resources that could offset the costs of such measures.	Municipalities, coordinated by CTCOG, in collaboration with Housing Divisions, Offices on Aging, Hill Country Community Action	Med	Mid Term	\$\$	N/A; staff time only
Consider processes for jurisdictions to further build relationships with residents to gain awareness of who has special needs and risks in the event of a crisis.	Municipalities with local real estate groups; Belton "R U OK?" model	Med	Long Term	\$\$	N/A; staff time only
Encourage businesses to explore profitable supply chain localization measures.	CTCOG with local chambers and advisement from TMAC (Texas' Manufacturing Extension Partnership)	Low	Long Term	\$	TMAC assistance pursuing individual grants for businesses to offset costs

**GOAL: Accelerate regional business attraction and growth.****OBJECTIVE: Develop a strong regionally-based business marketing effort.**

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Develop a regional brand and marketing plan and unified business attraction messaging effort and showcasing Central Texas as the "hub" of the major Texas metros; diversity of communities and people, including lower-density rural living options; I-14 improvements/expansion; and historical heritage tourism.	CTCOG, partner with Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Chambers	High	Mid Term	\$\$	Municipal contributions
Hold Opportunity Zone investment forums to generate interest in specific development projects and connect investors with developers.	CTCOG with OZ host municipalities	High	Near Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Develop a regionally-based tourism marketing effort promoting area destinations, downtowns, and outdoor assets.	CTCOG	Med	Long Term	\$\$	Municipal contributions; Texas Commission on the Arts' Cultural Districts Designation Program and associated grants
Integrate messaging about the Fort Hood talent base into business attraction marketing efforts.	CTCOG	Low	Mid Term	\$	Municipal contributions

OBJECTIVE: Cultivate, attract, and retain a talented workforce.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Strengthen and continue partnerships between institutions of higher education and high/middle schools in the region to provide apprenticeships opportunities and increase participation of youth in skilled jobs and post-secondary degrees.	High schools and middle schools, higher education institutions, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Chambers, major employers	High	Mid Term	\$	Texas Workforce Commission programs (Skills Development Fund), employer contributions
Further leverage and scale mechanisms for facilitating entry of Fort Hood personnel into local private sector talent pool (e.g. the Heroes MAKE America and Hiring Our Heroes programs). Create a marketing campaign and associated "concierge service" to encourage Fort Hood personnel to remain local after service, supporting them in career exploration and accessing transitional services.	CTCOG coordinate with area higher education institutions, Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, Chambers, Hiring our Heroes (U.S. Chamber Foundation), Heroes Make America (The Manufacturing Institute)	High	Long Term	\$\$	CTCOG and partner staff time with potential employer contributions / sponsorships

OBJECTIVE: Strengthen the conditions for growth of new and existing businesses.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.*	CTCOG with Connected Nation and locally active ISPs	High	Near Term	\$\$\$	ARPA, Connected Nation, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
Develop a regional water/sewer plan prioritizing investments needed for industry growth.	CTCOG with local water and sewer authorities	High	Near Term	\$	Texas Water Development Board; USDA Rural Development
Identify and prepare additional sites for industrial and distribution facilities; conduct site assessment and preliminary site design to aid in prioritization and site marketing.	EDCs as lead, with counties and municipalities	High	Mid Term	\$	CDBG for certain areas; potential future TxEDC programs replacing Texas Capital Fund Real Estate & Infrastructure Program
Build on the momentum of the Research Park to further cultivate high-tech industry clusters; study the potential to develop a broader "innovation zone" with the Park as its hub.*	CTCOG with Central Texas A&M	High	Mid Term	\$	Municipal contributions
Create a regional outreach effort to promote entrepreneurial opportunities to Fort Hood personnel transitioning into the civilian workforce, with a focus on defense contractor opportunities.	CTCOG, SBDCs, area incubators, PTACs	Med	Mid Term	\$	DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation; SBA Office of Veterans Business Development
Collaborate with Tesla to connect local businesses to related supply chain opportunities.	CTCOG and Tesla with local chambers and advisement from TMAC (Texas' Manufacturing Extension Partnership)	Low	Near Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Encourage greater utilization of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers to help local businesses capture greater federal procurement opportunities and Fort Hood economic impact; host education/awareness events in collaboration with PTACs.*	PTACs, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), CTCOG, Fort Hood	Low	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Promote digital literacy in small businesses, leveraging existing training models.*	Chambers	Low	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only

*These strategies additionally promote economic resilience through economic diversification and equipping businesses to more easily pivot and sustain themselves through a variety of economic shocks.

**GOAL: Ensure the vitality of our communities and residents.****OBJECTIVE: Proactively shape growth to ensure quality of place.**

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Study the region's housing stock and develop strategies to ensure adequate housing product for current and future residents. Product should outline tactics for municipalities to help induce both new construction and improvements to substandard homes.	CTCOG and jurisdictions, partner with realtor associations/boards and home builder associations	High	Near Term	\$	Community Development Block Grant
Create a Regional Trails Plan that enhances multi-modal transportation options and ensures robust access to outdoor amenities and water features.	CTCOG and KTMPO, jurisdictions, Texas Parks and Wildlife, US Army Corp of Engineers	High	Mid Term	\$	KTMPO; Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (e.g. Recreational Trails Grants)
Encourage a diversity of retail, services, and entertainment establishments, particularly in downtowns; conduct retail leakage studies; host a small-town "Texas Downtowns" regional gathering to discuss strategies to increase foot traffic.	CTCOG, local EDCs	High	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only
Develop a regional land use plan and master plans for cities, setting the foundation for decisions affecting where growth and development are channeled.	CTCOG and jurisdictions	Med	Near Term	\$	Texas Dept. of Agriculture Programs (TCF; DRP; Planning & Capacity Building Fund)
Assist jurisdictions with updating ordinances and policies in anticipation of subdivision development interest; with attention to policies requiring developer contribution to utilities expansion.	CTCOG and jurisdictions	Low	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only

OBJECTIVE: Enhance the region's economic connectivity.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Expand broadband, creating a Broadband Advisory Council to accelerate the audit/survey/buildout process across jurisdictions.	CTCOG with Connected Nation and locally active ISPs	High	Near Term	\$\$\$	ARPA, Connected Nation, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
Expand public transit offerings to provide reliable, affordable public transportation options for connecting rural residents with employment centers.	CTCOG, Hill Country Transit District, TXDOT, MPOs	High	Near Term	\$\$	Federal formula funds
Improve the conditions of roadways, with particular attention to increased use of county roads.	CTCOG discussions with Killeen-Temple MPO and other MPOs	Med	Near Term	\$\$\$	State Highway Fund, CDBG
Develop an airport master plan addressing airport marketing/branding, increasing competitiveness vis-à-vis Austin, and needed upgrades such as additional hangar space.	CTCOG and airport authority	Med	Mid Term	\$	FAA Airport Improvement Program

OBJECTIVE: Improve municipal systems that allow for fair taxation, stable revenues, and growth.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Accelerate appraisal efforts, particularly in high-growth communities.	Tax Appraisal Districts with CTCOG coordinating	High	Near	\$\$	N/A; staff time only
Harmonize all communities' GIS systems and parcel address methodologies.	Municipalities and Tax Appraisal Districts with CTCOG technical assistance	Low	Mid Term	\$	N/A; staff time only

**GOAL: Further position CTCOG as a resource for local jurisdictions.****OBJECTIVE: Strengthen CTCOG offerings to complement municipalities' capabilities.**

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS	ROLES	PRIORITY	TIMING	COST	FUNDING SOURCES
Build additional capacity to assist jurisdictions with grant identification/writing/administration.	CTCOG	High	Near Term	\$\$	N/A; staff time only
Hold a periodic introductory class for newly elected officials to familiarize them with CTCOG capabilities, and to provide them with a "municipal imperatives" cheat sheet to aid in their prioritization.	CTCOG	Med	Near Term	\$	
Create marketing materials summarizing CTCOG services, assistance, and resources available to municipalities.	CTCOG	Med	Near Term	\$	
Conduct remote/hybrid meetings to increase accessibility for rural communities.	CTCOG	Med	Near Term	\$	
Provide technical support as-needed to communities on subjects of planning, transportation, legal, etc.	CTCOG	Med	Mid Term	\$\$	
Perform a "circuit rider" function, checking in with smaller/rural communities in particular to ensure functioning relationships with Tax Appraisal Districts, 911 system effectiveness, etc.	CTCOG	Low	Near Term	\$	

ITEM #5

Formation of CEDS Steering
Committee in Accordance with
EDA Requirements

Formation of CEDS Steering Committee

The EDA requires that the development or update of a CEDS be led by a Strategy Committee composed of public and private sector stakeholders.

The DDCT Board is understaffed in this regard, and should we not have enough representation present at the meeting, we must allow time for the formation of the strategy committee and reconvene in a special session as soon as we find the required committee members. Federal regulation requires a majority of the committee members to be from the private sector.

Role of the Steering Committee

- Review data, trends, and SWOT findings
- Advise on vision, goals, and priority strategies
- Ensure alignment with regional needs and federal guidance
- Review and refine the draft plan before public comment

The goal is to ensure that our CEDS reflects regional input and not just internal staff planning.

Participation Expectations

Steering Committee members are expected to attend approximately **4–5 meetings** between **February and July 2026**, as well as support **public engagement efforts** such as workshops and surveys.

CTCOG staff will provide all technical materials, facilitate meetings, and handle compliance tracking and document drafting. The committee's responsibility is to **evaluate, challenge, and improve** that work, drawing on the lived experience and economic knowledge of its members.

Steering Committee Meetings

The following page contains the proposed revision timeline with potential workshop dates and outcomes.

Action Needed: Board discussion on formation of CEDS Steering Committee.

CEDS REVISION TIMELINE

Month	Meeting	Outcome	Next Steps
Late-Jan	Special DDCT Board	Steering Committee roster presented for approval	Schedule and prepare materials (Background Summary) for SC #1
Mid-Feb	Steering Committee #1	Draft Background Summary shared; scope and outreach strategy confirmed	Plan and promote SWOT Workshop
Early-Mar	Regional SWOT Workshop	Public SWOT input gathered and recorded	Synthesize SWOT for committee review
Mid-Mar	Steering Committee #2	SWOT validated; strategic themes discussed	Begin drafting vision and goals
Early-Apr	DDCT Quarterly Meeting	Progress reported to board; direction confirmed	Draft Strategic Direction and Evaluation Framework
Mid-Apr	Steering Committee #3	Draft vision, goals, and KPIs reviewed	Develop full action plan and resilience section
Early-May	Strategy Alignment Workshop	Strategy direction tested with stakeholders	Refine strategies and build project matrix
Late-May	Steering Committee #4	Full draft strategy and action plan reviewed	Finalize draft for board preview
Early-Jun	DDCT Board	Full draft approved for public comment	Launch 30 day public comment period
Jun-Jul	Public Comment Period	Feedback collected via established tools	Prepare summary and revisions
Mid-Jul	DDCT Quarterly Meeting	Review Feedback on public comments	Prepare final draft revisions and EDA Checklist
Early-Aug	Steering Committee #5	Final draft reviewed and recommended for adoption	Complete final formatting
Mid-Aug	Staff Finalization	Plan finalized; compliance verified	Prepare board adoption packet
Late-Sep	DDCT Board	Prepare resolution for CEDS adoption	Motion to ratify at next Quarterly Meeting
Early-Oct	Executive Committee	Final Approval	Submit CEDS to EDA
Mid-Oct	Submission to EDA	Renewal of eligibility	Implementation across the region

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ITEM #6

Approval of CEDS Revision
Scope, Timeline, and Process

Approval of CEDS Revision Scope, Timeline, and Process

The purpose of this item is to formally approve the timeline and procedural structure for the 2026 update of our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

This approval authorizes staff to begin the early compliance and engagement phases, including:

- Regional data updates for the Summary Background
- Scheduling of the first Steering Committee meeting
- Development of a stakeholder outreach strategy

Attached are the [EDA Content Guidelines for CEDS](#) to review.

Action Needed: Board discussion and approval to proceed with work on Summary Background.

ITEM #7

Regarding Meeting Dates for CEDS
Steering Committee and
Subcommittee Meetings

**Regarding meeting dates for CEDS Steering Committee and
subcommittee meetings**

Priority Action:

- **Deadline for Steering Committee nominations:**
All Board members are asked to submit private-sector and economic stakeholder nominations by the established deadline agreed on by the Board. Board members are encouraged to serve as members of the Steering Committee.
- **Special DDCT Board Meeting:**
A special meeting will be scheduled in **late January** to approve the final committee roster.

Next Step:

Begin identifying proposed dates (Feb–July) for:

- Steering Committee Meetings (approximately 4–5 total)
- SWOT Workshop(s)
- Public Engagement Events
- Review/approval milestones tied to the CEDS timeline
- Suggestions for workshop formats and steering committee selection

Action Needed: Discussion on meeting dates.

ITEM #8

Regional Broadband Initiatives Update

Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Staff will provide an update on various broadband initiatives and opportunities for the region.

- **BEAD Program:** Texas's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal was officially approved on Nov. 20th by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), positioning the state to advance broadband expansion projects statewide. The focus now is on signing subgrantee agreements and preparing for permitting and deployment efforts slated for mid-2026, with ongoing coordination across local governments and partners.
- **Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP):** Working in partnership with TARC and the BDO, this program provides annual funding to councils of governments specifically for broadband staffing, planning, and coordination. Participating COGs receive reimbursement funds to support regional broadband planning efforts, asset mapping, stakeholder engagement, and the development of digital opportunity strategies tailored to local needs. Deadline for application is Jan 16, 2026.
- The BDO hosts Local Government and Community Roundtables virtually on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM. The event link can be found [here](#).

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

ITEM #9

Legislative Updates Impacting Economic Development

Federal and State Legislative Updates for Economic Development

Federal

- **FCC Proceedings on Local Right-of-Way Management (Broadband + Wireless)** – *Status: Watch Item*
FCC has opened proceedings to examine potential preemption of local/state authority over broadband and wireless deployments. Topics include local permitting timelines, fee limitations, and right-of-way management standards.
- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program** – *Status: Potential Opportunity*
NTIA has approved Texas’s \$1.3B BEAD allocation. Application deadlines and award conditions are expected by early 2026. The program targets broadband expansion to unserved and underserved homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions.
- **Federal Funding and Government Operations** – *Status: Informational / Risk*
Federal agencies face short-term funding deadlines. A lapse in appropriations could delay economic development grant processing and disrupt non-essential federal functions.

State

- **Mandatory Local Development and Debt Reporting** – *Status: Informational*
Cities must submit bond and tax rate election data (2015–2025) to the Texas Comptroller by **January 1, 2026**.
- **HUB Program Restructuring (“VetHUB”)** – *Status: Informational / Capacity Concern*
The Comptroller has replaced HUB with the VetHUB program, limiting certification to veteran-owned businesses with 20%+ service-connected disabilities. Cities must still attempt HUB contact, but fewer certified vendors may exist locally.
- **Rural Infrastructure & Rail Grade Separation Grants (TxDOT)** – *Status: Potential Opportunity*
TxDOT has opened applications for its **Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund**. The legislature appropriated \$250M to support safety, economic development, and traffic flow.
- **Annual Audit Compliance Penalties (S.B. 1851)** – *Status: Watch Item*
Cities that fail to file audits within 180 days of their fiscal year-end risk being restricted from adopting a tax rate above the no-new-revenue rate. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has begun issuing compliance notices.

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

ITEM #10

Staff Update

Staff Update

- DDCT Outreach Efforts
- CEDS Revision Planning and EDA Coordination Update
- In-Kind Reporting Requirement for Board members

Action Needed: No action needed; for discussion only.

End of Packet