



Description

Abilene has an extensive and growing number of community resources, economic opportunities, arts and cultural offerings, and educational opportunities. While expanding its ability to achieve its community vision, Abilene will work diligently to fully include all citizens regardless of where they live, disabilities or economic challenges they may face, or other issues. To do so, a robust and accessible transportation system is crucial.

The transportation system and the infrastructure serve as the backbone for the economy, as well as the avenue by which all citizens can enjoy the vibrancy of Abilene.

Abilene's roadway system with relatively light traffic and CitiLink bus system provide a foundation from which Abilene's transportation-related goals can be achieved. Challenges exist, and there are opportunities to improve the transportation system. However, Abilene residents clearly state that the transportation system is a core requirement needed to fulfill Abilene's vision.

Maintenance and upgrading the road system is already underway! In January 2019, the City of Abilene began collecting fees to support a Street Maintenance Fund dedicated to the management and care of City streets. The first project began in Fall 2019. The City of Abilene expects to invest over \$20 million in road maintenance projects in 2020 using the new Street Maintenance Fee, the Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA), and the 2015 bond program.

Additionally, Abilene residents clearly voice their support for additional efforts to increase accessibility to CitiLink and other transportation resources. Residents see transportation as a way to increase accessibility but also as a means for availing all residents of economic and cultural activities that will continue to strengthen the sense of community in Abilene as well as the quality of life (which, in turn, provides additional benefits)!



Transportation

Vision Statement Options

- A commuter-friendly community that offers alternative, reliable transportation opportunities for all.
- To be a community that provides easy access for all residents - regardless of abilities - to get to and enjoy all local events, resources, and services.

Strategies

- Improve accessibility on buses for all riders regardless of disability, hours of travel, or point-of-origin and destination within Abilene.
- Increase the number of bicycle paths, walking trails, and other resources available to enhance non-conventional (non-automotive) transportation.
- Expand air and rail travel options in Abilene.
- Improve the quality of existing roadways, sidewalks, and other travel routes.





Transportation

Key Indicators

- Hours per week of public transportation operation
- Number of people using public transit
- Number of public transportation routes
- Number of road improvement projects
- Percent of the downtown area with full handicap accessibility

Supporting Indicators

- Capacity on buses - Number riding each route
- Diverse audiences at events - number of discounted tickets
- First-class public transportation system to include routes, ramps, covers, good lighting, affordable
- Linear mileage of sidewalks and bike paths
- Number of bike lanes
- Number of covered bus stops
- Number of event days
- Number of passengers using airlines to/from ABI
- Number of people unemployed due to transportation
- Number of people using bike lanes
- Number of people using public transit
- Number of smaller, efficient buses
- Public funding dollars
- Public speaking on issues
- Road improvement projects completed



Potential Partners

- 211 - Regional Transportation
- Bonds: Sources of Financing (e.g., Bonds) for Improving Sidewalks
- Bus Station
- Businesses
- Churches
- Citi-Link
- City of Abilene
- Disability in Action
- Jenn Rogers (Bikes)
- Non-profits
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Workforce Solutions
- Uber and Lyft





Cause Area #7: Transportation

- Add ABI flights to major destinations besides DFW
- Add bus / Citilink routes; extend operating hours
- Add pedestrian awareness (safety signage) above a street walkway
- Add places to lock and park bikes
- Build a passenger train service to Dallas
- Build additional covered bus stops; for example, have businesses, churches, non-profit, and/or volunteer groups build shelters for bus stops
- Build ramps at bus stops/sidewalks
- Complete road improvements
- Continue preventable road repairs - schedule repair
- Create a hub for bicycle acquisition /repair - for those who can't afford cars
- Create more multi-modal opportunities
- Create new sidewalks in traveled areas
- Develop the Cedar Creek walkway
- Enhance safety - bicycle and walkability - commit to infrastructure
- Expand hours at the same rates for those needing to use public transportation, especially for those disabled or low-income
- Expand trolley service
- Explore ride-sharing options and funding for people who can't afford other transportation
- Grow projects to enhance medical appointment compliance
- Improve sidewalks for disabled
- Improve signage on public transportation for people with disabilities
- Offer a shuttle service to DFW
- Offer bus service to Dallas - Luxury (snacks, bathroom)
- Provide a downtown scooter resource
- Provide a fixed rate for Uber and Lyft
- Provide assistance to maintain sidewalks
- Provide bus passes for people who can't afford them
- Provide room on buses to store bikes
- Recruit additional, competitive airlines
- Start "A Day in My Shoes" event to increase public understanding of the challenges faced by a disabled person using transportation, sidewalks, etc.
- Strengthen and enforce leash laws /fewer loose