

Appendix I

Statement of Principles

The authors ask for your help in promoting some basic operational principles to get more from public investment dollars.

1. **Connect the dots.** We must begin to think regionally about our public investments, while also promoting great neighborhoods, communities, and cities. The neighborhoods and urban areas that are working well to address public, recreational and commercial interactions are some of this region's most valuable assets. The trick is to improve connections and increase the dynamic relationships among places, while respecting what is working in those places.
2. **Sustainability must be a priority.** The underlying maxim of sustainability is to plan, invest and build to maximize flexibility, strategic evolution of the system, for future generations. Reducing our carbon footprint, acknowledging and mitigating the impacts of current activities, and planning for evolving technologies, uses and options are all strategies for increasing sustainability in the future.
3. **Maximize Value of Public Investment for the Long Term.** We must invest our limited public resources wisely to maximize the community's return on investment. Further, this return needs to: 1) be defined more broadly to encompass economic development, environmental and quality of life considerations; and 2) be evaluated over a longer term (30 to 40 years) than is typically the case (5 to 10 years).
4. **Design matters.** To build dynamic urban places, cities need to re-adopt traditional neighborhood or transit town design principles and policies that provide current residents more options. Traditional neighborhood development, for example, can support sustainability and social equity goals while also increasing housing and business location options.
5. **Link quality of life and environmental health of the region.** As environmental factors become an issue of regional competitiveness for employees and employers, federally required minimums may not be sufficient and for better or worse, public infrastructure investments impact both.
6. **Public Investment for All.** Our shared vision for Central Texas, as embodied in ECT's plans, demands of us that we work to ensure that all Central Texans benefit from our public investments and that the costs are equitably distributed.