The population of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW), Texas Metroplex (16 counties [1]) is expected to approach 13 million people by the year 2060 [2]. To meet the water demands from the projected population and economic growth, a combination of conservation and significant new infrastructure construction is essential for the DFW Metroplex [3]. The projected supply of approximately 1.8 million acre-feet per year (=1,600 MGD) will not meet the 2060 projected demand of 3.2 million acre-feet per year (=2,900 MGD), resulting in an unmet need of approximately 1.5 million acre-feet per year (=1,300 MGD). To address the resultant demand for additional water supplies, the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) and the city of Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) have partnered to design, build, and operate a raw water infrastructure system, the Integrated Pipeline (IPL) Project, to take advantage of existing raw water resources within the state of Texas. This project will enable TRWD and DWU to transport water from Lake Palestine, Cedar Creek Reservoir, and Richland-Chambers Reservoir through 150 miles of pipelines and pump stations, ultimately delivering up to 392,048.27 acre feet per year (350 MGD) to North Texas (Fig.1). The seven counties impacted by IPL construction (listed east to west) are: Anderson, Henderson, Navarro, Ellis, Dallas, Johnson, and Tarrant.

The economic impacts of this project, as well as the detrimental impacts of insufficient water supplies, are significant for the North Central Texas region. By examining the economic impacts of the project during the planning and design stage of the IPL, TRWD and DWU will be well-positioned to promote both the short-term and long-term benefits of the project for their constituents. Texas Christian University (TCU) modeled the estimated economic impacts generated from the $2.3 billion IPL project to establish a baseline of economic impacts on the seven counties.

*Figure 1: Proposed Route of the IPL*
References: