

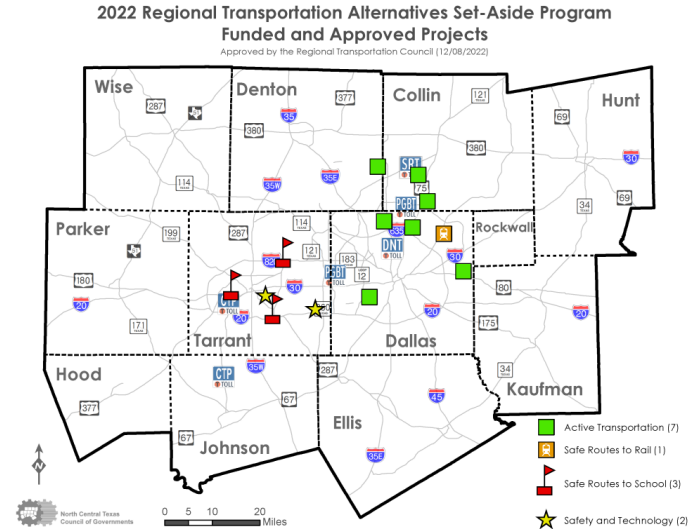


January 2023

Welcome to Local Motion, a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department.

Dallas-Fort Worth bicycle-pedestrian projects awarded \$55M

The Regional Transportation Council approved \$55 million in federal funding for construction of 13 active transportation projects in Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties in December. A combined \$8 million in local match provided by the local communities brings the total investment in the region’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to \$63 million as part of the 2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Call for Projects.



These funded improvements will connect people who choose active modes of transportation, such as walking and bicycling, to schools and major hubs of employment in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In addition, projects awarded funding by the RTC will improve safety and comfort, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality.

Among the 13 projects funded are critical trail bridges for the planned Cotton Belt Trail in Plano (\$14 million) and Addison (\$12 million) being implemented alongside Dallas

Area Rapid Transit’s Silver Line commuter rail line, which will run from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport to Plano. Funding for the Rowlett Creek Trail in Allen (\$3 million) and the Iron Horse Trail in Frisco (\$4 million) will fill in critical gaps in the regional trail network in Collin and Denton counties and connect neighboring cities.

Transportation safety is a major focus for the North Central Texas Council of Governments to significantly reduce traffic-related serious injuries and fatalities throughout the region.

Approximately \$3 million in funding was awarded to Safe Routes to School sidewalk projects located in Fort Worth and North Richland Hills. These projects will facilitate safe travel for students accessing schools in disadvantaged communities.

More information on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Call for Projects is available at www.nctcog.org/2022_TACFP.

2 DFW highway projects in the spotlight

Two projects connected to the state's efforts to unlock roadway congestion were recently highlighted by state and local officials. In Fort Worth, ground was broken on the Southeast Connector, while a ribbon cutting in southern Dallas signified the completion of the Southern Gateway.

Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg Jr. was joined by state and local dignitaries, including NCTCOG Transportation Director Michael Morris, to break ground on the \$1.6 billion Southeast Connector Project, which will result in a rebuilt interchange at Interstate Highway 20, IH 820 and US 287 in southeast Tarrant County. Expected to be finished in 2027, the Southeast Connector is the largest investment of TxDOT funds on any roadway project in the history of TxDOT's Fort Worth District.

Later that same day, the ceremonial duties shifted to southern Dallas for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Southern Gateway project. The five-year, \$666 million project rebuilt and widened IH 35E from Colorado Boulevard to US 67 and widened US 67 from IH 35E to IH 20. This innovative project features non-tolled, reversible managed lanes that help provide a total of seven lanes into or out of downtown Dallas depending on peak travel time demands, which will result in an easier, safer drive for commuters.



Local officials recently participated in a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of the Southeast Connector project in Fort Worth.

Both projects are part of TxDOT's Texas Clear Lanes program, which reduces congestion throughout the state by focusing planning and construction efforts on the Top 100 Most Congested Roads in major metropolitan areas such as Dallas and Fort Worth.

The Southern Gateway is the fifth Clear Lanes project to be completed in North Texas. The region has completed \$1.2 billion in projects to date, with another \$5.1 billion under construction and \$3.3 billion in planning.

For more information on the Texas Clear Lanes initiative and scheduled projects, visit www.TexasClearLanes.com.

-- By TxDOT

By the Numbers **\$55 million**

Federal funding awarded by the Regional Transportation Council in December for 13 active transportation projects in Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties

Region's transportation-AQ balance receives federal approval



The U.S. Department of Transportation has determined the Metropolitan Transportation Plan approved by the Regional Transportation Council in June conforms with

federal air quality regulations, allowing current and future multimodal improvements in the long-range plan to move forward.

A conformity determination is required because 10 Dallas-Fort Worth area counties are in nonattainment for ozone pollution and are working to meet federal standards for ozone pollution.

Among the projects that may now proceed are the US Highway 75 technology lanes and US 380 in Collin County on the eastern side of the region. On the western side, North Tarrant Express (Interstate Highway 820 and State Highway 183), between IH 35W and SH 121, may advance. Programs pursuing broadband connectivity and advancing safety and technology solutions may also continue.

The \$148.3 billion Mobility 2045: 2022 Update makes recommendations for transportation improvements over the next 20-plus years through policies, programs and projects designed to improve regional air quality and mobility, and increase efficiency, safety and system capacity.

Long-range transportation plans such as Mobility 2045 are federally required to be updated at least every four years. Mobility 2045 was originally adopted in 2018. Since then, planners have continued to refine policy, program and project recommendations for the 2022 Update. This plan's financial analysis considers capital, operations and maintenance costs associated with the existing transportation system, as well as the costs associated with the recommended improvements.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) may also proceed, according to the Department of Transportation. The TIP is a multiyear list of projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth area approved for federal, state and local funding. The program identifies roadway and transit projects programmed for construction within the next four years.

Learn more about the update at: www.nctcog.org/PlaninProgress.

Major Expenditures (in billions)

Infrastructure Maintenance	\$39.5
Management and Operations	\$9.6
Growth, Development and Land Use Strategies	\$1.5
Rail and Bus	\$44.9
Roadways	\$52.8
Total	\$148.3

Original video content available on NCTCOG YouTube channel

Did you know there's more to our social media than Facebook, Instagram and Twitter? You can find lots of original video content on our YouTube page.

Maybe you got a drone as a gift this holiday season and want to know more about the technology. Or maybe you want to use drones to enhance your business. Watch one of the Know Before You Fly Your Drone workshops put on by NCTCOG's UAS task force. There are more than 20 archived workshops, and you are sure to find useful information.

Maybe surface transportation is more your speed. See where you could go next with our original Trail of the Month videos. Dive deep into the So Pac or Trinity Trail, two of the eight bicycle-pedestrian trails highlighted as part of this popular series. The trail series is just one of the many topically organized playlists you will find.

Also included are videos highlighting Look Out Texans, an educational campaign undertaken to increase safety for all road users in North Texas, whether they walk, ride or drive. The Freight North Texas playlist features a series of videos highlighting the



importance of trucks to the region's economy, as well as how drivers can safely share the road with 18-wheelers.

In addition, you will find videos of various project-specific meetings, committee gatherings and speaking engagements, with more fresh content to come. Don't miss any of the original content we produce. Subscribe to our channel today at www.youtube.com/nctcogtrans.



Funding available for air quality projects

North Texas is in nonattainment for ozone pollution, and there are several ways NCTCOG is working to bring the region into compliance with federal standards. One is by making grants available. Funding for projects that address air quality is available from federal, state, local and nonprofit entities as well as through NCTCOG. A quick visit to

www.nctcog.org/aqfunding reveals the current opportunities for consumers, fleets and to carry out other air quality improvement strategies.

One example for fleets is the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects. This competitive funding opportunity will provide assistance for replacement of existing diesel-powered heavy-duty vehicles, engines, or equipment operating in the Dallas-Fort Worth 10-county ozone nonattainment area.

The North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 Call For Projects is also open for projects that reduce idling from transport refrigerated units (TRUs) of heavy-duty diesel trucks and trailers. Funding will help with construction and installation of EPA SmartWay-verified electrified parking spaces at truck terminals and distribution centers in the 10-county ozone nonattainment area. This idle-reducing technology is used to power TRUs while heavy-duty trucks and trailers are loading or unloading refrigerated goods.

The next application deadline for both calls for projects is 5 pm January 13.

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

--Imagery provided by NCTCOG and TxDOT.
