

Regional Transportation Council

The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)



TO: Mayors and County Judges
City Managers and County Administrators
North Texas Tollway Authority
Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
Public Transportation Authorities

DATE: August 5, 2005

FROM: Maribel P. Chavez, P.E., District Engineer
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North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUBJECT: Joint TxDOT/RTC Freeway Interchange/Bottleneck Program Call for Projects

With reauthorization of the federal transportation funding bill, new federal funding sources are available to fund roadway improvements in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In an effort to advance projects that increase mobility and safety, and improve air quality, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), serving as the transportation policy board of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) – Dallas and Fort Worth Districts are initiating a joint call for projects to fund freeway interchange/bottleneck improvements under RTC Partnership Program 3.

The Freeway Interchange/Bottleneck Improvement Program is designed to fund interchange and bottleneck improvements on the highway system and interchange improvements at highway/arterial crossings. Examples of the types of projects eligible under this funding program include the addition of auxiliary lanes on a highway to facilitate access and egress from the facility, creation of a new interchange between a highway and an arterial street, improvement to an interchange, improvements to an existing highway/arterial crossing, etc.

Emphasis areas for this funding program include:

- Leveraging of federal and State funds with local funding sources,
- Bottleneck and interchange locations identified in the Mobility Plan – Amended April 2005 or in the 2003 DFW Commuter Traffic Study available online at <http://www.nctcog.org/trans/photo-survey/2003/index.html>,
- Corridors that did not receive funding through RTC Partnership Program 1 (October 2004),
- Projects that create permanent improvements,
- Projects that are ready for construction, and
- Agencies submitting projects under this funding initiative must be willing and able to sign TxDOT's standard right-of-way participation and local project advance funding agreements to receive funding.

It is expected that one-third of the total cost of each project submitted under this funding program should come from local sources. Local funding sources can include city, county, and private funds, including right-of-way donation (but not including the cost of utilities). The other two-thirds of the project cost will be split between RTC and TxDOT funds. Should cost overruns occur in the future, the increased costs will be shared among the funding partners according to the original funding shares.

A member of each agency and/or department that intends to submit a proposal under this funding program is strongly recommended to attend an NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop. These workshops will help agencies understand the selection and funding process, the implementation process, and the timeframe that should be expected for projects being implemented through TxDOT. New transportation programming policies will also be discussed at these meetings. Workshops will be held on September 16, September 22, and October 4, 2005. More detailed workshop announcements will be mailed out under separate cover. It is recommended that the individual(s) attending these workshops be directly involved in the project being proposed.

To be considered under the Freeway Interchange/Bottleneck Improvement Program, project sponsors must submit proposals to the NCTCOG Transportation Department. Three copies of each project proposal must be submitted in electronic and hard copy format. Project proposals should include the following items:

Proposal Content

Project Location - include project limits and/or individual locations to be improved

Map of Project

Scope of Work - detailed description of improvements to be made (i.e., upgrade existing interchange at Main St. and Freeway B to provide additional lanes and movements on Main St and improved exit and entrance ramps on Freeway B)

Project Type (i.e., addition of lanes, interchange, grade separation)

Project Length

Project Phases to be Funded - indicate the phases for which funds are being requested (engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction). Please note that engineering initiated before final State/federal approval of the project funding is received must be paid with 100 percent local/private funds (under certain circumstances these expenditures may be counted toward the one-third local share).

Cost Estimate - provide an estimated cost in 2005 dollars that details the roadway and non-roadway items included in the project cost. The cost should take into account (and delineate) each of the phases for which you wish to request funding. It should also include E&C charges, which is a fee that TxDOT charges to cover engineering, contingencies, project inspection, etc. This fee is a percentage of the total project cost (rate schedule: \$0 to \$1 million total cost – 16 percent E&C, \$1 million to \$5 million - 11.5 percent E&C, \$5 million to \$25 million – 11 percent E&C, over \$25 million - 7.5 percent E&C). Please note that landscaping and amenities that cost more than one (1) percent of the total construction cost will be 100 percent locally funded.

Local Match - document who is paying the local match and whether or not funds are already available

Estimated Let/Start Date (for each phase)

Estimated Completion Date (for each phase)


Project Contact - include name of project contact, their contact information, and the name of the office or department serving as the primary contact

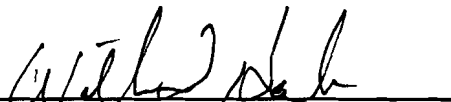
Partnership Program Workshop Certification - include printed name and signature of individual that attended the NCTCOG/TxDOT Partnership Program Workshop for this agency/project.


Project proposals must be submitted to the NCTCOG Transportation Department in hard copy and electronic format (three copies each) no later than **Friday, October 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.** to be considered for funding. Send applications to Christie Jestis, Senior Transportation Planner, NCTCOG, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005-5888.

In accordance with the RTC Call for Projects Procedures established in the RTC Bylaws, NCTCOG must have the submitted application "in hand" at the NCTCOG offices by the application deadline. Applications that are postmarked by the deadline do not constitute an on-time application. In addition, supplemental information cannot be submitted and will not be accepted after the application deadline. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications far enough in advance of the submission deadline to allow NCTCOG staff to review the application for completeness. If desired, agencies can submit the enclosed "Intent to Submit" response card to NCTCOG, which entitles the agency to receive a reminder notice approximately two weeks before the deadline. After the submission deadline, TxDOT and NCTCOG staff will coordinate on the evaluation and selection of submitted projects and provide a recommendation to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the RTC.

Please note that the Joint TxDOT/RTC Freeway Interchange/Bottleneck Program Call for Projects is the first of several RTC funding initiatives to be initiated under RTC Partnership Program 3. A schedule of upcoming calls for projects and strategic funding programs is enclosed for reference. Should you have questions regarding the process, or require assistance in the development of a project proposal, please contact Christie Jestis at (817) 608-2338.


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CMJ:bw
Enclosures

cc: Regional Transportation Council Members
Surface Transportation Technical Committee Members
2004-2005 UPWP Element 3.01 Project File

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS 2 AND 3 TIMEFRAME FOR RTC ACTION

	May/Jun 2005	Jul/Aug 2005	Aug/Sep 2005	Sep/Oct 2005	Nov/Dec 2005	Jan/Feb 2006	Mar/Apr 2006	May/Jun 2006
Arterial Street Program ²								
Local Air Quality Program ^{3,7}								
Freeway Interchange and Bottleneck Program (1/3 federal, 1/3 State, 1/3 local)								
Arterial Intersection/Bottleneck Program ^{4,7}								
High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes								
Intelligent Transportation Systems ⁵								
Transit (Partnership Program 2)								
Sustainable Development Projects/Programs								
Cost Overrun/Emergency/New Projects ⁶								

Notes:

- 1 All funds are reflected in millions of dollars.
- 2 Includes addition of lanes projects and new roadway projects.
- 3 Includes new 8-hour improvements, alternative fuel vehicle technology, bicycle/pedestrian regional connections, special studies/other, traffic signal improvements, travel demand management/park-and-ride, intermodal/freight projects, and localmatch for other federal projects.
- 4 Includes safety projects, grade separations, intersection improvements, and bottleneck removals.
- 5 Includes mobility assistance crews.
- 6 New projects may include quiet zones, other air quality projects, etc.
- 7 Local governments and transportation entities within the nine county ozone nonattainment area are eligible for funding under this program.