



**November 2023**

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

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## **RTC approves \$17.5M to help Arlington prepare for marquee events**



The Regional Transportation Council approved \$17.5 million in October that will allow completion of a list of projects in the Arlington Entertainment District in time for national and international events to be hosted by the city. In 2024, the Texas Rangers will host the Major League Baseball All-Star Game at Globe Life Field. The region has also been selected to participate in the FIFA World Cup in 2026, with games to be played at AT&T Stadium.

Improvements are needed in roadway operations, transit and streetscapes. The timing of needed infrastructure led the City of Arlington to agree to trade \$17.5 million in local funds currently allocated for improvements to Randol Mill Road for \$17.5 million in federal funds. In exchange, Arlington would apply the federal funds to the Randol Mill project. Additionally, \$3.8 million in Regional Toll Revenue funds will be used for interim improvements to Randol Mill Road, including overlay and sidewalk repairs/modifications.

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## Webinar series provides tips on increasing freight efficiency

# SMARTTE



## Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions

Approximately 85% of goods shipped in the region are transported by trucks. NCTCOG recently concluded a series of nine webinars for the Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions ([SMARTTE Program](#)). The yearlong series covered a variety of topics important to freight companies looking for ways to increase their efficiency while lessening their impact on air quality. The series featured industry stakeholders explaining challenges and opportunities in the trucking industry and how both large and small operators can navigate the changing goods movement environment.

These sessions included the following topics:

- Truck Routes
- Local SmartWay Verified Technology
- Environmental Justice and Trucking
- Driver Training
- Fuel Considerations and Alternatives
- Truck Parking
- Sustainable Solutions for Small Fleets
- Tools and Resources for Owner-Operators
- How Telematics Can Be Used to Reduce Costs

The SMARTTE Webinar Series is available on the [NCTCOG Transportation Department's YouTube page](#). Agendas and presentations for these webinars are available at [nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/for-fleets/smartte/events](http://nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/for-fleets/smartte/events).

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By the Numbers:

**16 minutes**

Average time savings from managed lane users, according to a recent survey conducted by NCTCOG.

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## Feedback sought on Southwestern Medical District streetscape project



The Urban Streetscape and Park Transformation project in the Southwestern Medical District has entered Phase Two, and officials are seeking input from the community about proposed improvements, including plans to construct a 10-acre park near Harry Hines Boulevard/Inwood Road.

The Texas Trees Foundation is hosting an open house to provide the community with information on the project and an opportunity to interact with stakeholders at 5 pm November 14 at The Satellite Event Space, 2137 Butler St. Additionally, the project

team is asking the public to participate in a short survey through the end of November. To complete the survey, visit [new.maptionnaire.com/q/9ni7elt63vk6](https://new.maptionnaire.com/q/9ni7elt63vk6).

The project also has a virtual engagement platform that provides residents a chance to share how they envision amenities, uses and programming for the park. To use the virtual engagement platform, visit [swmdtransformation360.com](https://swmdtransformation360.com).

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## What does a survey of N. Texas drivers reveal about our use of limited access facilities?



NCTCOG has conducted a survey of limited access facilities, which could help with future transportation planning and policymaking. Funded by the Texas Department of Transportation, the survey evaluates the social fairness of these roadways for users and creates an understanding of the travel behavior.

Responses from approximately 5,900 surveys helped planners capture trip dynamics and socioeconomic/demographic profiles of users.

For example, the average trip length on limited access facilities was 39 minutes. Data also indicates managed lanes improve reliability. More than 80% of respondents believed that 10 minutes or more were saved using managed lanes instead of the parallel freeway lanes. Average time savings of managed lane users was actually around 16 minutes.

Other crucial details discovered through the survey include that neither the number of children in a household nor the income of a household influenced the trip flexibility.

The survey focused on the following facilities:

- President George Bush Turnpike
- Dallas North Tollway
- North Tarrant Express
- Interstate Highway 820
- IH 35E TEXpress Lanes
- IH 35E freeway lanes

The 2022 Limited Access Facilities Survey is available at [nctcog.org/trans/data/info/travel-surveys](https://nctcog.org/trans/data/info/travel-surveys).

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## Share your opinion on upcoming transportation plans online

**TRANSPORTATION**  
**ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY**

**MONDAY, NOV. 13 - TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2023**

NCTCOG is opening an online public input opportunity November 13 to receive residents' feedback regarding ongoing projects and programs beneficial to the region.

Topics available for public comment include the US 380 federal/local partnership with Collin County and modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program. Information will be posted online at [publicinput.com/nctcogNov23](https://publicinput.com/nctcogNov23) for public review and comment through December 12.

The US 380 federal/local partnership with Collin County is the result of NCTCOG staff working with Collin County in recent months. The partnership is intended to increase the amount of local funding available to the Regional Transportation Council to expedite projects and programs. Details of this partnership will be posted online for review and comment.

The UPWP provides a summary of air quality and transportation planning activities to be conducted throughout the region. Proposed modifications to the FY 2024 and FY 2025 UPWP will be posted online for residents to review and comment.

Information and resources about administrative revisions to Mobility 2045-2022 Update, vehicle incentive and funding opportunities, Engine Off North Texas, and department air quality videos will also be available.

Public comments will be accepted online or by emailing [nctcogNov23@publicinput.com](mailto:nctcogNov23@publicinput.com). Residents can submit comments and questions by calling 855-925-2801, then dialing code 2172, sending a fax to 817-640-3028, or mailing them to P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005.

For special accommodations due to a disability, language interpretation or to request printed copies of the information, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or [jcastillo@nctcog.org](mailto:jcastillo@nctcog.org) at least 72 hours prior to the deadline.

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*For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or [bwilson@nctcog.org](mailto:bwilson@nctcog.org). Visit [www.nctcog.org/trans](http://www.nctcog.org/trans) for more information on the department.*

*--Imagery provided by The City of Arlington, NCTCOG, Texas Trees Foundation and Getty Images.*

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