

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT**

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### **Purpose**

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Plan, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on Nov. 10, 2022.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Wednesday, Dec. 20 through Friday, Jan. 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email, online and in person at the monthly RTC meeting.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. Comments related to safety were in the majority.

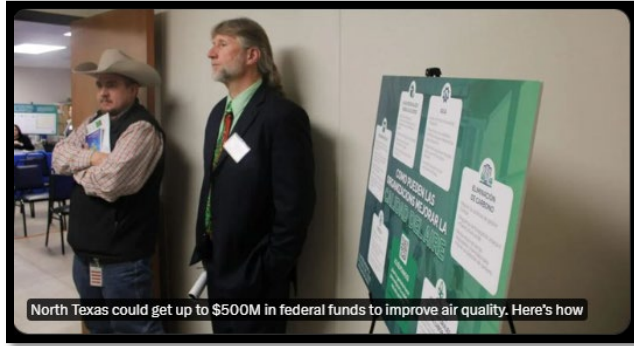
In addition, comments can be submitted through Map Your Experience, the Transportation Department's online mapping tool. The tool allows users to drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. The tool received 127 new comments related to bicycle and pedestrian, roadway and transit conditions. You can view these new comments as well as past comments by visiting

<http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourceReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

## Air Quality

### Twitter –

1. North Texas could get up to \$500M in federal funds to improve air quality. Here's how <https://keranews.org/environment-nature/2023-12-19/north-texas-could-get-up-to-500m-in-federal-funds-to-improve-air-quality-heres-how> @NCTCOGtrans #regionalism — TARC (@txregionalism)



2. Give input on the Air Quality Improvement Plan for our region, including how dollars are spent, here are 4 opportunities: @NCTCOGtrans

1. NCTCOG Office  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76011  
Online: <http://publicinput.com/dfwaqip>  
By Phone: 855-925-2801 (code: 5303)  
Monday, 1/8/24, 6pm
2. Granbury City Hall  
116 W. Bridge St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
Tuesday, 1/9/24, 6 pm
3. Fate City Hall  
1900 CD Boren Parkway  
Rockwall, TX 75087  
Tuesday, 1/16/24, 6pm
4. Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods  
818 Missouri Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76104  
Thursday, 1/18/24, 6pm — Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome)

### Facebook –

1. Do you have feedback on ways to improve regional air quality? Join us next week at one of our upcoming public meetings:

Arlington & Grand Prairie Hybrid Meeting  
Monday, Jan. 8, 6 - 7:30 p.m. at NCTCOG (616 Six Flags Drive)

Granbury Open House  
Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6- 8 p.m. at Granbury City Hall (116 W Bridge street)

For more information about the DFW Air Quality Improvement Plan and future scheduled meetings, visit: [publicinput.com/dfwaqip](http://publicinput.com/dfwaqip) — NCTCOG Transportation Department



I believe using resources in places that are culturally opposed to your objective is foolish. Many states would actually use public transportation. In Texas, people drive to get to their mailbox, zero bike lanes and busy highways with no sidewalks or shoulders.  
— Tim Norton

2. A new year calls for new experiences and learning opportunities. This year we encourage you to learn more about initiatives that play a huge role in keeping our air clean in the North Texas region. Read more in our latest post on Clean Air Corner: <https://bit.ly/3SpXxR1> — NCTCOG Transportation Department



Texas is a superfund site. Let it go, it's a lost cause — Tim Norton

## **Email –**

### **1. Erich Friend**

Set up a phone number and email address (and advertise it well) where citizens can report vehicles that are spewing pollution.

If you receive a notification then send an official letter to the vehicle owner notifying them that they (may) have a problem with their vehicle's emissions.

If you receive multiple reports on a vehicle then require them to bring the vehicle in for testing (at their expense if it fails).

For vehicles that are reported 'rolling coal', the vehicle must be inspected for the exhaust system modifications that would facilitate that. If the exhaust system is found to have been modified, the license plates will have to be revoked, and the vehicle towed to a repair shop for correction at the owner's expense. Similarly, if 'DEF Delete' has been done to diesel powered vehicles, the owner will have to pay to have the DEF system reinstalled per factory specifications.

There needs to be better enforcement of vehicle emissions levels to keep the air breathable!

#### **Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff:**

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with some valuable feedback about the Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP). We agree with you, more needs to be done to combat the prevalence of smoking vehicles on the roadway, especially those who do it on purpose and “roll coal.”

To address some of your points, we have the RSVP hotline set up along with a website [www.smokingvehicle.net](http://www.smokingvehicle.net) that has instructions on how to effectively report a vehicle that has been spotted on a roadway smoking visibly from the tailpipe for more than ten seconds. Additionally, to spread the word about the program, we have run advertising campaigns around Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) utilizing billboards, print, radio and even on the tail ends of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) buses in Dallas. We will hopefully be able to run ads this summer, so keep an eye out for them.

If a person has been reported through our website or hotline, we send them an education letter in the mail, notifying them that something may be wrong with their vehicle since it was spotted smoking. We provide resources to them as well if there are available incentives or programs to help them repair their vehicle or even purchase a newer, cleaner one. We also have a website dedicated to informing the public about the importance of maintaining their vehicle to not only help save them money, but also to help keep our air clean: [www.ntxcare.org](http://www.ntxcare.org).

Our role is strictly one of education and awareness, we do not have the authority to cite, nor can we require they have their vehicles repaired. Law enforcement can cite if a vehicle is smoking excessively for more than ten seconds from their tailpipe, and we do remind the vehicle owners of this in the letter we mail.

Unfortunately, since there is no current requirement for diesel-powered vehicles to pass an emissions test in Texas, there is little that can currently be done to ensure that they are operating within the law and keeping their emissions components intact, though it is technically illegal to tamper with any gasoline or diesel vehicle emissions components.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a tampering flyer (attached) as well as a tip-line set up on their website: <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>.

Thank you again for reaching out to us, and we hope that this addresses your concerns and answers some questions you may have had. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us again in the future if we can assist you further.

### **Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

#### **Twitter –**

1. Congrats to @EIPasoTXGov @ @NCTCOGtrans which received \$15 million from Fed Highway Admin for EV charging, and \$15 million for the same plus \$70 million for hydrogen fueling respectively from Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program of FHWA. [https://fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cfi/grant\\_recipients/?\\_gl=1\\*cgazma\\*\\_ga\\*ODg1MDM4MDEzLjE3MDQ5ODMwNDg.\\*\\_ga\\_VW1SFWJKBB\\*MTcwNDk4MzA0Ny4xLjEuMTcwNDk4MzA4MC4wLjAuMA..](https://fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cfi/grant_recipients/?_gl=1*cgazma*_ga*ODg1MDM4MDEzLjE3MDQ5ODMwNDg.*_ga_VW1SFWJKBB*MTcwNDk4MzA0Ny4xLjEuMTcwNDk4MzA4MC4wLjAuMA..) — Cyrus Reed (@cyrustx)

2. Federal Money to Pay for EV Charging Across North Texas - Government Technology - <https://goo.gl/alerts/lfhT15> @NCTCOGtrans #regionalism — TARC (@txregionalism)



### **Bicycle/Pedestrian/Sustainable Development**

#### **Email**

##### **1. Ricky Garcia**

I'm genuinely enthusiastic about the Everman Safe Streets Project and its vital role in enhancing the safety of our children's school commute, especially in areas currently lacking proper sidewalks. The addition of new bicycle lanes and HAWK signals is a significant step towards ensuring a safer journey for kids biking to school.

In addition, I strongly support the Forest Hill Drive Project. This initiative is crucial in connecting our communities with our schools, fostering a more interconnected and accessible environment. Additionally, the traffic signals included in the Forest Hill Drive Project will not only improve our transportation system but also aid in our air quality goals. By reducing traffic congestion and encouraging biking, we're taking significant steps towards a healthier, more sustainable community.

After all, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community is as vital for our future as enhancing our transportation systems. The Everman Safe Streets Project and the Forest

Hill Drive Project together are instrumental in building a safer, more connected, and environmentally conscious community for our future generations.

Consistency > Intensity

**Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff:**

Thank you for your support of our ongoing projects along Forest Hill Dr. and our continuing efforts to improve the quality of life and safety for the citizens of Everman, Forest Hill and Fort Worth. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Forest Hill Dr. project, please feel free to Jody Loza for any questions.

**High-Speed Transportation**

**Email –**

**1. Katherine Homan**

Is the project tied up with property acquisition?

**Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff:**

Thank you for your interest and comments on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study. As proposed, the project is located predominantly within existing transportation right-of-way, within the I-30 corridor, substantially reducing the need for additional to purchase right-of-way for the corridor.

During the current phase of the study (Phase 2), specific properties that would need to be acquired for the project will be identified. However, acquiring the right-of-way is not a part of this phase of the study.

Following completion of Phase 2, future steps in advancing the project (including identifying an implementing agency and securing project funding) will be required.

**Roadways**

**1. Michael Oleson**

Even after years of construction, I-35W between approximately SR 170 south toward downtown Fort Worth remains clogged with traffic much of the day until I-820. This seems to be a correctable problem that should have been addressed early on. Approaching I-820 from I-35W, there is only one exit lane to I-820 which then feeds traffic to the West and East. Add an exit lane please.

**Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff:**

Thank you for your comment concerning the Interstate Highway (IH) 35W/IH 820 interchange. I would suggest the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as your best source of information on future improvements yet to be constructed at the interchange. Our primary contact for that project has been Marty Stewart ([marty.stewart@txdot.gov](mailto:marty.stewart@txdot.gov)), and hopefully he can respond more directly to your concern over the limited ramp capacity to IH 820 from southbound IH 35W.

## Safety

### Facebook –

1. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation Department



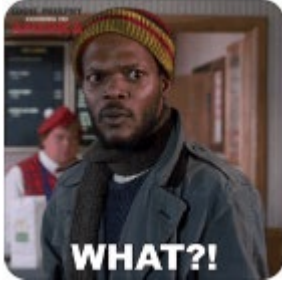
Bin [REDACTED] Go. You got ppl lives at stake — FattDaddy Mike

This should be a picture of a phone or something not kids. What are we supposed to do, tie them down and duct tape their mouth shut or stick them in the trunk. Make since people. — Brian Buckner

2. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation Department



That's not a distraction. That's muscle memory. — Howard Acevedo



— Geovanie Calzada



— Scott Hernandez

I got so mad at a distracted driver that I rolled my window down and threw my beer at them. — Chris Polasek

Start with not allowing cops to have cellphones in their possession while on duty. — Cooper Gatewood

Take down all billboards along side every road. They are distracting. — Daniel Harrell

3. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation Department



So we should assume that police departments are looking for even more revenue generations schemes that have nothing to do with safety. Got it! — Brian Tomlinson

if we arent meant to eat while driving, why are there cup holders and drive thrus? 🙄 im not eating no cold fries lol — Jorge A. Valentin



Would really like to see drivers have to requalify for the privilege to operate on the roads. It hasn't been long on the road for me but god, seeing someone merge onto the freeway at 35mph is just insane. — Joshua Olesiak

Eating a burger has never killed someone else. Let's replace that with women taking selfies while driving, people in general texting while driving. Never heard of a hit and run burger eater — Tony Porter

### Instagram –

1. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation (@nctcogtrans)



Next to impossible with multiple small children in the back seat. Unless of course you tie them up and duct tape their mouths shut. And obviously don't forget to buckle them in. — esai362 (@esai362)

Got it. get rid of the child — crossroads.angel\_001 (@crossroads.angel\_001)

Don't have children, noted. — kaye\_does\_art (@kaye\_does\_art)

Throw the kids in the trunk, got it — fazinorgrun (@fazinorgrun)

2. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation (@nctcogtrans)



This is America, if I wanna eat my Quarter Pounder with cheese I [REDACTED] will — elfrijolabram (@elfrijolabram)

Mmm borger — blackleaf\_arts (@blackleaf\_arts)

I always have an alcoholic beverage with one hand and with totter on the steering wheel and I've played a lot of video games so I know how to get through traffic —boacmd (@boacmd)

3. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation (@nctcogtrans)



What if im hungry — t.meador77 (@t.meador77)

4. From 2018-2022, more than 80,000 crashes in North Texas were the result of distracted driving. It's not worth your life. — NCTCOG Transportation (@nctcogtrans)



I'm going to play Clash Royale™ and drive — rouxsauced (@rouxsauced)

if the ad can do it then i can do it — theloser4\_life (@theloser4\_life)

If all distractions are dangerous, why are billboard ads legal — thepenguinking27 (@thepenguinking27)

## Email –

### 1. Trish Donaghey

= 4 miles S of Princeton. Very difficult at rush hour to turn L from this T intersection when oncoming cars are blocked by a hill on the N and they often travel 50+ mph!

Thank you for your attention to this matter before someone is killed there!

**Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff:**

We appreciate your comment concerning a need for a traffic signal at the FM 546/FM 982 intersection. I've reached out to fellow staff for information on future plans at that location, and our most recent communication from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) indicates 1) design work for the intersection improvements will be completed by next month, and 2) construction work is tentatively expected to start in the summer/fall of 2025. Here are some additional contacts where you may be able to obtain additional information and/or get any follow-up questions addressed:

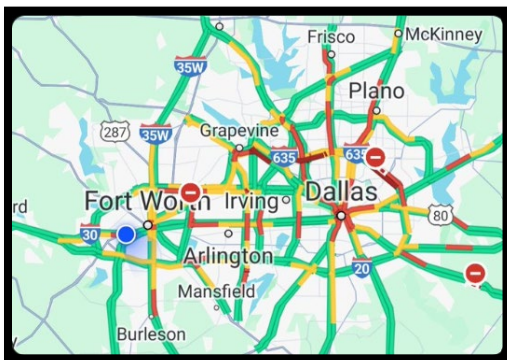
- Clarence Daugherty – Collin County Director of Engineering - 972.548.3728 – [cdaugherty@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:cdaugherty@co.collin.tx.us)
- Jennifer Vorster – Collin County Area Engineer, TxDOT – 972.542.2345 – [jvorster@txdot.gov](mailto:jvorster@txdot.gov)

Please feel free to contact us again if you have any follow-up questions/comments...but, hopefully TxDOT and/or Collin County may be in a position to address them more directly for this location.

**Transit**

**Twitter –**

1. If only there were some quality #TransitAlternatives to the daily highway gridlock...Imagine if @TxDOT & @NCTCOGtrans invested half as aggressively in transit expansion as they do in highway expansion, it might ACTUALLY make a difference. — Loren S. (@txbornviking)



For real. When I saw there was more money going to infrastructure, I got excited, foolishly thinking it would go to DART or TRE. — Bill (@sr71fan90)