

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, July 24, 2020

North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda (Meeting Will be Held as a Videoconference)

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of June 26, 2020, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the June 26, 2020, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.

Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40

2. Consent Agenda

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

2.1. Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Policy Position Establishing Guidelines for Ratification Actions

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of P20-02, Policy Position Establishing Guidelines for Ratification Actions, will be requested to support interim staff-generated actions in the future.

Background: At the June 11, 2020, RTC meeting, members were asked to support interim authority to fund transportation elements for the NHL Hub City Tournament bid for the region. The region was not selected to host the event; however, the RTC was asked to approve a policy that outlines guidelines for instances when an emergency or time-sensitive item must be implemented prior to the ability for staff to request official RTC approval. Electronic Item 2.1.1 is a copy of the letter to the Dallas Stars and their response. P20-02, Policy Position Establishing Guidelines for Ratification Actions, is provided in Electronic Item 2.1.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

1:40 – 1:50

3. National Highway System Review

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Flood, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the revised National Highway System (NHS) for roadways.

Background: The NHS is a designated network of nationally significant roadways in the United States. The network supports the

movement of people and goods between population centers, major military installations, and intermodal facilities. Beginning in early 2019, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) participated in a collaborative effort with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and local governments to perform a complete evaluation of the NHS for the first time since its inception in 1996. Staff recommendations from this evaluation were presented to the RTC at its May 2019 meeting. The Federal Highway Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation Planning and Programming Division returned with a set of suggested changes. Staff has since worked with both partners to revise the proposed system. Normally the specific routes would be included in the mail out, but because of time restraints the material will be presented at the meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

1:50 – 2:00

4. **COVID-19 Infrastructure Program Funding**

- Action
- Possible Action
- Information
- Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of COVID-19 Infrastructure Program projects in Electronic Item 4.1 a proposed federal/Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding exchange with Denton County, and the ability to amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate the projects.

Background: Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak the economies of the United States, Texas, and Dallas-Fort Worth region have suffered large setbacks and there is an urgency to stimulate the economy. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff recommends funding projects that need expedited action, and that meet one or several of the RTC policies outlined in Mobility 2045, such as better school integration, improved freight connections, and new regional bicycle and pedestrian facilities. These projects will also inject much needed money into the local and State economies. In order to facilitate expedited implementation of several projects, a federal/RTR funding exchange is proposed with Denton County as well. Electronic Item 4.2 contains additional details about the program and projects being requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle and Transportation Development Credits**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on results from the fourth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle survey, including the plan to distribute available Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). The Committee will be briefed on TDC distribution for successful policy bundle participants.

Background: The MTP Policy Bundle Program was created to encourage entities like local governments, school districts, and transportation agencies to voluntarily adopt a minimum of 50 percent of the list of policies identified in Mobility 2045. By voluntarily adopting these policies, participating entities will receive Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to offset local funds for federal transportation projects.

Recommendations in Mobility 2045 consist of policies, programs, and projects reflecting the region's priorities and support Mobility 2045 goals. As construction of infrastructure projects alone cannot achieve the goals of Mobility 2045, a voluntary list of policies available for adoption by local agencies was designed to encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions. By voluntarily adopting 50 percent of these policies, participating agencies are slated to receive TDCs to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. MTP Policy Bundle applications are under review, and staff will present a draft recommendation for distributing TDCs to successful entities. Electronic Item 5 includes a draft recommendation for TDC distribution for successful policy bundle participants.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Federal Highway Administration Measure Target Reaffirmation or Revisions**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Chris Klaus and James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will update the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) on proposed reaffirmation or revisions on regional targets for federally required performance measures. The targets are set in cooperation and coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation.

Background: In December 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. The FAST Act requires certain performance measures be included in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. These measures were established by a series of four

rulemakings: Safety, Infrastructure Condition, System Performance/Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transit Asset Management. In 2018, the Committee adopted 2020 and 2022 targets for a subset of these measures related to infrastructure condition, congestion, and air quality.

Each performance measure rulemaking consists of several specific performance measures. This fall, the Committee will have an opportunity to adjust 2022 targets for these measures. Analysis considering observed trends, project implementation, and the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 will impact the decision on whether target adjustments will be recommended. A workshop for the Regional Transportation Council members is being requested for August 13, 2020. STTC action is anticipated on August 28, 2020. This effort will generate financial and policy discussions on resources needed in current and future transportation planning.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:20 – 2:30

7. Federal and State Legislative Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kyle Roy, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus in the United States (US) Congress and in preparations for the upcoming Texas legislative session. The 2nd session of the 116th US Congress convened on January 3, 2020. The 87th Texas Legislature will convene on January 12, 2021. The US House of Representatives recently passed a long-term infrastructure bill and has been holding hearings on FY2021 appropriations. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:30 – 2:40

8. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Four performance metrics have been developed that will be tracked through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery

process: 1) travel behavior response to COVID-19, 2) financial implications to traditional revenue sources, 3) benefits of travel behavior responses to areas of Regional Transportation Council responsibility, and 4) prioritization of infrastructure improvements that offset unemployment increases. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:40 – 2:50

9. Update on Volkswagen Settlement

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on Volkswagen Settlement activities, especially those related to zero-emission vehicles (ZEV).

Background: The consent decree issued as part of the Volkswagen Settlement included two separate initiatives to implement new emissions-reducing projects: the Environmental Mitigation Trust and the ZEV Investment. The Environmental Mitigation Trust is the portion of the settlement under which the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is administering the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP). The ZEV Investment led to establishment of Electrify America, a subsidiary company of Volkswagen which is responsible for investing \$2 billion in ZEV infrastructure and education/outreach. Both initiatives continue to move forward, with milestones for each expected in the next few months. Electronic Item 9 provides an update of both elements of the settlement to date.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:50 – 3:00

10. Transit Survey and Survey of Employers

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will lead a discussion regarding the need for data and information in two technical areas. Discussion will include who should conduct the work, if deemed necessary, and how it should be funded.

Background: Discussion occurred at the July 9, 2020, Regional Transportation Council meeting on data needs related to two technical questions. The first request is for information that will aid transit agencies to plan and stage future transit improvements based on scheduling decisions made by larger employers, schools, and universities. The second request is

how to maintain improvements in congestion levels and air quality in a post-COVID-19 environment.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

3:00 – 3:00

11. Fast Facts

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. 2019 Regional Safety Performance Report (Electronic Item 11.1)
 2. 2019 Regional Travel Demand Management Performance Report (Electronic Item 11.2)
 3. Deadline to Submit Requests for Transportation Improvement Program Modifications through the November 2020 Cycle – July 24, 2020 (<https://rtrinternal.nctcog.org/login/>)
 4. Environmental Protection Agency Proposes to Retain Existing NAAQS for Ozone (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/ozone-pollution-continues-decline-under-president-trump-epa-proposes-retain-existing>)
 5. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
 6. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
 7. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 11.3)
 8. Clean Air Action Day, August 5, 2020 (<https://www.airnorthtexas.org/socialdistancing>)
 9. East/West Equity Update (Electronic Item 11.4)
 10. June Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 11.5)
 11. August Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 11.6)
 12. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 11.7)
 13. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 11.8)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 11.9)
12. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on August 28, 2020.**