

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ONLINE PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Transit Strategic Partnerships

Safe Routes to School Update

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

Online Public Input Opportunity Dates

Monday, Feb. 12 - Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) posted information at www.publicinput.com/nctcogFeb24 for public review and comment.

Purpose and Topics

The online public input opportunity was provided 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 November 8, 2018. Staff posted information regarding:

1. Transit Strategic Partnerships
2. Safe Routes to School Update
3. Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

The NCTCOG online public input opportunity was provided to inform and seek comments from the public. Comments and questions were submitted by email at nctcogFeb24@publicinput.com, online at www.publicinput.com/nctcogFeb24, by mail at PO Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005 and by fax at 817-640-3028. Printed copies of the online materials were also made available by calling 817-695-9255 or emailing jcastillo@nctcog.org.

Summary of Presentations

Transit Strategic Partnerships presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/d8582875-c7b1-46f1-aa87-165df7c2c219/Transit-Strategic-Partnerships.pdf>

The Transit Strategic Partnerships Program was created as a competitive funding program. Eligible applicants include transit authorities, rural providers and nonprofits collaborating with existing transit providers to avoid duplication of services. The program funds new or expanded services for two to three years and focuses on the needs of low-income populations, elderly individuals and people with disabilities.

The most recent cycle of project evaluations has concluded, and projects being recommended to receive funding include the Mansfield On-Demand ZIPZONE Service.

NCTCOG is currently accepting the next round of Transit Strategic Partnership proposals through Spring 2024. Proposals will be reviewed, scored and selected in Summer 2024 and federal approval is expected in Spring 2025.

Safe Routes to School Update presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/d1ec39fd-7829-4c04-9ef5-c801492d6f86/Safe-Routes-to-School-Update.pdf>

The Community Schools and Transportation Program promotes safe walking and biking to school and encourages school locations to support safe routes and promote efficient development.

A decline in walking and biking to school has led to increased traffic congestion, reduced safety, and higher student transportation costs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The School Crossing Guards Initiative, aims to address these issues by improving student and guard safety. Efforts include surveying stakeholders, reviewing guidance and exploring regionally consistent implementation methods. An updated survey on crossing guard issues can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/SchoolCrossingGuards> and will close on March 1, 2024. Walk to School Day is held the first Wednesday in October to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety. NCTCOG helps schools participate in this event by providing safety-themed giveaways. Approximately 108 Dallas-Fort Worth schools participated in the 2023 Walk to School Day. NCTCOG provided giveaways to 24 schools and received 905 signed safety pledges. The event also included a bicycle raffle and photo contest.

Looking ahead, Bike & Roll to School Day is scheduled for May 8, 2024. NCTCOG will provide implementation toolkits, safety-themed giveaways and a bicycle raffle.

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/eb80c41f-29c6-469c-ab84-de21568397ec/Proposed-Modifications-to-the-List-of-Funded-Projects.pdf>

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2024 is maintained in the TIP, with committed funds from federal, State and local sources. To maintain an accurate project listing, this document is updated on a regular basis.

The current modification cycle includes project updates and funding adjustments for transportation initiatives in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Parker and Tarrant Counties. Additionally, financial adjustments related to public transportation services managed by the Denton County Transportation Authority are also included.

**COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE COMMENT PERIOD VIA WEBSITE,
EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, PHONE AND MAIL**

Website

Anonymous Citizen

I am frustrated with the efforts that are being made toward goals that are not sustainable. Auto rentals are already getting rid of their electric fleet of cars because it is "too expensive to maintain them". Scientists say that there is not enough cobalt in the world to supply what is needed for the projected electric car market anyway. TCEQ decommissioned its smoking

vehicle program because people in Ft. Worth began collecting smoking car notifications like they were trophies. Apparently, there are no real consequences. Most of the wind turbines in Texas are not even hooked up to the grid but the blades have to be replaced anyway creating more waste. I will support a real plan that has potential.

As a science teacher, I will encourage my students to get on board to improve the future. For instance, at UT they are considering the possibility of using oil rigs to develop geothermal energy stations. There is a great TED talk on this idea. Buses and trains have real potential, especially as the roads become more congested. The bike lanes and pedestrian improvements are a great idea. Let's make sure we put our energy into things that will make a real difference.

Website

Phyllis Silver, Citizen

Please see Attachment 1 for comments submitted via postal mail.

February 2024 COG Regional Transportation
Public Input Opportunity

Attachment 1

Community Schools and Transportation Update

Comments:

I am excited to read about this initiative to encourage children to safely walk + bicycle to school. This will lead to healthier students, as they remain more active. Hopefully they will continue to walk and not be as reliant on cars in their adulthood. This initiative is also good for the environment, as there will be fewer vehicles on the road while the children are traveling to school.

Transit Strategic Partnerships Program

Question - Page 5 -
What is ZIPZONE? Can you describe this service?

May 2024 TIP Modifications For Public Review

Question PS. 11 OF 63

TIP Code 11903.1 - In the comment section, what is a SIB loan?

Phyllis Silver
2/22/2024