

MINUTES

Regional Transportation Council PUBLIC MEETING

North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot Program

Transit Strategic Partnerships

FY23 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects

Texas Electric Vehicle Registration Update

Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail: Entering the Environmental Stage

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

Meeting Date and Location

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held a hybrid public meeting Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 at noon in Arlington. Patrons could attend in person, via phone or view the live stream at www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept23. Natalie Bettger, Senior Program Manager, moderated the meeting attended by 48 people.

Public Meeting Purpose and Topics

The public meeting was held 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, and amended on November 8, 2018. Staff presented information about:

- North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot Program – **presented by Ernest Huffman**
- Transit Strategic Partnerships Program – **presented by Gypsy Gavia**
- FY23 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects – **presented by Ke’Ana Jones**
- Texas Electric Vehicle Registration Update – **presented by Savana Nance**

The public meeting was held to educate, inform and seek comments from the public. Comments were solicited from those attending who wished to speak for the record. The presentations made during the meeting as well as a video recording were posted online at www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept23.

Summary of Presentations

North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot Program presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/63742e52-4c0e-40c2-97c8-3ec7bb63a28c/North-Texas-Airspace-Awareness-Pilot-Program.pdf>

NCTCOG staff has established a pilot program to increase awareness around regional aircraft safety. This pilot aims to improve communication between unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) platform providers, increase safety and enhance community engagement efforts.

Municipalities participating in the pilot will be able to publish public advisories and local rules and regulations related to drone traffic. The pilot is a two-year program, and each city will receive at least one free license from a provider to work on the project. In the second year of the project, participants will focus on the integration of collected data.

In addition to working with municipalities throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth region, NCTCOG staff has also created the UAS Know Before You Fly Your Drone workshop, which includes 21 free videos that aid in teaching North Texans how to safely and efficiently fly drones throughout the metroplex. The series covers a variety of topics, including types of drones as well as educational and networking opportunities.

For more information on the North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot Program, visit www.northtexasuas.com. To view the UAS Know Before You Fly Your Drone workshop videos, visit www.youtube.com/nctcoqtrans.

Transit Strategic Partnerships Program presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/926fc17b-0ae0-4636-a34b-6cf6bb9c9a0a/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:

- Dynamic Direct Route Service (City of Arlington): \$1,126,873
- Forest Hill On-Demand Service (Trinity Metro): \$460,081
- Mobility Management (DCTA): \$110,000

NCTCOG is currently accepting the next round of Transit Strategic Partnership proposals through Nov. 30, 2023. Proposals will be reviewed and scored in December 2023, projects will be selected in January 2024 and federal approval is expected in September 2024.

For more information, visit www.nctcog.org/strategicpartnerships-transit or contact transitSPT@nctcog.org.

FY23 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects presentation:

https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/ef7f6d21-41fb-475c-a87e-67034e33d50b/FY23-Public-Transportation-Funding_Program-of-Projects.pdf

Section 5307 Handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/6bbda8a1-9f73-4b5c-af48-18c37d16a597/FY2023-5307-POPs.pdf>

Section 5310 Handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/9d09c9f3-2a16-4f15-a8b3-f0edd5f5af5c/FY2023-5310-POPs.pdf>

Section 5337 Handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/86b60207-5dcb-4934-b21a-4ba2cc0274c7/FY2023-5337-POPs.pdf>

Section 5339 Handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/ed394985-5ce9-4a5f-972f-39752c4f1dec/FY2023-5339-POPs.pdf>

Public transportation is part of a comprehensive transportation system and includes various types of services, such as fixed route, commuter, demand response and rail. Investing in these modes has a positive economic impact within communities, provides access for people with mobility impairments, reduces roadway congestion and improves air quality as well as safety.

Three urbanized areas, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney, are eligible to receive formula funds through the Programs of Projects. There are four federal funding programs for the aforementioned areas:

- Urbanized Area Formula
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
- State of Good Repair
- Bus and Bus Facilities

The Dallas-Fort Worth region received approximately \$193.4 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funds through the Fiscal Year 2023 award cycle. NCTCOG utilizes two different processes to award these funds. Two percent of the funding is set aside for strategic partnerships. Ninety-eight percent of the funding is available annually through the Programs of Projects process.

Approximately \$156.2 million of the Programs of Projects funding for Fiscal Year 2023 was utilized by transit authorities. Of this \$156.2 million, 64 percent was utilized by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), 20 percent by Trinity Metro and 6 percent by the Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA). The remaining 10 percent of funding was utilized by all other transit providers.

For a complete list of federal funding allocations for transit providers in North Central Texas, visit: www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept23.

Texas Electric Vehicle Registration Update presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/e9274e23-df09-418c-84d6-328e5c5a8cd6/Texas-Electric-Vehicle-Registration-Update.pdf>

The Dallas Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition (DFWCC) is part of a national program that focuses on reducing emissions and energy consumption from transportation. The Coalition receives electric vehicle registration data from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, which includes both battery electric and plugin hybrid vehicles. This data is used by local governments, the general public, utilities and the Coalition for infrastructure planning, outreach efforts and

identifying regional needs. The Dallas-Fort Worth region has approximately 80,000 registered electric vehicles (EVs), a 63 percent increase from last year.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) set aside \$5 billion to create a network of EV charging stations across the United States. The State of Texas has been allocated approximately \$408 million of this funding and is administering the funding through a two-phase effort. The first phase involves installing DC fast chargers every 50 miles along designated corridors. The second phase focuses on building infrastructure in rural areas and working with metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to determine where infrastructure is needed within urbanized areas.

Additionally, Oncor Electric Delivery, the largest transmission distribution utility in the State, has created an EVolution program to work with fleets and commercial partners to plan for electric vehicle infrastructure and charging. Signing up with Oncor allows individuals to be eligible for Oncor's EV Charging Study, which provides multiple incentives to offset demand from EV charging stations.

Lastly, each year National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) is held to raise awareness about EVs and provides chances for direct conversation with EV owners as well as test driving opportunities. This year, NDEW activities will take place from Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Tanger Outlets in Fort Worth. For more information and to register for NDEW 2023 activities, visit www.dfwcleancities.org/ndew.

Summary of Online Review and Comment Topics

Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail: Entering the Environmental Stage handout:
<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/881ae83f-6e0f-4b37-8b01-62ef5a6d87a1/Dallas-Fort-Worth-High-Speed-Rail-Entering-the-Environmental-Stage.pdf>

The Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections (DFWHSTC) Study aims to create more travel options, increase connectivity, decrease roadway demand and improve air quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Phase 1 of the project focused on alignments and corridors while Phase 2 is currently focused on engineering and environmental impacts.

To learn more about the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study and to stay updated on upcoming public meeting dates, visit www.nctcog.org/DFW-HSTCS.

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects handout:
<https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/82769e52-610b-4515-972b-9cfb70785f3d/November-2023-Public-Meeting-TIP-Modifications.pdf>

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2024 is maintained in the TIP. Projects with committed funds from federal, State and local sources are included in the TIP. 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 RECEIVED DURING THE MEETING

North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot Program

Evan Reitzell, Citizen

- A. Federal remote identification operation requirement

Comment: They announced last week that the Federal Aviation Administration's remote identification operation requirement deadline will be postponed. A new timeline has not been announced.

Summary of response by Ernest Huffman: Thank you for the clarification. I had not heard that information. I will update our presentation slides.

Other

Colin, Citizen

- A. Regional transit and high-speed rail

Comment: FY23 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects should focus on micro-mobility, buses, bikes and trains both heavy and light rail. Moving away from car centric design in our urbanized areas is critical for economic growth in the next decade.

DFW High-Speed Rail should have the opportunity cost of the construction impacting the environment compared to the millions of miles of emissions saved from cars traveling on I-30 and energy saved from those using the Amtrak rail. Support should be made for those communities between, but the project shouldn't be killed if residents don't want it close to their neighborhood. Keep it close to I-30 so that it will eventually take up part of the space if lanes are reduced on I-30. Hyperloop should not be discussed as it is not something that will ever happen with The Boring Company or Tesla at the helm.

Summary of response by Natalie Bettger: We appreciate your comments.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE COMMENT PERIOD VIA WEBSITE, EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA & MAIL

No comments received during the comment period via website, email, and social media.

Mail

Phyllis Silver, Citizen

Please see Attachment 1 for comments submitted via postal mail.

Transit Strategic Partnerships Program

Comment Pg. 5 -

I agree that service from the TRK CentrePort station to Arlington needs to be expanded ^{improved} and this would be very much appreciated.

When I visited NCTCOG in June 2023, I had difficulties going from the CentrePort station to COG Headquarters, despite the fact that I had previously set up an account with Via Arlington. There is definitely room for improvement.

I see from the handout that Gypsy Garcia is on this project. I had discussed my experience with getting to NCTCOG with Gypsy shortly after my trip.

Thank you for continuing to ^{strive to} improve this situation.

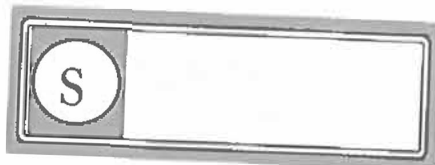
FY 23 Public Transportation Funding: Program of Projects

Overall Comment/Question Regarding the attachment -
For each of the Fiscal Year 2023 Program of Projects (Sections 5307, 5310, 5337, and 5339) the "Service Area" Section lists all the cities/towns in the DART Service Area. In that same listing, in each instance, it also lists Fairview. To the best of my knowledge, Fairview is not in the DART Service Area. Why is it listed among the other cities/towns that are?

Texas Electric Vehicle Registration Update

Comment - pp. 3-4

I appreciate the reporting of data on EV registration by Region and by County, reported by TxDOT DMV. It is interesting to see the comparisons.



Phyllis Silver
9/26/2023