

MINUTES

Regional Transportation Council PUBLIC MEETING

Mobility 2045 Update

Freight Safety Campaign

Local Governments Energy Reporting

Meeting Date and Location

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held a public meeting Monday, October 11, 2021, at noon at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (Arlington); Dan Lamers, Senior Program Manager, moderated the meeting, attended by two 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:

1. Mobility 2045 Update – presented by Amy Johnson
2. Freight Safety Campaign – presented by Morgan Tavallae
3. Local Governments Energy Reporting – presented by Dorothy Gilliam

The public meeting was held to educate, inform and seek comments from the public. Comments were solicited from those present who wished to speak for the record. The presentations made at the meeting are available at www.nctcog.org/input, and a video recording was posted at www.nctcog.org/video.

Each person who attended the public meeting received a packet with a meeting agenda, a sheet on which to submit written comments and copies of the presentations.

Summary of Presentations

Mobility 2045 Update presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/10/MTPUpdate.pdf>

Mobility 2045 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that defines a long-term vision for the region's transportation system and guides spending of federal and State transportation funds. This includes funding for highways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality.

The Plan was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on June 14, 2018, and Transportation Conformity was achieved on November 21, 2018. Mobility 2045 has nine goals and its vision is to improve the region's mobility today and tomorrow by embracing technology and innovation.

NCTCOG staff is working on an update to Mobility 2045 and currently focused on confirming project and performance measure refinements as well as finalizing financial forecasts. Updates include incorporating the use of new technologies, safety and travel demand management (TDM) strategies as well as addressing equity and barriers to opportunity.

Public involvement and plan development efforts will take place throughout the 2021 calendar year and spring 2022. The official comment period for the Mobility 2045 update will take place in April and May of 2022. The RTC will take action on the update in June 2022.

Freight Safety Campaign presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/10/Freight.pdf>

Over the last five years, an average of 289 truck crashes have occurred per month. There were 31 railroad crossing incidents in 2020. The Freight Safety campaign helps create awareness for safe driving habits near large freight vehicles on the highway and at railroad crossings.

The goals of this campaign include the following:

- Reduce freight-related accidents and inform the public about safe driving practices near large commercial motor vehicles
- Reduce rail crossing and trespassing incidents by informing the public about safe rail crossing habits and practices
- Create a safer environment for freight and passenger movements

Target audiences for the campaign include the general public as well as truck drivers. NCTCOG staff are utilizing fact sheets, social media, billboards, radio and podcasts to help promote the initiative.

More information about the Freight Safety campaign can be found at www.freightntx.org

Local Government Energy Reporting presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/10/EnergyReporting.pdf>

The Regional Energy Management Project is a partnership between the NCTCOG Transportation and Environment & Development Departments. It's purpose is to expand local government capabilities in energy management, increase compliance with state mandated energy reporting requirements and to improve the accuracy of emissions reduction data associated with reduced energy use.

The Texas Health and Safety Code requires all political subdivisions, institutes of higher education and state agencies in the 41 ozone nonattainment and near attainment counties to establish a goal of reducing electric consumption by at least 5 percent each state fiscal year for seven years and to submit an annual report to the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). The reports are used by Texas A&M Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL) to estimate nitrogen oxide reductions associated with energy conservation. ESL submits the reports to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Due to issues with lack of awareness and inconsistency in reporting from year to year, NCTCOG staff began assisting with outreach efforts for the project by developing a toolkit and

providing workshops and webinars. In turn, 76 cities and 2 counties submitted a 2020 energy report.

NCTCOG staff continue to assist in regional energy management work and 2021 webinars have been recorded and posted online for those interested in learning more about this initiative.

For more information, visit <http://conservenorthtexas.org/item/local-government-energy-reporting-toolkit>

ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED AT MEETING

No oral comments received at the meeting.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA & MAIL

Please see attachment for comment submitted via mail.

Freight Safety Awareness Initiative - 10/11/2021

Questions: How will the general public be made aware (pg. 5) of truck limitations and resulting precautions that the general public can take for safety around trucks - Please see my comments + questions regarding this issue when I address page 6)

(pages) COVID-19 messaging - What form will this messaging take? If it's only through technology, please bear in mind that even people who have smart phones, often do not use features of the phone other than to send + receive calls.

(pages) Educating truck drivers - What will be done to ensure that truck drivers are educated about safety measures? Will this be a mandatory course through their employers? What about independent truck drivers? Some may be self-employed with no employer. How will they be educated? Many are probably on the road for a large percentage of time.

(page 6) Comment - My concern is that not everyone including motorists, is well connected through technology

Questions - How would people receive the fact sheets that are addressed in the Outreach Section of this presentation? Where are these fact sheets distributed? If they are only available on the computer, many motorists may not be aware of the sites to obtain these and they may not know that the fact sheets are available, so they will not be searching for them.

Expansion of Initial Comment Regarding Page 6 - Of the motorists who have access to computers and smart phones, not all of them sign up for alerts and messages. They may not go into computer sites that offer information about

Safety and Security around trucks. Therefore, it is important to reach out to motorists in as many innovative ways as possible.

Page 6 - Comment - Billboards may be appropriate for brief messages, they are not appropriate for more detailed messages.

Page 6 - Comments - In addition to education through radio, television, through public service announcements, would be a good source to educate motorists about safety around trucks.

Another idea that comes to mind is external wrapping of buses, especially in the rear of the bus, with a brief message both pictorial and in printed words about safety reminders around trucks, would be a good way to advertise. This way, when cars stop behind a bus, motorists will be able to see the message.

Perhaps more brainstorming could be done to develop additional innovative ways to advertise so that the public can be aware of safety measures.

Mobility 2045 Update - Oct 9, 2021

Page 8 - Highlights: Regional Priorities

Safety

Comment: In addition to the obvious inclusion of reminders about safety around train tracks, I urge you to remind users of bus transportation about the caution necessary before boarding and after de-boarding a bus. Pedestrians must navigate dangerous road crossings, even in instances where there are traffic lights. Motorists are not always looking out for pedestrians, so pedestrians need to be very vigilant. This is especially true in areas where cars are turning (i.e. traveling west and turning south, etc.)

Administrative Revisions to Mobility 2045: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas - Revisions - Oct. 2021

Question: Although I have reviewed MTCOG charts with similar information as the Chart on pages 1 through 8 called "Mobility 2045: Regionally Significant Arterial Improvements: Revised Sept 16, 2021", I would like to ask what the numbers in the columns indicating the years (2018, 2020, 2028, etc.) refer to. Are they the number of projects, number of lanes? For example, for RSA ID # 1,587,275 on page 2, what do the 3's in the 2018 and 2020 columns + the 4's in the 2028-2045 columns refer to?