

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, August 21, 2008
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

11:30 a.m. Mobility Plan Implementation: Finance and Legislation Coordination Subcommittee

1:30 p.m. Full RTC Business Agenda

- 1:30 – 1:35**
1. **Approval of July 10, 2008, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Linda Koop, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the July 10, 2008, minutes contained in [Reference Item 1](#) will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:35 – 1:35**
2. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0
 - 2.1 **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**
Presenter: Christie Jestis, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval will be requested for modifications to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
Background: Revisions to the 2008-2011 TIP, for which staff will request RTC action, are provided as [Reference Item 2.1.1](#). These modifications impact three projects that are ready for letting, but required amendments to the TIP/STIP listings. [Reference Item 2.1.2](#) is a letter that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) requested be signed by Michael Morris to enable two of the projects to proceed prior to STIP approval. In order to advance project implementation and avoid delays, staff worked with TxDOT to draft and sign these modifications in advance of STTC and RTC approval. Subsequently, staff is asking RTC to endorse these modifications. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the Mobility 2030 Plan, the 2009 air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the 2008-2011 TIP.
- 1:35 – 1:50**
3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
 1. July 16-17 Public Meeting Minutes ([Reference Item 3.1](#))
 2. Committee Shuttle Service ([Electronic Item 3.2](#))
 3. Air North Texas Campaign ([Electronic Item 3.3](#) and [Electronic Item 3.4](#))
 4. North Texas Clean Air Coalition ([Electronic Item 3.5](#))
 5. AirCheckTexas Program

6. Environmental Protection Agency Proposed Attainment for North Central Texas Region to 1-Hour Standard ([Electronic Item 3.6](#))
7. 2008 Ozone Season Summary
8. Freeway Incident Management ([Electronic Item 3.7](#))
9. RTC Member Feedback on Legislative Briefings, Town Hall Meeting and Rail North Texas Public Comments ([Reference Item 3.8](#))
10. RTC Letter of Support for Locally Enforced Idling Restrictions ([Electronic Item 3.9](#))
11. Aviation Summit (August 26, 2008)
12. North Texas Tollway Authority Monthly Corridor Status Report
13. Recent Michael Morris Presentations at the Request of the Texas Legislature

1:50 – 2:00

4. Regional Toll Revenue Funding of Draft Recommendations-New Projects

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Jestis, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the final “new project” recommendations, including the scope of work, the Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding portion, the approved phases, the approved funding years, the local match, the total funding, and any comments noted on individual projects.

Background: The 2007 RTR Funding Initiative was announced in April 2007 making \$2.5 billion in S.H. 121 toll proceeds available to fund transportation projects. Over the last year, staff worked with the RTR County Task Forces and individual entities to resolve funding questions/issues and develop consensus in order to finalize the staff recommendations. The final recommendation from the Task Forces and staff is contained in [Reference Item 4.1](#), which includes revisions received from the task force meetings and regional partners. These projects were presented at the public meetings in mid-July. [Electronic Item 4.2](#) contains the project listings and evaluation results. [Reference Item 4.3](#) explains the methodology used to evaluate submitted projects, and [Reference Item 4.4](#) contains the Local Contribution Credit being proposed by staff. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommended RTC approval of the final recommendations on July 25, 2008, and added a park-and-ride project within the City of Plano to the final listings. Any updates or comments since STTC took action will be provided at the meeting.

2:00 – 2:10

5. Joint NCTCOG Executive Board/Regional Transportation Council Regional Toll Revenue Funds Investment Policy Statement

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be asked to adopt a Joint North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board/Regional Transportation Council Regional Toll Revenue Funds Investment Policy Statement.

Background: Staff has been working with the Texas Department of Transportation on returning the \$3.2 billion in Regional Toll Revenues to the region. Progress is being made on returning approximately \$700 million in off-system project funding to be

administered locally by the RTC. Concurrently, staff has been working internally to develop an investment strategy to immediately invest these funds upon receipt. Criteria used to develop an investment policy include, safety and preservation of principal, maintenance of sufficient liquidity to meet operating needs and response to opportunities, optimizing interest earnings, and maintenance of public trust from prudent investment activities. The RTC will be asked to approve a Joint NCTCOG Executive Board/Regional Transportation Council Regional Toll Revenue Investment Policy Statement which is attached as [Reference Item 5](#).

2:10 – 2:25

6. **Regional Transportation Council Draft Legislative Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present draft policy positions for the 81st Texas Legislature. [Electronic Item 6](#) contains a listing of potential items to be included in the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) policy position.

Background: The 81st Texas Legislature begins on January 13, 2009. For the 80th Texas Legislature, the RTC adopted a legislative package that was not prioritized and was too lengthy. The draft legislative program for the 81st Texas Legislature is prioritized into three categories, which will be explained in more detail.

2:25 – 2:35

7. **2008 Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Project Recommendations**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Michelle Bloomer, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present a summary of projects received and draft project recommendations through the 2008 Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Program Call for Projects.

Background: On April 28, 2008, the North Central Texas Council of Governments issued the 2008 Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Call for Projects to award approximately \$5.7 million in federal funds. The Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs are funded through the Federal Transit Administration to provide funding to support the development of transportation projects to address the transportation needs of low-income individuals and individuals with disabilities. The deadline for submittal of project proposals was June 13, 2008. Staff received a total of eighteen projects totaling approximately \$5.5 million. [Electronic Item 7.1](#) provides information on the Call for Projects, and a summary of the projects received and draft recommendations are provided in [Electronic Item 7.2](#).

- 2:35 – 2:50** 8. **Bylaws Revision Subcommittee Recommendations**
 Action/Second Reading First Reading Minutes: 15
Presenters: Pete Kamp, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Denton and Bylaws Revision Subcommittee Chair, and Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: The Bylaws Revision Subcommittee’s recommendations for revision of the Regional Transportation Council’s (RTC) Bylaws and Operating Procedures will be presented for a First Reading.
Background: The Bylaws Revision Subcommittee met on several occasions to discuss potential revisions to the RTC’s Bylaws and Operating Procedures. The items considered by the Subcommittee were primarily related to membership, voting structure, and funding programs and distribution. The Subcommittee’s recommendations are included in [Reference Item 8](#). Action on the proposed Bylaws revisions will be requested in September.
- 2:50 – 3:05** 9. **Need for Flexibility in TxDOT Programming of Projects/2009 Unified Transportation Program**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be briefed on recent changes regarding TxDOT funding and a draft staff recommendation for project funding levels and timing for inclusion of projects in the 2009 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).
Background: The Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) use the UTP as the agency’s ten-year plan to guide transportation project development and construction. In May 2007, the RTC approved project funding levels for the 2008 UTP. Since that time, TxDOT has finalized an extensive review of the State’s available transportation revenues, and determined that less money was available in the 2009-2019 timeframe than originally expected. Therefore, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and TxDOT District staffs have coordinated on the reprioritization of projects previously funded in the UTP. [Reference Item 9](#) contains the list of priority corridors in the Dallas-Fort Worth region and staff recommended funding amounts and timing for projects in the corridors. These constraints have resulted in new funding opportunities that will assist in project implementation.
- 3:05 – 3:10** 10. **Overview of Selected Regional Transportation Council Policies**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will present an overview of selected Regional Transportation Council efforts:
 - S.B. 792 Funding Allocations
 - Regional Toll Revenue and Interest Reporting
 - Update on Regional Transportation Council Local Funds
 - System Plan: TxDOT/NTTA/RTC Project Responsibility
Background: Staffing, finance, and policy are all initiatives to advance projects. Staff will highlight recent efforts.

3:10 – 3:15

11. **Texas Department of Transportation Request for Attorney General Opinion**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be asked to provide direction to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on whether to amend or withdraw its pending Request for Opinion from the Attorney General on the transfer of the Regional Toll Revenue funds (e.g., S.H. 121 funds) to the region.

Background: On June 19, 2008, TxDOT submitted a Request for Opinion to the Attorney General regarding the transfer of S.H. 121 funds to the region. The Attorney General requested a briefing from interested parties. The North Central Texas Council of Governments retained outside counsel to prepare a brief to submit to the Attorney General, which is included as [Reference Item 11](#). Separately, staff has made significant progress with TxDOT on transferring approximately \$700 million in Regional Toll Revenue funds on a project-by-project basis for off-system projects. An adverse Attorney General opinion could negate the progress made on transferring funds to the region for off-system projects. TxDOT is requesting input on whether to amend or withdraw the Request for Opinion. RTC will be asked to approve one of the following options: 1) request TxDOT to leave the Request for Opinion as is and run the risk of losing ground on the transfer of off-system projects; 2) request TxDOT to narrow the Request for Opinion to be specific to on-system projects (however, this presents some risk to off-system projects; 3) request TxDOT to withdraw the Request for Opinion and continue working with RTC staff on a resolution to on-system projects; or 4) request TxDOT to withdraw the Request for Opinion and seek transfer of only off-system projects.

12. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided as Reference Item 12.

- RTC Attendance ([Reference Item 12.1](#))
- STTC Attendance and Minutes ([Electronic Item 12.2](#))
- Local Motion ([Electronic Item 12.3](#))

13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

14. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.***