



**Whether in the Sky, Along a Sidewalk or Somewhere in Between
Transportation of All Forms to be Discussed at Public Meetings**

Residents can learn about, give input on general aviation, complete streets and work plans

Feb. 3, 2012 (Arlington, Texas) – Improving transportation for a diverse, growing population living in an expansive metropolitan area requires a mix of coordinated, innovative options. Planners are looking to the future while also pursuing more immediate, strategic infrastructure investments.

At public meetings Feb. 6-7 in Farmers Branch, Benbrook and Hurst, staff will highlight several planning efforts and ask for input from residents.

A new strategic vision for advancing general aviation and heliport resources in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth area will be presented. The Dallas-Fort Worth area is home to more than 400 public- and private-use aviation facilities, and the aviation industry is important to the region’s economy. Both based aircraft and aircraft operations are expected to steadily increase through 2035, according to the draft long-term general aviation and heliport system plan. The forecast demand and related recommendations will be discussed.

Another planning initiative to be presented at public meetings is the draft regional policy for complete streets and mobility options. Complete streets are safe, comfortable and convenient for travel for everyone, including drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders and operators, commercial vehicles and emergency responders. This is accomplished by incorporating context-sensitive strategies that focus on planning for, designing, building and maintaining the necessary infrastructure while also integrating elements that encourage safe and convenient walking, bicycling and transit use. The result is often improved safety, lowered individual transportation costs, improved air quality, added transportation alternatives and encouraged health through walking and biking.

From street to street, the strategies may differ, and a complete street in a rural area will look significantly different from one in an urban area. However, the resulting balance is the same.

Staff is developing a draft regional policy consistent with federal and state guidance as well as an overview that offers recommendations for implementation of context-sensitive strategies at the local level.

Both of the efforts outlined are included in the Fiscal Year 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that summarizes all of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks conducted by the metropolitan planning organization. Modifications to the UPWP will be presented for public review and comment.

More information about the public meetings is available at www.nctcog.org/meetings.

| Public Meeting Details | | |
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| <p>Monday, Feb. 6 6:30 p.m. Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center 14050 Heartside Place Farmers Branch, TX 75234</p> | <p>Tuesday, Feb. 7 10:30 a.m. Benbrook Public Library 1065 Mercedes St. Benbrook, TX 76126</p> | <p>Tuesday, Feb. 7 6:30 p.m. Hurst City Hall 1505 Precinct Line Road Hurst, TX 76054</p> |

About the North Central Texas Council of Governments:

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered on the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. Currently, NCTCOG has 240 member governments including 16 counties, 170 cities, 24 school districts and 30 special districts.

About the Regional Transportation Council:

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments has served as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for regional transportation planning in the Dallas-Fort Worth area since 1974. The MPO works in cooperation with the region's transportation providers to address the complex transportation needs of the rapidly growing metropolitan area. The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise counties. The RTC's 43 members include local elected or appointed officials from the metropolitan area and representatives from each of the area's transportation providers. More information can be found at www.nctcog.org.

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