<u>AGENDA</u>

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Friday, October 23, 2020
North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm   **Full STTC Business Agenda (Meeting Will be Held as a Videoconference)**

1:30 – 1:35   1. **Approval of September 25, 2020, Minutes**
     ☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
     Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair
     Item Summary: Approval of the September 25, 2020, meeting minutes
           contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.
     Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40   2. **Consent Agenda**
     ☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5

     2.1. **FY2020 and FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program Modifications**
       Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG
       Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council
             (RTC) approval of modifications to the FY2020 and
             FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will
             be requested. Direction for staff to also administratively
             amend the Transportation Improvement Program and
             other administrative/planning documents, as
             appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications will
             also be sought.
       Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by
             federal and State transportation planning regulations
             and provides a summary of the transportation and
             related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by
             Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2020
             and FY2021 UPWP identifies the activities to be
             carried out between October 1, 2019, and
             September 30, 2021. Amendments to this document
             are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project
             updates and funding adjustments. The proposed
             amendments have been posted on the North Central
             Texas Council of Governments website for public
             review and comment, and are also included as
             Electronic Item 2.1.1. Additional information is provided
             in Electronic Item 2.1.2. Comments received as a
             result of the public outreach process, if any, will be
             provided.

       Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2.2. **Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Action on Clear Path™ Technology Program Funding**
Presenter: Collin Moffett, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council approval of funding needed to implement the Clear Path™ Technology Program, in accordance with the BUILD Grant award of $25 million for projects to improve the TRE Transit rail line, will be requested.
Background: North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has been coordinating with each of the freight and transit rail agencies in the North Central Texas region to identify the benefits associated with implementation of the Clear Path™ technology system. As outlined in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2045, passenger rail service is anticipated to increase with the planned implementation of new and expanded service on existing freight rail corridors throughout the region. Increasing the rail networks' operational efficiency is key to expanding passenger service on existing corridors. More information can be found in Electronic Item 2.2.

The Clear Path™ system is a technology solution that monitors and forecasts train traffic conditions in critical transportation gateways, such as Chicago, to help reduce train congestion. Clear Path™ is enabled by continuous real-time feeds of railroad train dispatching and infrastructure status data used to maximize the efficiency of the freight and passenger rail network. Clear Path™ technology will increase capacity of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) rail network and allow DFW metroplex rail system agencies to exchange timely, accurate, and actionable information on train movements throughout the region, by facilitating inter-carrier operations. Implementation of Clear Path™ technology would advance transit operation opportunities as designated in Mobility 2045.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2.3. **North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies: Research Project Funding Standards**
Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG
Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of selection criteria and a process for providing funding for sponsored research projects on mobility technologies proposed by the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies (NTCMT) will be requested.
Background: In February 2020, as part of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) proposal to host

the Virgin Hyperloop One Certification Center, the RTC approved $2.5 million in seed money to help fund sponsored research in mobility technologies. With the assistance of the Texas Research Alliance, the four major research universities in the region (UTA, UNT, UTD, SMU) have organized themselves into the NTCMT. Through the NTCMT, the universities will function as a Research and Development network for sponsored research. The NTCMT is intended to strengthen the capabilities of these universities in the transportation sector and attract mobility technology companies to the region and will recommend certain research projects for NCTCOG funding. The purpose of this item is to establish standards and a process through which NCTCOG identifies which research projects to fund out of the seed money approved by the RTC. These standards and process are described in Electronic Item 2.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

1:40 – 1:55 3. **COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program** (**Round 3)/Collin County Funding Partnership**

☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a third round of COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program projects, including two funding swaps with local partners, and the ability to amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate the projects.

Background: Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, the economies of the United States, Texas, and Dallas-Fort Worth region have suffered large setbacks and there is an urgency to stimulate the economy. Over the past several months, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has been working to select projects that are ready to be advanced, which will inject much needed money into the local and state economies in the coming years. Staff recommends funding a third round of projects in this program that meet one or more of the RTC policies outlined in Mobility 2045 and/or assist with achieving the region's federal performance targets.

Two of these projects are part of a proposed funding exchange between the RTC, Collin County, and the cities of McKinney and Frisco. The complete list of proposed projects can be found in Electronic Item 3.1. Electronic Item 3.2 contains additional details about the program and projects being requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

1:55 – 2:00   4. **Overview of Next Steps Involving the Travel Demand Management Program**

☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 5

Presenter: Caryn Sanders, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will introduce the development of a Regional Transportation Council resolution that supports establishing a regional trip reduction goal that aims to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commute trips through increased implementation of Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies.

Background: As a result of changes in traffic and commute patterns experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Central Texas region recorded a decrease in traffic congestion and a small improvement in the region's air quality. In an effort to sustain the positive impacts of the traffic and commute pattern changes post COVID-19, staff is exploring opportunities to retain benefits associated with the current commuter behavior. Trip reduction strategies such as carpooling, vanpooling, biking, walking, taking transit, teleworking, and flexible work schedules reduce the number of vehicles that travel on roadways, assist in improving air quality, and reduce peak-period travel by shifting drive-alone travel to other modes or technologies. Urban lifestyle is a critical factor to consider when proposing changes to commuter habits. Because successful trip reduction programs require strong public support, promotion, and participation, staff wishes to engage in a dialog with regard to the tradeoffs associated with the Travel Demand Management Program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:00 – 2:10   5. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Study Update**

☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Feldt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update regarding the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation (DFW HST) Connections Study. Currently the project is proceeding through the first phase, including analysis of route and mode alternatives.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the DFW HST Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis effort. The second phase will be a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Since April, staff and the consultant have been analyzing alternatives while engaging the public and stakeholders. The Phase 1 efforts are designed to reduce the number of alternatives to a minimum for more detailed

analysis in the Phase 2 effort. The following items will be presented:

- Draft preliminary project purpose
- Potential route alternatives
- Potential mode alternatives
- Engagement opportunities
- Project schedule

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:10 – 2:20   6.   **Federal Highway Administration – Pavement/Bridge Condition Target Reaffirmation or Revisions**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will update the Committee on proposed reaffirmation or revisions to the current regional position supporting statewide pavement and bridge condition, performance measure 2 (PM2), targets on National Highway System (NHS) facilities, as established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in accordance with Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act rulemaking for federally-required performance measures.

Background: Subsequent to its execution in December 2015, FAST Act rulemaking requires certain performance measures, including pavement and bridge condition ratings for designated NHS facilities, to be addressed in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. In 2018, the Committee affirmed regional support for TxDOT's statewide 2022 good and poor condition pavement and bridge targets, and it also agreed to collaborate with TxDOT and local governments on project planning and programming contributing toward the accomplishment of NHS pavement and bridge performance goals.

The rulemaking established an October 1, 2020, deadline for State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to consider mid-range adjustments to statewide 2022 pavement and bridge targets as they each submit a Mid-Performance Progress Report to the Federal Highway Administration. TxDOT adjusted five of the six PM2 targets according to their submittal, and as a result, Texas Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) have a new 180-day window to report whether they will affirm the adjusted targets or establish their own quantifiable targets. Analysis considering observed trends, both regionally and statewide, as well as potential effects on project development and implementation, will be key considerations on whether target adjustments may be recommended.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:20 – 2:30   7. **Transit Oriented Development Survey Results**
☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 10
Presenter: Travis Liska, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will present results of the completed Dallas Area Rapid
Transit (DART) Red and Blue Lines Transit-Oriented
Development (TOD) Survey produced by the North Central
Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as part of a
Federal Transit Administration Planning Pilot for TOD grant.
Background: Transit-oriented development encourages greater transit
ridership through a higher density mix of uses and pedestrian
friendly design withing walking distance of high frequency
transit. The NCTCOG DART Red and Blue Lines TOD Survey
was conducted to get a general sense of travel behavior,
demographics, and location choice preferences of resident,
businesses, and employees occupying TOD around DART
stations. The data collected will assist NCTCOG and its
partner cities and transit agencies in evaluating and improving
TOD policy and projects.

The survey includes 28 DART stations with responses from
over 1,500 residents, 1,000 businesses, and 550 employees
collected from September 2019 to February 2020. A full report
and data table are available online at: www.nctcog.org/TOD.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Transit

2:30 – 2:35   8. **Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects
During COVID Recovery**
☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 5
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on performance metrics to help
understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation
system.
Background: Four performance metrics have been developed that will be
tracked through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery
process: 1) travel behavior response to COVID-19;
2) financial implications to traditional revenue sources;
3) benefits of travel behavior responses to areas of RTC
responsibility; and 4) prioritization of infrastructure
improvements that offset unemployment increases. More
information is provided in Electronic Item 8. Staff will only
present strategic changes since last month's presentation.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:35 – 2:45   9. **DFW Connector Pilot Program Results**
☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 10
Presenters: Ken Kirkpatrick and Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG
Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed on the results of the DFW
Connector Pilot Program, consistent with previous Regional
Transportation Council (RTC) approval. This program was
initiated to develop methodologies to maximize toll collection
from users.

Background: The RTC initiated the DFW Connector Pilot Program in
coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation
(TxDOT). The purpose of the pilot was to develop strategies to
increase TollTag usage and apply successful techniques in
the IH 35W corridor to reduce TxDOT's toll collection risk.
Increasing TollTag usage not only saves money for drivers in
the form of lower tolls, it also lowers the cost of collection for
the public sector. The first phase of the pilot was to increase
the pay-by-mail surcharge to create a market incentive for
drivers to obtain toll tags. This was done at no cost to the
public sector. The RTC approved a second phase of the pilot
for up to $300,000 in additional marketing and outreach
activities to test the following ideas: additional TollPerks for
new TollTag customers, prize giveaways, preloaded TollTags
in targeted areas, and potentially TollTag sales at inspection
stations and/or car dealerships in targeted areas. The North
Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) partnered with the RTC in
carrying out these marketing ideas. NCTCOG's Executive
Board authorized a contract with NTTA to carry out these
initiatives in June 2017. Marketing activities have concluded,
and a final report will be provided to the Committee. Additional
information is provided in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:45 – 2:50   10. **FY2021 Project Tracking Initiative**
☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 5
Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will introduce the Committee to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021
Project Tracking Initiative that is being initiated in order to
reduce the region's carryover funding balances.

Background: Almost every year, Regional Transportation Council (RTC)-
selected projects being implemented by local governments
experience delays. While a one-year delay is of less
consequence, what tends to occur is that a project is delayed
year after year, until it has been 3-4 years since the originally
committed start date. Over a long period of time, these delays
led to the need to implement the Metropolitan Planning
Organization Milestone Policy, which identifies projects that
have not advanced to construction after being funded for at
least 10 years. However, a 10 year project review does not
create an action plan soon enough to reduce the region's
growing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement

Program (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set Aside carryover balances. As a secondary line of offense, staff is implementing a project tracking initiative that will highlight project schedule commitments to the Committee and the RTC on a regular basis and report local agency progress toward the committed project development schedules. A list of projects that are scheduled to begin in FY2021 can be found in Electronic Item 10.1. Additional details on this initiative can be found in Electronic Item 10.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

2:50 – 2:55   11. **AV2.2/AV2.3 Projects Update**
☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 5
Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the status of Automated Vehicle (AV) Projects 2.2 and 2.3, including the availability of funding, the process for advancing proposed projects, and application review criteria.
Background: In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Automated Vehicles Program 2.0. Project AV2.2 provides $10 million to help public agencies effectively support AV deployments coming to their jurisdictions. Project AV2.3 provides $20 million to purchase AV services to explore uses cases of regional significance. In an accompanying policy, the RTC affirmed its intention that all Dallas-Fort Worth communities should have the resources to support and utilize AV technologies. Public agencies in the region are now encouraged to build collaborative relationships with AV developers and submit proposals for AV2.2 and AV2.3 funding. The briefing will outline guidelines for project proposals, summarize the staff review process, and describe pertinent technology developments since RTC's adoption of AV Program 2.0. Electronic Item 11 contains additional background.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

2:55 – 3:05   12. **Unmanned Aircraft Systems Draft Resolution**
☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 10
Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of a proposed Regional Transportation Council resolution to support the safe and efficient integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the Dallas-Fort Worth transportation system.
Background: With the growing number of UAS operators and use cases, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) would like to engage public-sector partners to support and advocate for UAS activities within the region through the adoption of a Unmanned Aircraft System Resolution.

UAS activities could include delivery of medical supplies and packages, air taxi services, public safety uses, accident reconstruction and surveying, among others. This effort supports the North Texas UAS Safety and Integration Task Force comprised of public and private-sector organizations that discuss best practices, UAS technologies and possible use cases. This resolution will support a coordinated approach to UAS planning activities and implementation opportunities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

3:05 – 3:05   13. **Fast Facts**

☐ Action   ☐ Possible Action   ☑ Information   Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. Contingency Action for High-Speed Rail Approved by STTC at the September 25, 2020, Meeting Not Needed and No Action Taken by the RTC
2. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle)
3. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events (https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings)
4. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Programs (Electronic Item 13.1)
5. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 13.2)
6. Fall 2020 TIM Executive Level Course Virtual Training Announcement (Electronic Item 13.3)
7. Deadline to Submit Requests for Transportation Improvement Program Modifications through the February 2021 Cycle – October 23, 2020 (https://rtrinternal.nctcog.org/login)
8. East/West Equity Update (Electronic Item 13.4)
9. September Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 13.5)
10. November Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 13.6)
11. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.7)
12. Written Progress Reports:
    - Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.8)
    - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.9)

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

15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for *1:30 pm on December 4, 2020.*