

AGENDA

Regional Transportation Council Thursday, March 10, 2022 North Central Texas Council of Governments

Only limited seats will be available in the Transportation Council Room. Members of the public wishing to comment during the open comment period will do so from the Transportation Council Room. Otherwise, all other members of the public in attendance at the meeting will be requested to view a livestream of the meeting from the Metroplex Conference Room. Members of the public may also view a livestream of the RTC meeting remotely at www.nctcog.org/video under the "live" tab.

**1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

- 1:00 – 1:10** 1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda**
 Information Minutes: 10
Item Summary: Members of the public may comment on any item(s) on today's agenda at this time. If speaking, please complete a Speaker Request Card, available at the meeting, and provide to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum three (3) minutes is permitted per speaker. At the conclusion of this item, no further opportunities for public comment will be provided for the duration of the meeting.
Background: N/A
- 1:10 – 1:15** 2. **Approval of February 10, 2022, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Theresa Daniel, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the February 10, 2022, minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:15 – 1:20** 3. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
- 3.1. **Federal Functional Classification System Amendment**
Presenter: Berrien Barks, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of one new amendment to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS) and re-approval of a series of FFCS amendments previously approved in 2013 and 2018 will be requested.
Background: While inclusion in the FFCS is based on a roadway's purpose and functioning capabilities, it is also used to determine eligibility for federal funding. Amendments to the FFCS occur as the function of an existing roadway changes, or as roadways need to be added due to construction, new developments, and shifts in demographic

trends. Staff is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on an FFCS amendment within the Fort Worth TxDOT District. This amendment involves the new construction of a roadway and interchange, which are included in the current Transportation Improvement Program. Staff also requests the Council to reapprove a series of proposed amendments to the FFCS which were previously approved by the RTC in 2013 and 2018. It is unclear if these amendments received final approval from the Federal Highway Administration after their review from TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee recommended the approval of the one new amendment and the previously approved 2013 and 2018 amendments at its last meeting. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.1.1 and Electronic Item 3.1.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

3.2. **Air Quality Funding Recommendations Related to the Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program**

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council approval of funding recommendations for the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects will be requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments opened the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects (CFP) through an Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program award. The CFP award grants funds for replacements of on-road diesel vehicles and engines, nonroad diesel equipment, diesel transport refrigeration unit trailers, diesel drayage trucks, locomotive engines, and locomotive shore power installation in North Central Texas. The most recent application deadline was January 14, 2022. From the applications received, staff completed review, quantified emissions, and developed project funding recommendations. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 3.2.1 provides an overview of the call for projects and staff recommendations. Electronic Item 3.2.2 provides detailed project listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:20 – 1:30

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Recognition of Members Concluding Service on the Regional Transportation Council (RTC): W. Jeff Williams, P.E., Former Mayor, City of Arlington; Jungus Jordan, Former Council Member, City of Fort Worth
2. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
www.nctcog.org/agfunding
3. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
www.dfwcleancities.org/events
4. Status Report on Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding (Electronic Item 4.1)
5. February Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.2)
6. March Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.3)
7. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.4)
8. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.5)
9. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.6)
10. 2022 ATRI Top 100 National Truck Bottlenecks
<https://truckingresearch.org/2022/02/08/top-100-truck-bottlenecks-2022/>
11. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.7)

1:30 – 1:50

5. **Executive Session**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 20
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Background: Under the authority granted under the Open Meetings Act, the Regional Transportation Council will be convened in Executive Session under:

- 1) Section 551.072, to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value at real property related to critical regional infrastructure; and
- 2) Section 551.071, to consult with its attorney on legal matters.

1:50 – 1:55

6. **Consideration of Items Discussed During Executive Session: Approval of Funding for Land Banking for Critical Regional Infrastructure**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council will consider whether to take any action related to items pursuant to Section 551.072 and Section 551.071 of the Open Meetings Act discussed during Executive Session.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Mobility 2045 Update: Draft Plan and Public Meeting Schedule**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brenden Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Work continues on the region's next long-range transportation plan, Mobility 2045 - 2022 Update. Staff will present a brief overview of the progress to date and will request Regional Transportation Council action to begin the official public comment period on April 1, 2022. In addition, staff will present information regarding:

- Draft roadway project recommendations
- Draft transit project recommendations
- Project recommendations identification tables
- Draft financial plan
- Public comment period overview
- Schedule for completion

Draft roadway and transit recommendations identified graphically and in tabular format, as well as draft plan documents, are available at www.nctcog.org/PlanInProgress.

Background: Mobility 2045 was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council on June 14, 2018. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years. Development of the Mobility 2045 Update is currently underway, which will include a new financial plan and necessary refinements to projects in the current Mobility 2045 plan. Development will be completed by April 1. The Mobility 2045 Update will reassess existing recommendations and include new demographics, financial forecasts, and planning initiatives. NCTCOG staff will seek RTC action permitting staff to open the official public comment period as outlined in the NCTCOG Public Participation Plan. The RTC is expected to take final action on the Mobility 2045 Update in June 2022. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 7.1 and Electronic Item 7.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Updates to Regional TDC Program and TDC Annual Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of proposed changes to the Transportation Development Credit (TDC) program will be requested, and the Council will be briefed on the TDC Annual Report.

Background: Since 2012, the RTC has received 994,351,658 TDCs from (TxDOT) to be utilized in lieu of the local match on projects and programs with federal funding. Once TDCs come to the region, they are allocated into several categories with various goals. (NCTCOG) staff proposes to make allocation adjustments to several of those categories. Details on the proposed changes can

be found in Electronic Item 8.1. The TDC Annual Report, which must be submitted annually to TxDOT, is included as Electronic Item 8.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

- 2:15 – 2:20** 9. **Cancellation of Trade Fair with Lubbock MPO and the Rio Grande Valley MPO**
- Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
- Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to cancel the Trade Fair Partnerships with the Lubbock and Rio Grande Valley MPOs that were approved by the RTC in May 2021. TxDOT has determined that no funding allocation is needed from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).
- Background: In May 2021, the RTC approved the trade of a total of \$21,000,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds with the Lubbock MPO in FY2023 and FY2025, to be repaid to NCTCOG over three years beginning in FY2028. The intent of the trade was for NCTCOG to provide the funding necessary to expedite the construction of two regionally important projects in the Lubbock MPO. The RTC also approved the trade of \$14,578,845 of STBG funds to the Rio Grande Valley MPO in FY2022 to be repaid in FY2026. Funding was to be utilized to expand the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates. Since that time, (TxDOT) has coordinated with the Lubbock and Rio Grande Valley MPOs and developed a funding plan that does not require borrowing the funding allocation from NCTCOG. Staff recommends cancelling the agreements with the Lubbock and Rio Grande Valley MPOs. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

- 2:20 – 2:30** 10. **IH 20 Passenger Rail Corridor Update and Resolution**
- Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
- Presenter: Rebekah Gongora, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of recent efforts to operate a long-distance passenger rail connection along the Interstate Highway 20 (IH-20) corridor connecting Dallas-Fort Worth to Atlanta, Georgia, and request approval of a resolution reaffirming support for passenger rail along the corridor.
- Background: (NCTCOG) continues to coordinate with the IH-20 Corridor Council, a non-profit organization and multi-state coalition made up of elected officials and stakeholders along the corridor working to establish a long-distance passenger rail connection between Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta, Georgia, and ultimately connecting to the East Coast. Canadian Pacific Railway and Amtrak have recently announced plans to conduct a study to operate passenger rail along the IH-20 corridor, pending Surface Transportation Board approval. A corridor map can be found in

Electronic Item 10.1. A 2007 joint Memorandum of Understanding on coordinated planning for future passenger rail service between the North Central Texas Region and the East Texas Region can be found in Electronic Item 10.2. Action is being sought for approval for a resolution reaffirming support for passenger rail along the IH-20 corridor, a copy of the resolution can be found in Electronic Item 10.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2:30 – 2:40

11. **Automated Vehicles Program 2: Round 2 Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris and Clint Hail, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff seeks approval of a second round of projects recommended for funding under the consolidated Automated Vehicles Program 2.0, or “AV2.0” and launching a new initiative: Travel Demand Substitution and Accessibility Improvements Using Technology: Foundation for Classification of a Transportation Mode.

Background: In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Automated Vehicle Program 2.0, which included \$10 million for assisting local partners in hosting automated vehicle deployments (AV2.2) and \$20 million for AV deployments to explore use cases that further regional priorities (AV2.3). As part of this approval, RTC adopted three policy initiatives aimed at 1) increasing innovation within the region; 2) giving equal access to this innovation to all local partners; and 3) addressing equity gaps in the deployment of these innovations. In keeping with these policy initiatives, in July 2021, the RTC approved the first round of projects. The remaining funds were consolidated to form “Round 2”, and from August until mid-November 2021, staff provided technical assistance to local partners considering applications for this second round of proposals. Projects recommended for advancement include expanding a current on-demand shuttle service in Arlington; an automated parking/curb management test bed at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport; service delivery solutions using automated vehicle platforms in McKinney and South Dallas; and a three-part technology initiative in South and Southeast Fort Worth. These two last projects are part of the two-phase initiative: Travel Demand Substitution and Accessibility Improvements Using Technology. This initiative seeks to use new technologies to deliver transportation demand management solutions for underserved communities across the region. Additional information provided in Electronic Item 11.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:40 – 2:50 12. **Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure With Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program, dedicated for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Staff will provide details highlighting grant requirements. Additionally, staff will discuss a proposal to generate a collaborative and comprehensive regional “conveyor belt” process and strategic evaluation matrix to optimize the targeting of various future projects considered for the multiple discretionary grant opportunities set to occur via the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Background: In January 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) is announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program regarding strategic capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have significant local or regional impacts. Electronic Item 12.1 is a copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) providing specific program details and application requirements for the \$1.5 billion program. Applications are due to the US DOT by April 14, 2022. For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Kyle Roy by Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at kroy@nctcog.org. IIJA includes many new competitive discretionary grant programs in addition to RAISE, more than any previous surface transportation authorization. While some programs are devoted to specific purposes and project types, other programs may have compatibility where certain projects could be effective candidates in multiple instances. To maximize the region’s competitiveness, improve collective responsiveness to increased opportunities, and further streamline delivery of needed projects among all types, staff will outline a conceptual framework for a comprehensive strategic evaluation matrix encompassing characteristics of all existing and pending IIJA discretionary grant programs. With feedback and collaboration from the Council and other partners, the objective for this tool will be a more informative, effective, efficient, and proactive process for screening and selecting projects in advance of each IIJA competitive opportunity, enabling enhanced chances for future funding to be awarded to the region. Upcoming efforts for the FY 2022 RAISE Grant will help lay initial groundwork for this proposed process. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 12.2 and Electronic Item 12.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Goods Movement

2:50 – 3:00

13. **2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Development**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Regional Transportation Council on the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process and provide a draft listing of current RTC commitments.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort among the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Texas Department of Transportation, local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. Electronic Item 13 contains an overview of the TIP development process, focus areas, and schedule. By the meeting date, the financially constrained draft project listings for the 2023-2026 TIP will be available at the following weblink:

<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/funds/tip/transportation-improvement-program/2023-2026tip>.

Local agency comments on the draft listings must be provided by March 31, 2022, in order to be included in the final listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

14. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 14.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 14.2)
- Local Motion (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/about/publications/locmo/local-motion-march-2022>)

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

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