

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, December 4, 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 October 23, 2020, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the October 23, 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. Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**
Presenter: Rylea Roderick, NCTCOG
Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.
Background: February 2021 revisions to the 2021-2024 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 2.1 for the Committee's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination and financial constraint of the TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

- 2.2. Endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council Ratification of Emergency Funding Authorization for McKinney Avenue Transit Authority for Rail Liability Insurance**
Presenter: Gypsy Gavia, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) ratification of emergency funding authorization to McKinney Avenue Transit Authority (MATA) to continue enhanced connectivity services between Uptown and Downtown Dallas will be requested.
Background: In October 2020, MATA notified the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) of issues with its annual renewal of rail liability insurance, which included various insurers exiting the rail insurance market. On October 29, MATA requested emergency assistance from NCTCOG with its annual renewal of rail liability insurance as it faced an impending gap in

coverage. While efforts are underway in finding a regional solution for all transit authorities regarding rail liability insurance, MATA faced an immediate need. Confronting limited options, NCTCOG staff issued a letter to MATA to ensure continuity of transit operations is maintained. A copy of the correspondence can be found in Electronic Item 2.2.1. MATA is implementing safety and financial measures while exploring alternative options with Dallas Area Rapid Transit and NCTCOG. Ratification of emergency funding was approved by the RTC on November 12, 2020.

Staff requests endorsement of RTC's ratification of emergency funding to MATA utilizing existing Regional Toll Revenue funds previously authorized by the Regional Transportation Council for transit projects in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to ensure continuation of transit services and enhanced connectivity between Uptown and Downtown Dallas. More details can be found in Electronic Item 2.2.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Federal Highway Administration – Pavement/Bridge Condition Target Reaffirmation or Revisions**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval to reaffirm support for adjusted statewide pavement and bridge condition (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, 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 (PM2) targets, and it also agreed to collaborate with TxDOT and local governments on project planning and programming that would contribute toward 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 (MPP)

Progress Report to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). TxDOT adjusted five of the six PM2 targets according to its submittal, and as a result, Texas Metropolitan Planning Organizations have a new 180-day window to report whether they will affirm the adjusted targets or establish their own quantifiable targets. Considering received public/agency feedback, analysis of observed regional and statewide performance trends, trends, and potential effects on project development and implementation, staff recommends reaffirmation of support for TxDOT's adjusted statewide PM2 targets, as well as consensus for ongoing collaborative activities with partners that would further contribute toward accomplishment of NHS pavement and bridge performance goals. Electronic Item 3 includes additional details on PM2 information, and the recommendation proposed by staff.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

1:50 – 2:00

4. **2020 Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Implementation (Round 2)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the next steps for implementing the second round of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Milestone Policy.

Background: The MPO Milestone Policy was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to ensure that projects that have been funded are being implemented in a timely manner and funding is available for other projects in the region. The first MPO Milestone Policy implementation resulted in 51 of the 57 projects on the list advancing to construction. Since then, a second round of projects have been identified by staff as Milestone Policy projects. These projects were funded between 2006 and 2010 and have not begun construction. Letters were sent to all agencies with a project on the Milestone Policy list notifying them of the action needed to ensure that these projects remain funded. As with the first set of Milestone Policy projects, agencies were asked to review their projects and provide: 1) a realistic, achievable project schedule, 2) a new policy board action that reconfirms the agency's commitment to the project, and 3) a demonstration of the availability of local matching funds. Staff has reviewed the responses and the draft list of proposed recommendations for these projects can be found in Electronic Item 4.1. Details on the MPO Milestone Policy can be found in Electronic Item 4.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:00 – 2:05

5. **Executive Summary of 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 Executive Summary 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. Additional information is summarized in Electronic Item 5 and a more complete presentation can be found in the new dashboard at www.nctcog.org/pm/covid-19.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:05 – 2:15

6. **Regional Transportation Council Legislative Program, Legislative Update, and New Partnership Program with the Texas Transportation Commission**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Nick Allen and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) 2021 Legislative Program for the 87th Texas Legislature. Staff will also provide an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area. A new RTC/Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) partnership program will be presented.

Background: The RTC approved the Legislative Program during the November RTC meeting. The RTC Legislative Program can be found in Electronic Item 6. The 87th Texas Legislature will convene on January 12, 2021, and the 1st Session of the 117th United States Congress begins on January 3, 2021. Staff will introduce the new partnership program with the TTC to Committee members.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:15 – 2:25

7. **Overview of General Workshop on the Transportation Improvement Program Training**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A summary of the workshop that was held prior to the Surface Transportation Technical meeting will be provided.

Background: North Central Texas Council of Governments staff, in conjunction with Texas Department of Transportation staff, held a workshop that provided a general overview of the

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and project implementation, including the TIP development and modification processes, project selection, steps necessary after projects are selected, and a refresher on the Regional And Project Tracking System (RAPTS) for Regional Toll Revenue projects, and other available sources of information. The workshop included additional information on agreements, funding obligation, and project delivery.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:25 – 2:35

8. **Success of SH 161 Pilot Project and Introduction of Wrecker Service on SH 121**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the SH 121 technology lane and the staging of wreckers.

Background: Similar to the bottleneck improvement implemented on State Highway (SH) 161, a bottleneck improvement for SH 121 between Glade Road and SH 183 in Euless and Bedford is planned to open for traffic November 30, 2020. The improvement consists of shoulder restriping to enable three lanes of traffic during peak travel times. The additional capacity will provide congestion relief for travelers within and adjacent to this three-mile section. It will be accompanied by staged tow trucks to respond quickly to incidents along the project location. Additional information can be found in Electronic Item 8, which summarizes the success of SH 161 and project improvement details on SH 121 activities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Congestion, Safety

2:35 – 2:45

9. **End of Ozone Season, Compliance with Federal Requirements, and Future Outlook**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of the 2020 ozone season activity and other air quality updates for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region. The ozone season is from March 1 to November 30.

Background: The end of November concluded another ozone season for the DFW region. The region continues to work towards compliance for ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Staff has been tracking the exceedance days at each monitor and will provide a summary of the 2020 ozone season data for the North Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas.

As a reminder, the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2015 and 2008 NAAQS for ozone. The attainment dates for both standards are in 2021 and rely on ozone data from 2018, 2019, and 2020. Staff will discuss outcomes related to

the standards, and current and future analyses relating impacts on air quality. For further information see Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:45 – 2:45

10. **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. 2021 Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and Regional Transportation Council Meeting Schedules (Electronic Item 10.1)
2. STTC Survey on Virtual Work and Public Meetings (Electronic Item 10.2)
3. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
4. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
5. Reminder: Local Government Energy Reporting Coming Soon (Electronic Item 10.3)
6. Status of Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Funding Program (Electronic Item 10.4)
7. October Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 10.5)
8. December Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 10.6)
9. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.7)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 10.8)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.9)
11. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on January 22, 2021.**