

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, March 26, 2021

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 February 26, 2021, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the February 26, 2021, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.

Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:35

2. Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)

Action Possible Action Information Minutes : 0

1:35 – 1:45

3. COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program (Round 4)

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

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

Background: Due to the 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 received requests for funding from agencies around the region, which will inject much needed money into the local and state economies in the coming years. Staff recommends funding a fourth 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.

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

1:45 – 1:55

4. 2021 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emissions Grant Program

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council action on a proposed regional submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions Grant Program.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration has released the fiscal year 2021 Low or No Emissions Grant Program funding opportunity, which is expected to award \$180 million for advanced technology transit projects. Eligible projects include acquisition of low- or no-emission buses, supporting equipment, rehabilitation or improvement of bus facilities, and workforce development or training.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments proposes to submit one proposal on behalf of the region to electrify the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Link service, which provides travelers a connection between the Centerport TRE station to the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. Please see Electronic Item 4 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

1:55 – 2:05

5. **Proposed Regional Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trip Reduction Target Development Resolution**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Caryn Sanders, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a resolution that establishes a regional single-occupancy vehicle commute trip reduction target that aims to reduce drive alone commute trips through increased implementation of Travel Demand Management 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 explored opportunities to retain benefits associated with the change in 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. Because successful trip reduction programs require strong public support, promotion, and participation, staff is recommending the approval of an RTC resolution that establishes a 20 percent regional single-occupancy vehicle commuter trip reduction target. More information on the proposed resolution is included in Electronic Item 5.1 and Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:05 – 2:15

6. **Fiscal Year 2021 Project Tracking Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee with an update to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Project Tracking Initiative that was 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, projects tend to be delayed year after year, until it has been 3-4 years since the originally committed start date. Over 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 has implemented 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 were scheduled to begin in FY2021 and their current status can be found in Electronic Item 6.1. Additional details on this initiative can be found in Electronic Item 6.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

2:15 – 2:25

7. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Schedule**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Mobility 2045 was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on June 14, 2018. Staff will provide a report regarding efforts to update Mobility 2045.

Background: Following RTC adoption of Mobility 2045, staff and partner agencies have been working toward implementing the plan. These efforts include planning and project development tasks, projects in construction, and coordinating with the public and our transportation partners.

Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the region's long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years. In addition, the Mobility 2045 Update will be required to attain Transportation Conformity. The updated plan will include a new financial plan and necessary refinements to projects in the current Mobility 2045 plan. Details are included in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:25 – 2:35

8. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current transportation items, including a summary on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

- Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects during COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 8.1) (www.nctcog.org/pm/covid-19)
- Legislative Progress on the Return of \$2 Billion
- Progress on Meeting in Person (See table presented to Regional Transportation Council in Electronic Item 8.2)

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:35 – 2:45

9. **Legislative Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas Allen, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Legislative actions to be covered include the following:

- American Rescue Plan of 2021
- Bills of Interest

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 117th US Congress convened on January 3, 2021. The 87th Texas Legislature convened on January 12, 2021. This item will allow staff to provide updates on key positions of the Regional Transportation Council.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:45 – 2:55

10. **Regional Transit Performance Measures: Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and Transit Asset Management**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Shawn Dintino and Ezra Pratt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on proposed Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regional targets and new federally required performance measures relating to improving transit safety in the region. An update on regional Transit Asset Management (TAM) performance will also be provided.

Background: The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule became effective on July 19, 2019, and seeks to improve public transportation safety by requiring operators of public transportation who receive federal Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funding to more effectively and proactively manage safety risks in their systems through the

development of PTASPs, which include individual agency transit safety performance targets. Once individual plans and targets are submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) must adopt regional transit safety targets within 180 days. Applicable regional providers have furnished their plans to the North Central Texas Council of Governments as of December 2020. Staff worked with transit providers and performed detailed analyses to determine the best approach in adopting regional targets. The proposed regional targets will be used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and will be used in the planning process to implement programs to improve transit safety.

A brief update on regional Transit Asset Management (TAM) performance will also be provided, including a review of TAM and the regional targets adopted by the RTC, a report on regional performance for each of the four TAM performance measures, and discussion of next steps for updating the regional TAM targets and coordination to implement performance-based planning policies and projects. Details on both performance measures can be found in Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit, Safety

2:55 – 3:05

11. **Regional Vanpool Program Modifications to Improve Overall Efficiency**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dora Kelly, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on the North Central Texas Regional Vanpool Program and an overview of recent coordination with transit providers to assess program modernization and opportunities to improve overall efficiency.

Background: The North Central Texas Regional Vanpool Program is operated by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), and Trinity Metro and achieves many regional benefits including lowering emissions by removing single occupant vehicles off the road. The Regional Transportation Council previously approved funding to support vanpool services. Each transit agency operates their vanpool program slightly differently, which can be confusing to the public. Staff recently began assessing the Program to look for ways to modernize and improve overall efficiency. In collaboration with staff from DART, DCTA, and Trinity Metro, various areas have been identified for improvement to help simplify the program, reduce rider confusion, avoid unintended competition among the transit agencies, and gain greater program efficiency.

Staff will provide recommendations to the Committee for the Regional Vanpool Program including updates to proposed provider boundaries, temporary flexibility to the subsidy funding structure, and discussion of a regional cooperative vanpool procurement to create a more unified program that will benefit current and future riders. Electronic Item 11 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

3:05 – 3:15

12. Air Quality Program Report

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Nicholas VanHaasen and Anthony Moffa, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present information regarding the region's 2021 ozone season and Texas temporary tags.

Background: The 2021 ozone season began on March 1 for the North Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas and runs through the end of November. Concurrently, the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. As attainment was not met following the 2020 ozone season, it is anticipated the region will be reclassified to more stringent regulations for both standards. Daily ozone information, including current conditions and forecasts, is provided at: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/ozone>.

Texas temporary tags are issued to allow a vehicle buyer to be registered and operate a vehicle before permanent license plates are obtained. Texas has experienced an increase in temporary tags after the Two Steps One Sticker program began in 2016. Due in part to the ease of creating, selling, and printing temporary "paper" tags, tens of thousands of vehicles are improperly registered throughout the state. These temporary registration tags are costing the State in lost revenue, can be purchased online from various outlets, and have been observed on vehicles across the United States.

Please see Electronic Item 12 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:15 – 3:15

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. Spring 2021 'Virtual' Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement (Electronic Item 13.1)
2. Road Safety Audit Virtual Workshop for Pedestrian Safety (Electronic Item 13.2) (www.nctcog.org/rsaworkshop)

3. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
 4. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
 5. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Programs (Electronic Item 13.3)
 6. February Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 13.4)
 7. April Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 13.5)
 8. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.6)
 9. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.7)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.8)
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 April 23, 2021.***