

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, August 28, 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 July 24, 2020, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the July 24, 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. **Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Approval of State of Good Repair Grant Application Submitted on behalf of Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Trinity Railway Express, and Trinity Metro**

Presenter: Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for the Grant Application to the Federal Railroad Administration for the Federal-State Partnership for the State of Good Repair (SOGR) Program submitted on behalf of Trinity Railway Express, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Trinity Metro will be requested.

Background: In June 2020, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced the Federal-State Partnership for the State of Good Repair Program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity indicated availability of funding for capital projects across the United States to repair, replace, or rehabilitate qualified railroad assets to reduce the state of good repair backlog and improve intercity passenger rail performance. The grant submittal deadline was July 27, 2020. Staff requests endorsement for the submittal of a grant application in partnership with Trinity Railway Express, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Trinity Metro that will help the region improve the state of good repair of transit assets, enhance passenger/freight rail service performance, and improve overall freight/passenger integration. The total grant budget requests approximately \$58 million (\$28 million in federal SOGR funds, \$2 million in federal funds from the RTC, and \$28 million in local

match) with BNSF Railway, DART, and Trinity Metro providing the required local match. More information is available in Electronic Item 2.1.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2.2. Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Approval of Application for Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative Grant Program

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to support and provide funding for the City of Dallas application for the 2020 Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative Grant Program will be requested.

Background: In July 2020, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued the announcement for the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative to develop model deployment sites for large-scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment. Electronic Item 2.2 provides additional information regarding the \$60 million grant program for Fiscal Year 2020, as well as the City of Dallas' application. Applications are due to the USDOT by August 31, 2020.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

1:40 – 1:50

3. Federal Highway Administration Measure Target Reaffirmation or Revisions

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adoption of proposed adjustment to 2022 regional targets for federally required performance measures.

Background: In 2018, the RTC adopted 2020 and 2022 federal performance measure targets related to infrastructure condition, congestion, and air quality. The RTC has an opportunity to adjust 2022 targets for these measures, if appropriate, based on new data and methodologies. Staff has considered feedback from last month into final target adjustments, which will be presented to the RTC for action on

September 10, 2020. This effort will generate financial and policy discussions on resources needed in current and future transportation planning. Electronic Item 3 includes additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

1:50 – 2:00

4. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle Round Four

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on results from the fourth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle survey, including the plan to distribute available Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). The Committee will be asked to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of a TDC distribution for successful policy bundle participants.

Background: The MTP Policy Bundle Program was created to encourage entities like local governments, school districts, and transportation agencies to voluntarily adopt a minimum of 50 percent of the list of policies identified in Mobility 2045. By voluntarily adopting these policies, participating entities will receive Transportation Development Credits to offset local funds for federal transportation projects.

Recommendations in Mobility 2045 consist of policies, programs, and projects reflecting the region's priorities and supporting Mobility 2045 goals. As construction of infrastructure projects alone cannot achieve the goals of Mobility 2045, a voluntary list of policies available for adoption by local agencies was designed to encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions. By voluntarily adopting 50 percent of these policies, participating agencies are slated to receive TDCs to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. MTP Policy Bundle applications have been completed and reviewed, and staff will present a recommendation for distributing TDCs to successful entities. Electronic Item 4 includes a recommendation for TDC distribution for successful policy bundle participants.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:00 – 2:10

5. Optimized Freight Movement Project

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of a project to improve goods

movement from freight hubs in the region to nearby expressways using connected vehicle and related technologies to optimize truck traffic through intersections.

Background: This project will use connected vehicle and related technologies to optimize the flow of trucks between freight hubs and expressways in the region. The freight industry has identified this initiative as a top priority. The Value of Time for goods movement approaches \$75 per hour. There are safety, operational, and environmental benefits from reducing the number of truck stops/starts at intersections. The project will focus on intersections with high volumes and proportions of freight traffic. It will use the optimal mix of technologies and data sharing to reduce the number of stops trucks make at signalized intersections. Deployment locations will be selected based on an assessment of potential benefits and costs and after consultation with the responsible local jurisdictions and freight companies. The project will include continual performance monitoring and adjustment to deliver the maximum net benefits. The project budget is \$5 million. Electronic Item 5 contains additional details about the project and action requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects Project Selection**

- Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Daniel Snyder, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program applications received and evaluation process. A recommendation of projects to select for funding will also be provided and action requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments opened the Call for Projects on March 2, 2020, and applications were due on May 15, 2020. Projects eligible for funding included active transportation and Safe Routes to School projects that will substantially improve safety and provide opportunities to walk and bicycle. Project scoring was based on project eligibility and a methodology for project evaluation as previously approved by the Regional Transportation Council. Electronic Item 6.1 provides additional information on project scoring. Electronic Item 6.2 reflects North Central Texas Council of Governments staff project recommendations.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Regional Cotton Belt Veloweb Trail: Action Plan**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Weaver, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval regarding funding for the Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail in partnership with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line rail project from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine to Shiloh Station in Plano.

Background: The DART Silver Line rail project is coordinating a parallel regionally significant Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail corridor that will connect seven cities across three counties. Accommodations for the approximate 26-mile regional trail have been included as part of DART's planning for the commuter rail corridor.

Additional funding is needed for the engineering of the trail. A two-contractor approach will be recommended for construction, partnering with DART for only one of the trail bridges in the corridor to be constructed with the current rail contractor. A second expedited phase will be implemented within six to nine months with a second contractor to be procured that can construct various crossings and locations before the trains are operative. Funds will also be requested to provide safety walls near two schools along the corridor.

Staff will provide an overview of funding recommendations to implement various sections of this priority regional trail corridor. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Director of Transportation Report Items and Overview of Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current time-sensitive transportation items. Staff will also provide an update on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Staff will highlight:

- Latest Request from Denton County Transportation Authority on Survey Data
- Status of Hyperloop Certification Center
- Potential Partnership with the North Texas Tollway Authority on Engineering Studies
- World Cup 2026 Electric Transit Vehicles

- International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association Certificate of Merit Awarded to NCTCOG Automated Occupancy Detection and Verification Project

Staff also continues efforts related to four performance metrics being 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.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:40 – 2:40

9. **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. Environmental Matchmaking Tools: Identify Your Best Stewardship Options and Mitigation Locations (Electronic Item 9.1)
2. 2020 TxDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Call for Projects – Submittal Deadline for Applications Due to District Offices October 1, 2020 (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/safety/transportation-safety/statewide-safety-initiatives>)
3. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding from Volkswagen Settlement (Electronic Item 9.2)
4. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
5. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
6. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 9.3)
7. September Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 9.4)
8. Air North Texas Clean Air Action Day Results (Electronic Item 9.5)
9. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 9.6)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 9.7)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 9.8)

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

11. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on September 25, 2020.**