

# LOCAL MOTION

September 2022

Welcome to Local Motion, a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department. Thank you for reading.



## **Transit agencies to survey riders onboard to gauge demand, meet needs**

The first phase of a regionwide transit survey will begin this fall, as DCTA, Trinity Metro, and Arlington Via riders are being asked to help planners determine the demand on the system and potential future improvements.

Funded through a partnership between the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the region's transportation agencies, the survey will be conducted in two phases. The first will continue through November 2022. The second phase, to be conducted from January through May 2023, will focus on DART and the Trinity Railway Express.

During both phases, two types of surveys will be conducted to determine how riders are using the expanding transportation network and what future changes could be made to better accommodate the needs of a region expected to grow to more than 11 million by the year 2045.

The first survey type is an on-to-off survey that will attempt to measure demand and passengers' trip patterns on each transportation mode by tracking the stops at which selected passengers begin and end their trips. The second type of survey will involve surveyors asking randomly selected passengers about their current trip and their socioeconomic characteristics.

Both surveys are voluntary, and answers will be kept confidential. The results will provide details about why people are choosing transit and illustrate how the system is used. NCTCOG coordinates this kind of data collection every five to seven years.

Dallas-Fort Worth is the fourth-largest region in the nation, with a population of approximately 8 million. As thousands of workers and families flock to North Texas each year, multiple modes of

transit will play significant roles in ensuring the transportation system remains reliable and continues to improve into the future.

For more information about the survey, visit [www.nctcog.org/transitsurvey](http://www.nctcog.org/transitsurvey).

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## **NCTCOG awarded \$25M grant to improve pedestrian connections**



NCTCOG was awarded \$25 million to improve transit connections in areas of Dallas in need of enhanced amenities for pedestrians and transit riders.

The federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant will lead to construction of 30 miles of missing sidewalk in a half-mile radius of the 8th & Corinth, Morrell, Illinois and Kiest stations along the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Blue Line light rail corridor in East Oak Cliff. Pedestrian improvements in this grant were prioritized for funding based on recommendations in the DART Red & Blue Lines Corridor TOD Study, available at [www.nctcog.org/ftapilot](http://www.nctcog.org/ftapilot), led by NCTCOG. Additionally, the Cedar Crest Trail will be extended approximately 1.5 miles, while safety and transit accommodations will be upgraded at bus stops along Route 217 and at the Blue Line's Kiest, VA Medical Center and Morrell Stations.

Resulting from collaborative efforts among NCTCOG, the City of Dallas and DART, the project will improve transit access in a community where an estimated 17% of the population lacks access to a personal vehicle. It includes innovative technologies such as next-generation SMART shelters at the stations.

The RAISE Grant Program is one of several ways communities can secure funding for projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's competitive grant programs. Later this year, the Biden-Harris Administration will announce award recipients from the first-ever Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program, an opportunity that consolidates grants from the existing Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program with the new National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) Program and Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program.

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## **Residents' input requested on transit needs for Denton County**



**Public Meeting**  
Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Denton Transit Center  
604 E Hickory St., Denton, TX

We want to learn about your transit needs.  
To learn more, visit [bit.ly/DentonCoTransitStudy](http://bit.ly/DentonCoTransitStudy)

If you have an accommodation need, please call or text 469.626.8502 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

NCTCOG is hosting a public meeting to give people who live, work and go to school in Denton County a chance to provide input into how public transportation can meet their needs in the future.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 8 at the Denton County Transportation Authority's Downtown Denton Transit Center, 604 E. Hickory St.

NCTCOG has initiated the Denton County Transit Study to develop a comprehensive public transportation plan, focusing on areas of the county not already members of DCTA, which serves Denton, Lewisville and Highland Village. Dallas Area Rapid

Transit and Trinity Metro also provide service to parts of the county, along with prequalified demand-response services such as SPAN Transit.

The public meeting will provide residents a chance to share valuable information regarding transit use, needs, and ideas to improve service in one of the region's fastest-growing counties. Denton County's population was approximately 848,000 in 2018 and is projected to grow to 1 million by 2028, an increase of 18%.

Employment is forecast to grow by more than 10% over the same period. Long-term projections suggest the county will be No. 2 in the region in job growth by 2045 by percentage, behind only Hunt County. Denton County is also home to the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University.

A virtual survey that launched September 1 provides residents another way to share their thoughts on how public transportation can meet their needs. The survey takes a few minutes to complete and will be available at [bit.ly/DentonCoTransitStudy](http://bit.ly/DentonCoTransitStudy) through September 23.

This study is funded by the Regional Transportation Council and follows separate studies of Collin, Dallas and Tarrant counties completed in 2021. After the completion of these studies, NCTCOG received a follow-up request from Denton County to study future transit needs. NCTCOG is leading a separate study on the transit needs for eastern Dallas, Kaufman and Rockwall counties. A virtual public meeting to introduce the study is scheduled for noon Monday, September 19.

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### **By the Numbers**

**\$25 million**

**Federal grant funding awarded to NCTCOG to improve transit connections in areas of Dallas in need of enhanced amenities for pedestrians and transit riders.**

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**Latest Mobility Matters now available**



The North Central Texas area's population is expected to grow to more than 11 million residents by 2045 and NCTCOG and its partners are working daily to ensure the transportation

system provides residents with safety and reliability. As important as reliability is to a growing system, safety must remain a significant part of the equation. NCTCOG is addressing road safety with Drive Aware North Texas, an educational campaign intended to improve negative driver behaviors that are the leading contributing factors for serious injury and fatality crashes in North Texas. The latest edition of Mobility Matters features this important safety program, examining the main causes of serious and fatal traffic incidents, while also providing solutions to avoid risky behaviors behind the wheel.

This issue also features a profile on the RTC member Jim Ross, mayor of Arlington. He discusses his experience being thrust into a mayoral position at the height of the pandemic, as well as the takeaways he hopes to continue as a result.

Read Mobility Matters online at [www.nctcog.org/mobilitymatters](http://www.nctcog.org/mobilitymatters) for these and more transportation stories.

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## Drone workshop to highlight how to grow industry



The North Texas UAS Safety and Integration Task Force is hosting its final monthly "Know Before You Fly Your Drone" workshop, titled "Growing the Industry" on September 10 at 10 am with special guests Dawn Zoldi and Sharon Rossmark. This FREE workshop is open to individuals with all levels of experience who want to learn more about developing UAS technologies.

To register for the "Growing the Industry" workshop, visit: ["Know Before You Fly Your Drone"](#)

[Virtual Workshop, Tickets, Multiple Dates - Eventbrite.](#)

Zoldi, CEO of P3 Tech Consulting, will speak on her outlook on UAS technologies, future workforce development programs and business considerations. Zoldi is an internationally recognized expert in uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) and advanced air mobility law and policy. She also brings expertise as a veteran of the US Air Force.

Rossmark, CEO of Women and Drones, will be interviewed about her professional expertise in the growth of the UAS industry and advanced air mobility technology.

The North Texas UAS Task Force has been hosting drone workshops for two years, covering a variety of topics of interest to drone owners, whether they fly them as a hobby or professionally. Previous meetings have been recorded and are available at [www.northtexasuas.com](http://www.northtexasuas.com).

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## Hybrid public meeting scheduled for Sept. 12

NCTCOG will host a hybrid public meeting this month to offer North Texans an update on the Roadway Safety Plan, National Drive Electric Week (NDEW), and several funding initiatives.

The meeting will take place at NCTCOG's Arlington offices, 616 Six Flags Drive, at noon

on Monday, September 12. Residents may attend the meeting, watch it online at [www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept22](http://www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept22), or participate via phone by dialing 855-925-2801, then code 3825.

The Roadway Safety Plan is the first regional plan to eliminate all fatal and serious injury crashes on the region's roadways by 2050. Staff will present details of this plan, which uses a data-driven approach to identify especially dangerous crash types and recommends countermeasures to prevent them from occurring.

Staff will also provide details on this year's National Drive Electric Week activities. The event will take place on Sunday, October 2 in Dallas.

Additionally, staff will present detailed information related to several funding initiatives, including proposed transit projects funded by the Federal Transit Administration through the final award of Fiscal Year 2022 and the Management, Operations and Safety Program, which provides funds to improve the region's air quality and manage the transportation system.

Finally, proposed modifications to the list of funded projects will be posted for review and comment. Updated public comment rules for RTC meetings, 2022 Walk to School Day, Map Your Experience, Access North Texas and the Regional Smoking Vehicle Program will also be highlighted.

A recording of the presentations will also be posted at [www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept22](http://www.publicinput.com/nctcogSept22).

For special accommodations due to a disability, language interpretation, for printed copies of presentations, or to request a free roundtrip ride between NCTCOG and the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort/DFW, contact Carli Baylor at 817-608-2365 or [cbaylor@nctcog.org](mailto:cbaylor@nctcog.org) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

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## Electric vehicles to be in the spotlight Oct. 2

Dallas-Fort Worth's annual National Drive Electric Week event is on the move – to Dallas. North Texans are invited to Dallas City Hall from 3-6 pm Sunday, October 2 to experience electric vehicles up close, and maybe even get behind the wheel of one of these exciting machines. The event is making its first appearance in Dallas after being hosted in Grapevine for many years, with a stop in Irving in 2019.

Various makes and models of EVs will be on display during the event, which will feature opportunities for residents who may be thinking about switching to electric to visit with EV owners in a low-pressure environment -- and enjoy food trucks. The North Texas event is part

of a national celebration of electric vehicles September 23-October 2. For more information, visit [www.dfwcleancities.org/ndew](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/ndew).

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*For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or [bwilson@nctcog.org](mailto:bwilson@nctcog.org). Visit [www.nctcog.org/trans](http://www.nctcog.org/trans) for more information on the department.*

*--Imagery provided by NCTCOG and Getty Images.*

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