

## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

### **Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (CST)

### **In-person Meeting**

Metroplex Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint II

Arlington, TX 76011

**Welcome and Introductions.** NCTCOG will welcome everyone to the meeting.

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and reviewed housekeeping items.

### **PRESENTATION**

1. **Tree Selection for ROW Projects Presentation.** Hector Marines-Chio, Texas A&M Forest Service, will present on selecting trees based on spacing and maintenance for ROW projects.

Hector Marines-Chio (Texas A&M Forest Service) shared information on appropriate tree selection in small right-of-way (ROW) areas, including sizing considerations and maintenance requirements. He provided background information on the importance of adequate root space for trees and the impact of urban disruptions on growth. He concluded the presentation with high-level information on insect and disease management. More information can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. **Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) Subcommittee Background.** NCTCOG will provide background and the purpose of the subcommittee. (Madisson Dunn)

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) provided background information on the subcommittee, including the purpose of the subcommittee, why it was developed, and past deliverables.

3. **SPROW Subcommittee Future Direction.** NCTCOG will share insights into previous subcommittee activity and seek feedback on future priorities. (Crysta Guzman)

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Ashley Barnett by phone at (817) 608-2363 or by email at [ABarnett@nctcog.org](mailto:ABarnett@nctcog.org), 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

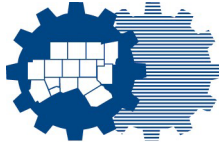
Crysta Guzman (NCTCOG) shared feedback from previous SPROW participants on the challenges, opportunities, and structure of the subcommittee. Crysta shifted the conversation to address the future of the subcommittee and asked members who should be the target audience for this subcommittee. Caroline Seward (Corinth) shared that she works with Parks and Recreation (including ROW Management) and that Parks and Recreation (specifically vegetation management) is an audience that may benefit from this information. Crysta asked what the subcommittee goals and priorities should be. Mary Elliott (Midlothian) stated identification of existing policies, recommendations for ordinances, and best management practices for median vegetation would be helpful. Caroline Seward seconded best management practices for medians and side street plantings and mentioned a guidebook would be helpful to the employees who maintain those areas. Caroline Stewart (Pilot Point) mentioned her city is working on a landscape checklist with standards for developers, so a template for this would be beneficial. She added that standards for tree plantings around sidewalks are needed. Caroline Stewart added that Pilot Point is proposing a town square and general standards for sidewalks and vegetation are needed. Crysta asked what strengths of this subcommittee should be preserved. Caroline Seward stated that training for field/frontline staff is needed, and there is a gap in ROW training. Crysta asked where Parks and Recreation employees are typically trained. Caroline Seward answered that staff receive training at focused conferences and workshops, but ROW training is limited. Mary mentioned there is a widespread communication gap between planners and employees responsible for the ROW (including Arborists, Parks and Recreation, Public Works). Crysta asked the subcommittee what the challenges with the subcommittee are. Mary mentioned it is challenging to quantify the intangible with environmental benefits, and municipalities struggle to pass policies or ordinances unless there is a tie to economic benefits. Caroline Seward added that general landscaping, including no-mow areas, needs regional standardization. Crysta asked what future subcommittee improvements should occur. Caroline Seward stated webinars would be helpful to share with staff, including an on-demand library. Parks and Recreation employees are always looking for continuing education credits for Irrigation and Pest Management Licenses. Mary added Arborist and American Planning Association (AICP) planners need credits as well. Crysta asked the subcommittee about meeting frequency. The subcommittee stated virtual meetings are easier to attend, and to consider 3 virtual and 1 in-person meetings each year.

4. **SPROW Marketing.** NCTCOG will seek feedback on marketing for this subcommittee. (Crysta Guzman)

Crysta Guzman (NCTCOG) discussed the subcommittee's previous marketing strategies. She asked the subcommittee for feedback on future marketing strategies. Caroline Seward (Corinth) suggested marketing the group to Texas Parks and Recreation Association and the DFW Directors Association. Mary Elliott (Midlothian) mentioned that some cities distribute digital newsletters with their public. She recommended including SPROW topics in newsletters to bring attention to ROW management (such as walkability or tree selection).

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**FY2026 Public Works Program Update.** The SPROW Subcommittee will be updated on recent Public Works Program efforts. (Madisson Dunn)



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Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) shared information on the Regional Public Works Program budget. She updated the subcommittee on the Public Works Roundup and requested SPROW topic suggestions for the SPROW afternoon track.

5. **Other Program Updates.** The SPROW Subcommittee will be updated on other items of interest.

- **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee.** NCTCOG will provide an update of iSWM program activities. (Madisson Dunn)

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) shared information on the guest presentation from the last iSWM Subcommittee meeting. iSWM members reviewed roster changes and website survey feedback. The FY26 Work Program includes inlet protection research, stormwater quality monitoring program development, and website modernization. The next iSWM Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 14 at 1:30 p.m. at NCTCOG Offices. More information about the iSWM Subcommittee is available on their [webpage](#).

- **Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition.** NCTCOG will provide an update on RISE program activities. (Corinne Buckley)

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) provided background information on the RISE Coalition. She shared current and past areas of the coalition's focus. The next RISE Coalition meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 9:30 a.m. at NCTCOG Offices. More information about the RISE Coalition is available on their [webpage](#).

### OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

6. **Roundtable Discussion/Other Business.** SPROW members and NCTCOG may share additional items as time allows.

**Mary Elliott (Midlothian):** The city completed a Comprehensive Plan update in 2024. They are currently updating ordinances to align with the plan updates, specifically related to sustainable design and incorporating mixed-use components. Mary has noticed there seems to be a disconnect between Public Works and Arborists in multiple cities. There should be an effort to bridge this gap.

**Caroline Seward (Corinth):** Corinth is completely built out, and their focus is maintaining what currently exists. There is also a disconnect between Parks and Recreation and Planning. Planning beings the planting process in medians, but Parks maintains the median, and Parks and Recreation are usually left out of the planning process. This is where best management practices would be helpful.

**Caroline Stewart and Katie Blust (Pilot Point):** Pilot Point is rapidly growing. The city is made up of 2 lane roadways that are looking to expand. Best management practices in ROW would be helpful for planning.

7. **The Next SPROW Meeting.** The next Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled based on subcommittee frequency preferences.
8. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Madisson Dunn by phone at (817) 704-5611, or by email at [mdunn@nctcog.org](mailto:mdunn@nctcog.org).