

## MINUTES

### **Regional Transportation Council Thursday, May 14, 2026**

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The following RTC members or representatives were present: Daniel Alemán, Bruce Arfsten, Steve Babick, Rick Bailey, Elizabeth Beck, Curtis Bergthold, Lorie Blair, Randall Bryant, Jeffrey Bush (representing Ceason Clemens), Michael Crain, Theresa Daniel, Jeff Davis, Pat Deen, Andy Eads, Carlos Flores, T.J. Gilmore, Raul Gonzalez, Mojoy Haddad, Darrell Hale, Angela Hunt, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jill Jester, Stephen Mason, Cara Mendelsohn, Ed Moore, Jesse Moreno, John Muns, Deborah Peoples (representing Alan Blaylock), Matthew Porter, Manny Ramirez, Paul Ridley, Jim Ross, David Salazar, Kathy Stewart, Randy Stinson, Bobby Stovall, Burt Thakur, Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, and Dennis Webb.

Others present at the meeting were: Bryan Alldredge, Davis Arthur Yeboah, Kate Baner, Berrien Barks, Jay Barksdale, Emily Beckham, Kenny Bergstrom, Braulio Bessa, Brandi Bird, Alberta Blair, Farhan Butt, Daniel Byrd, Katherine Cadena, Angie Carson, Aaron Cedar, Lori Clark, Mandy Clark, Thomas Cochill, Dina Colarossi, Diego Collazo, Paul Cristina, Dawn Dalrymple, Clarence Daugherty, Brian Dell, Cody Derrick, Rebecca Diviney, Emily Dryclen, Chad Edwards, Laura Freeland, Eric Gallt, Eric Garcia, Shala Geer-Smith, Christie Gotti, Michael Haithcock, Tony Hartzel, Millie Hayes, Robert Hinkle, Joel James, Jim Jarratt, Matt Johns, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Tony Kimmey, Daphne King, Ken Kirkpatrick, Andy Kissig, Chris Klaus, Alicia Kreh, Dan Lamers, David Leininger, Dee Long, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Chad Marbut, Alberto Mares, Monte Mercer, Arash Mirzaei, Brian Moen, Alejandra Morales-Arnold, Michael Morris, Faith Morse, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Dylan Niles, Jackie Nolasco, Christiana Noskin, Amir Omar, David Parnell, Brinton Payne, Michael Peters, Christopher Poe, Caleb Polster, John Polster, Kelly Porter, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Randy Richardson, Ray Richardson, Minerva Rodriguez, Jackson Rose, Samuel Simmons, Devon Skinner, Gary Slagel, Sidney Sonck, Claude Spivey, Toni Stehling, Judith Tankel, Vivek Thimmavajjhala, Jonathan Toffer, Lauren Trimble, Caroline Vandergriff, Victor Vandergriff, Celina Vasquez, Elisa Villnave, Rob Walters, Duncan Webb, Glen Whitley, Christy Willhite, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, Malcolm Wilson, Karla Windsor, and Hua Yang.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda**: Rick Bailey, Regional Transportation Council Chair and Johnson County Commissioner, asked if there were any public comments. Duncan Webb spoke on agenda items 5 and 6 and Glen Whitley spoke on agenda item 5. Written comments were provided and can be found in the Public Comments Report under the Director's Report agenda item.
2. **Approval of April 9, 2026, and April 30, 2026, Minutes**: Approval of the April 9, 2026, and April 30, 2026, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Items 2.1 and 2.2 was requested.

A motion was made to approve the April 9, 2026, and April 30, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted in Electronic Item 2.1 and Electronic Item 2.2. Manny Ramirez (M); Jeremy Tompkins (S). The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Consent Agenda

- 3.1. **Vision Streaming Services**: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for an additional \$40,000 in RTC Local funds to continue support for Video Streaming Services. Approval to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the additional funds was also sought.

A motion was made to approve Item 3.1 on the Consent Agenda. Matthew Porter (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**: Michael Morris briefly highlighted items 1 through 6.

1. Update on 141<sup>st</sup> Court Hearing on May 5, 2026 – Rob Walters and Jeff Gurley
2. Texas Conformity Progress/Correspondence from the United States Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration – Chris Klaus
3. Fédération Internationale de Football Association – 30 Days Out (Correspondence from the FIFA 2026 Host Committee)
4. West/East Equity Update
5. Study Area Recommendations to the Texas Department of Transportation on the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan
6. Cancellation of Regional Transportation Council Meeting in July 2026
7. Status of Rockwall County Agreement
8. 2026 Ozone Season Update
9. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight
10. Air Quality Funding Opportunities ([www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding))
11. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events ([www.dfwcleancities.org/events](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/events))
12. March-April Public Comments Report
13. April Public Meeting Minutes
14. Recent News Articles
15. Recent Correspondence
16. Recent Press Releases

5. **Resolution in Support of the Proposed Texas Department of Transportation Agreement, Approval of the Regional Transportation Council as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Reaffirmation of Negotiation with North Central Texas Council of Governments as the Fiscal Agent**: Michael Morris and Dan Kessler

requested the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to approve the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) agreement that contains the responsibilities of the RTC being the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). On April 30, 2026, the RTC took action to negotiate with the North Central Texas Council of Governments as the fiscal agent. This Resolution reaffirms moving forward with these negotiations in order to complete the agreement with TxDOT. In addition to the Electronic Items provided in the mailout, an additional Item was distributed at the meeting, Electronic Item 5.5.

A motion was made to approve the agenda item as presented with the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) responsibilities consistent with the Agreement in its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization designating the North Central Texas Council of Governments to be the Fiscal Agent for the RTC, consistent with the Agreement. In addition, the RTC directed such intent be communicated within the next 30 days, along with the establishment of an operational Agreement between the Fiscal Agent and RTC

that details business terms. Manny Ramirez (M); Ed Moore (S). A motion was made to Call to Question to end the debate. Deborah Peoples (M); Theresa Daniels (S). Cara Mendelsohn and Paul Ridley opposed. The Call to Question motion passed. A vote was taken regarding the RTC's responsibilities consistent with the Agreement in its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Carlos Flores and Clay Lewis Jenkins abstained. Darrell Hale, Cara Mendelsohn, Jesse Moreno, and Paul Ridley opposed. The motion passed.

6. **Approval to Begin Negotiation of an Agreement for Michael Morris to be Appointed by the Regional Transportation Council Consistent with the New Texas Department of Transportation Agreement:** Michael Morris provided an overview that the proposed Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) agreement contains in Article 5H and 5J of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that the Transportation Director is appointed by the Regional Transportation Council. This item was to approve the Chair to begin negotiations with the current MPO Director, Michael Morris.

As part of the discussion, Cara Mendelsohn asked if the Regional Transportation Council Bylaws need to be changed first. Michael Morris responded that staff would review the Bylaws and recommend changes, if needed.

A motion was made to approve the Chair to begin negotiations with the current Metropolitan Planning Organization Director, Michael Morris. Manny Ramirez (M); Dennis Webb (S). Clay Lewis Jenkins abstained. Carlos Flores, Darrell Hale, Cara Mendelsohn, and Paul Ridley opposed. The motion passed.

7. **Federal Transit Administration Funding Allocations for 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup:** Karla Windsor briefed the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) that the North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has been working with transit agencies and local governments to coordinate transportation needs and to prepare the region to host the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup. Staff requested RTC approval of funding allocations from the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration to prepare transit agencies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup for the City of Arlington, City of Grand Prairie, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and Trinity Metro.

A motion was made to approve specific funding allocations for City of Arlington, City of Grand Prairie, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and Trinity Metro for the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration to prepare transit agencies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, along with administratively amending the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and updating any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project. Jim Ross (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program:** Jeff Neal requested Regional Transportation Council approval to submit projects in the Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All Program, dedicated to support planning, infrastructure, and behavioral/operational initiatives to prevent fatalities and serious injuries on roadways involving all its users. Applications were due to the United States Department of Transportation by May 26, 2026.

A motion was made to approve the submittal of the following project for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant funding consideration, with \$2 million in Regional Toll

Revenue funds (2/3 East Set Aside and 1/3 West Set Aside) to leverage requested federal funds: Modernizing Regional Safety Through Digital Infrastructure; along with providing administrative/technical support for the City of Dallas to submit the following project for SS4A Implementation Grant funding consideration: Grand Avenue Segment 3 Safety Reconfiguration, and administratively amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP and updating any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the proposed projects if selected. Paul Ridley (M); Lorie Blair (S). The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program**: Jeff Neal requested Regional Transportation Council approval for the submittal of candidate projects for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Applications are due to the Federal Railroad Administration by June 8, 2026.

A motion was made to approve the submittal of the Bonds Ranch Road Segment #2 Project by Tarrant County and the Prairie Creek Road/Union Pacific Railroad project by the City of Dallas for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCEP); reaffirmation of \$9 million in Regional Toll Revenue and \$30 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant funds for the Bonds Ranch Road Segment #2 Project, contingent on previously unawarded applications to the FY2023-24 RCEP and Texas Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program, along with administratively amending North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State TIP, as well as other planning and administrative documents, to include the proposed projects if selected for FY2025-26 RCEP Grant awards. Deborah Peoples (M); Manny Ramirez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail: Update and Next Steps**: Dan Lamers provided a follow-up from the November 2025 Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action that requested staff to move forward with the “Western Alignment” in central Dallas and that the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board approve the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development (CID) Step 1 consultant contract. Staff provided a brief status update on project progress for both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail (DFWHSR) Study and FRA CID Step 1. The item also covered the Fort Worth/Arlington High-Speed Rail (HSR) Economic Impact Analysis, as well as recent City of Dallas and NCTCOG Executive Board actions that affect the CID project and may impact the DFWHSR Study National Environmental Policy Act process. Staff requested RTC action to provide a follow-up communication to the City of Dallas for clarification on the January 2026 City Council resolution on high-speed rail (Dallas Resolution 26-0265).

Following extensive conversation, staff recommended removing options 2 and 3 from the requested action.

A motion was made to approve to move forward with option 1 as listed to discuss a potential path forward between Dallas and Regional Transportation Council representatives from Arlington, Fort Worth, Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Dallas County and to administratively amend any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate any project scope or funding changes; Option 1: request mediated negotiations between select Regional Transportation Council members, City of Dallas Council, Dallas County, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit. Lorie Blair (M);

Theresa Daniel (S). Carlos Flores abstained. Angela Hunt, Cara Mendelsohn, and Paul Ridley opposed. The motion passed.

11. **Project Status Report: Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Round Two and Fiscal Year 2026 Project Tracking Update**: This agenda item was not presented due to time constraints.
12. **Follow Up on Regional Transportation Council Action on Requests Impacting Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Trinity Metro, and the Denton County Transportation Authority**: This agenda item was not presented due to time constraints.
13. **Progress Reports**: Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 13.1, and Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes were provided in Electronic Item 13.2.
14. **Other Business (Old or New)**: There was no discussion on this item.
15. **Future Agenda Items**: There was no discussion on this item.
16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm.