

MINUTES

Regional Transportation Council Thursday, April 30, 2026

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The following RTC members or representatives were present: Daniel Alemán, Steve Babick, Rick Bailey, Elizabeth Beck, Curtis Bergthold, Lorie Blair, Alan Blaylock, Randall Bryant, Ceason Clemens, Bill Cox, Michael Crain, Theresa Daniel, Andy Eads, Michael Evans, Carlos Flores, T.J. Gilmore, Raul Gonzalez, Mojoy Haddad, Darrell Hale, Angela Hunt, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jill Jester, Matt Krause, Stephen Mason, Cara Mendelsohn, Cesar Molina, Ed Moore, John Muns, Amir Omar (representing Bruce Arfsten), Manny Ramirez, Paul Ridley, Jim Ross, William Roth (representing Jesse Moreno), David Salazar, Michael Schaeffer (representing Matthew Porter), Kathy Stewart, Bobby Stovall, Burt Thakur, Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, and Dennis Webb.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Berrien Barks, Natalie Bettger, Farhan Butt, Katherine Cadena, Brian Dell, Cody Derrick, E. Garcia, Christie Gotti, Alan Greer, Chris Hoff, Tavia Josey, Cliff Keheley, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Kevin Kokes, Eron Linn, Aaron Long, Dana Macalik, Dillon Maroney, Arash Mirzari, Eric Morris, Mark Nelson, Jackie Nolasco, James Novak, Princeton Payfor, Emparince Pickens, Caleb Polster, John Polster, Lisa Polster, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Randy Richardson, Charlie Salazar, Sid Sonck, Toni Stehling, Shane Tully, Lauren Trimble, Victor Vandergriff, Elisa Villnave, Duncan Webb, Glen Whitley, Brian Wilson, and Ava 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, Glen Whitley spoke on agenda item 5, and Tavia Josey 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.

Chair Bailey recognized Dan Kessler as the Interim Director of Transportation to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and reported that on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Director Todd Little appointed Dan to serve as the NCTCOG Interim Director of Transportation. Dan indicated his primary responsibility was to maintain the continuity of operations within the Transportation Department and to continue staff support to the RTC. Dan pointed out that the Transportation Department Senior Leadership team, an outstanding group of highly experienced and knowledgeable managers with over 450 combined years of service at NCTCOG, was in attendance at the meeting. Dan stated that these managers combined with excellent staff, the support and leadership of the elected officials serving on the RTC and NCTCOG Executive Board, the metropolitan planning organization process will continue to move forward. Dan also introduced the legal counsel that are now retained to support the RTC including Alicia Kreh, providing General Counsel, and RTC meeting support from Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla, and Elam. He also introduced legal counsel that has been retained to support the RTC regarding ongoing litigation matters, Rob Waters and Jeff Gurley with the law firm of Gibson Dunn.

2. **Consent Agenda (There were no items on the consent agenda)**

3. **Executive Board Items Not Included on the April 23, 2026, Executive Board**

Agenda: Dan Kessler provided an update that the Executive Board held a meeting on April 28, 2026, and took action to approve the Transportation Department items that were not included on its April 23, 2026, Executive Board agenda. These items were summarized below.

- Resolution Authorizing Funding for Additional 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup Activities and Related Agreements
- Resolution Authorizing Use of Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for Implementation of the Texas Wesleyan University/Collard Street Improvements Study
- Resolution Authorizing Contracts to Provide Training Services for Pedestrian and Bicycle Design Guides and Safe Routes to School Planning
- Resolution Authorizing Agreements with Rebate Participants of the North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicles Call for Projects

4. **\$5 Million Emergency Funding Using Regional Transportation Council Local**

Funding: Regional Transportation Council Ratification: Chair Bailey requested approval to delegate to the Transportation Director approval to request emergency funds. The funds would be for unforeseen needs resulting from recent legal action that has impacted the Metropolitan Planning Organization status and the fiscal agency. The Transportation Director had received approval from the Chair and endorsement from the Regional Transportation Council was required.

A motion was made to approve \$5 million in emergency funding using Regional Transportation Council Local funding. Manny Ramirez (M); Jim Ross (S). Darrell Hale opposed. Carlos Flores, Clay Lewis Jenkins, and Cara Mendelsohn abstained. The motion passed.

5. **Texas Department of Transportation Three-Party Agreement:** Dan Kessler briefed the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has reinitiated a process to update the Three-Party Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Planning agreements between MPOs, fiscal agents and TxDOT across the State. This process, which began in early 2025, was suspended by TxDOT in June 2025 due to the need for additional review on TxDOT's part. TxDOT requested a meeting to begin developing the new agreement between TxDOT, RTC, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The first meeting was held on April 28, 2026.

6. **Executive Session:** Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the Regional Transportation Council convened into executive session to deliberate regarding the following matters: § 551.071. Consultation with Attorney. The Regional Transportation Council convened into executive session to conduct a private consultation with the Council Attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the Council seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551, including the following items: County of Denton v. Johnson et. al., cause no. 26-3611-431.

Carlos Flores, T.J. Gilmore, Clay Lewis Jenkins, and Cara Mendelsohn recused themselves from the Executive Session.

Recessed into Executive Session at 1:23 pm.

Reconvened from Executive Session at 3:04 pm.

7. **Consideration of Items Discussed during Executive Session:** Chair Bailey provided an overview of efforts of the Regional Transportation Council that considered whether to take any action related to items pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Open Meetings Act discussed during Executive Session.

A motion was made to approve an intervention by the Regional Transportation Council in the Denton County lawsuit in Tarrant County, as discussed in the Executive Session. Manny Ramirez (M); Jim Ross (S). Darrell Hale, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Cara Mendelsohn, Paul Ridley, and Michael Schaeffer abstained. The motion passed.

A motion was made to approve an initiation of negotiation by Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair Rick Bailey, Vice Chair Stephen Mason, Secretary Jill Jester and RTC legal counsel with the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board to advance the execution of the new Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Agreement. Manny Ramirez (M); Andy Eads (S). Carlos Flores, Cara Mendelsohn, and Michael Schaeffer abstained. The motion passed.

A motion was made for a future RTC agenda item to authorize the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair to negotiate with Michael Morris to hire as an RTC employee. Manny Ramirez (M); Elizabeth Beck (S). Darrell Hale opposed. Carlos Flores, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Cara Mendelsohn abstained. The motion passed.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.