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NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Minutes — September 24, 2026
Transportation Council Room | 616 Six Flags Drive | Arlington, Texas

The NCTCOG Executive Board meeting was conducted as a videoconference meeting that was live broadcast at https://nctcog.swagit.com/live. The presiding officer, President Justice, was present at the physical location, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas, which was open to the public during all open portions of the meeting.

President Justice called the regular meeting of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board to order at 1:00 pm on September 24, 2026. Monte Mercer took attendance and determined that a quorum was physically present.

Members of the Board Present:

1. Jennifer Justice
2. T.J. Gilmore
3. Victoria Johnson
4. Michael Evans
5. Gary Hulsey
6. Clay Jenkins
7. Jon McKenzie
8. Bobbie Mitchell
9. Jesse Moreno
10. Tim O'Hare (V)
11. Mattie Parker
12. Ross Weaver

Members of the Board Absent:

1. Brandon J. Huckabee
2. Christopher Boedeker
3. Chris Hill
4. Jim Ross
5. Burt Thakur
6. Mitch Little

Members of the Staff Present:
Monte Mercer, Susan Alvarez, Tim Barbee, Doni Green, Michael Morris, Phedra Redifer, Randy Richardson, Jerri Watson, Ken Kirkpatrick, James Powell, Michael Bort, Tom McLain, Therese Bergeon, Shala Geer-Smith, Caroline Vandergriff, Lisa Rascoe, Natalie Bettger, Emily Beckham, Jessie Shadowens, Dawn Dalrymple, Kelly Schmidt, Prit Patel, Tyler Baines, Megan Short, Marcie Bruner, Lori Clark, Madison Dunn, Paroo Mueglich, Katherine Cadena, Lisa Sack, Amanda Wilson, Teale Robinson, Amsal Khimani, Emily Dryden, Emily Wakefield

Visitors Present:
Rob Barthen, GrantWorks; Glenn Barker, Public Works Director – City of Corinth; Lauren Trimble, Dallas County

REGULAR SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Justice opened the meeting for public comment and asked if there was anyone present wishing to speak. Glenn Barker, Public Works Director, City of Corinth, spoke regarding Item #12 on the Agenda.

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Items 1 - 13 were posted on the agenda as Consent Items.

Item 1 **Approval of Minutes**

Item 2 **Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Cherry Bekaert, LLP, and Gradient Solutions Corporation for Risk and Compliance Advisory Services**

Item 3 **Resolution Authorizing TXShare Contracts for Healthcare Benefits Brokerage-Consulting and Ancillary Services**

Item 4 **Resolution Authorizing the FY2027 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Office of the Governor Public Safety Office**

Item 5 **Resolution Authorizing the McKinney Workforce Center Lease Extension**

Item 6 **Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Receipt of Funding and Agreements with Subrecipients for the 2026 Technology Project Identification Call for Projects**

Item 7 **Resolution Authorizing Agreements with Subrecipients of the Traffic Signal Equipment Standardization and Upgrade Program**

Item 8 **Resolution Authorizing Purchase and Placement of Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives in Fiscal Year 2027**

Item 9 **Resolution Endorsing Submittal of 2026 Bus and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emissions Grant Program Applications to the Federal Transit Administration**

Item 10 **Resolution Approving Modifications to the FY2026 and FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program for Regional Transportation Planning**

Item 11 **Resolution Endorsing the 2026 Update to the North Central Texas Water Quality Management Plan**

Item 12 **Resolution Approving the 2026 Amendments to the Public Works Construction Standards North Central Texas, Amended Fifth Edition**

Item 13 **Resolution Authorizing FY2027 Purchase of Computer Hardware, Software, and Information Technology Contract Services for the Agency**

Upon a Motion by Councilmember Johnson (seconded by Commissioner Mitchell), to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 - 13, and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the Consent Agenda Items as posted.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

Item 14 **Conduct a Public Hearing Regarding the Annual Fiscal Program for FY2027 and Consider a Resolution to Approve and Adopt the Annual Fiscal Program**

Randy Richardson, Director of Administration, reminded the Board that the Finance Committee had received a comprehensive presentation of the proposed FY 2027 Annual Budget at last month's meeting and that a summary briefing had also been provided to the full Board at that time. He then presented an overview of the revenue sources and expenditures associated with the proposed budget totaling $473,036,693. President Justice opened the public hearing; no comments or questions were received, and the hearing was subsequently closed.

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Mayor Gilmore, Chair of the Finance Committee, commended the staff for their thorough and knowledgeable work. The Board was requested to adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Program, which was approved as presented.

Exhibit: 2026-09-14-AA

Upon a Motion by Mayor Gilmore (seconded by Councilmember Johnson), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 15 Resolution Authorizing Amended Contract with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute to Develop and Implement a Program to Reduce Youth Fatalities Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, provided an update on the youth driver safety initiative funded through the Regional Transportation Council's Innovative Safety Projects and Programs to Reduce Youth Fatalities Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes program. He explained that in January 2025, the Board authorized a contract with The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute for an amount not to exceed $3.2 million to develop and implement a curriculum focused on moral courage and bystandership principles aimed at reducing fatal motor vehicle crashes among youth drivers. Initial survey results demonstrated strong positive outcomes, with a significant majority of participants reporting increased confidence in recognizing and addressing unsafe driving behaviors among their peers. Based on the program's success, Board authorization was requested amending the contract by an additional $500,000, increasing the total contract amount to $3.7 million in Regional Transportation Council RTR funds with no local match required. The additional funding will support expanded in-person and online bystandership training opportunities for youth throughout the region. Staff also reported that all procurement activities were conducted in compliance with applicable state and federal requirements.

Exhibit: 2026-09-15-TR

Mayor Pro Tem Moreno entered the meeting. Judge Jenkins entered the meeting virtually.

Upon a Motion by Commissioner Mitchell (seconded by Councilmember Johnson), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Item 16 Status Report on Metropolitan Planning Organization Revolver Funds and Regional Transportation Council Local Pool

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, provided a status report of the Permanent MPO Revolver, the Temporary MPO Revolver, and the RTC Local Fund Pool. Details of the summary are provided below.

RTC LOCAL Accounts

Permanent MPO Revolver Balance *(as of 7/31/2026)*	$	4,209,153.71
Permanent MPO Revolver	$	15,000,000.00
Permanent MPO Revolver Interest	$	698,001.38
Permanent MPO Revolver Utilization *(as of 7/31/2026)*	$	11,488,847.67
Number of times Permanent Reolver has rotated		22.68
Temporary MPO Revolver Balance *(as of 7/31/2026)*	$	11,217,815.88
Temporary MPO Revolver Receipts	$	10,000,000.00
Temporary MPO Revolver Interest	$	1,217,815.88
Temporary MPO Revolver Utilization *(as of 7/31/2026)*	$	-
RTC Local Fund Pool Balance *(as of 8/4/2026)*	$	94,601,395.25
RTC Local Fund Receipts	$	95,000,000.00
RTC Local Fund Interest	$	22,698,768.10
Committed Funds	$	23,097,372.85

Exhibit: 2026-09-16-TR

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This was an informational item and did not require a vote.

Item 17 Internal Compliance Program and Ethics Training

Ken Kirkpatrick, General Counsel, provided an overview of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) Internal Compliance Program (ICP) and ethics and conflict-of-interest requirements. He noted that the Executive Board most recently updated the ICP in March 2025 and, in accordance with the program requirements, receives an annual briefing on compliance and ethics standards. Mr. Kirkpatrick explained that the ICP was established in 2011 in response to Texas Department of Transportation requirements and applies to all NCTCOG programs and activities. The program is designed to promote compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards through established policies and procedures for employees and officers. He also reviewed conflict-of-interest requirements under Chapter 171 of the Texas Local Government Code, including disclosure and abstention obligations when a Board member has a substantial interest in a matter before the Board, and highlighted the Conflict of Interest Affidavit available for use when needed.

Exhibit: 2026-09-17-EDO

This was an informational item and did not require a vote.

Item 18 Deputy Executive Director's Report

Monte Mercer, Deputy Executive Director, provided a report to the Executive Board. He advised that staff would poll Board members regarding their availability for the November 19 Executive Board meeting, as it coincides with the National League of Cities Annual Conference. Mr. Mercer asked Ken Kirkpatrick to provide a status update on the dismissal of the Denton County/Regional Transportation Council lawsuit and NCTCOG's appeal. Mr. Mercer also updated the Board on activities planned in recognition of NCTCOG's 60th Anniversary.

Exhibit: 2026-09-18-EDO

MISCELLANEOUS:

Item 19 Attendance and Calendar

The Board was provided with a Calendar of meeting and a record of Attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Judge Jenkins entered the meeting in person.

President Justice called the Executive Session to order at 1:47 pm, pursuant to the following sections of the Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code):

- Section 551.074(a)(1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; and,

- Section 551.071 to consult with its attorney to seek advice pertaining to matters posted under Section 551.074(a)(1); relating to the following:
    - Discuss and consider process to initiate the recruitment of the vacant Executive Director position and appointment of an acting Executive Director until such time as the Executive Director position is filled.

President Justice adjourned the Executive Session at 2:12 pm.

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RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:

President Justice reconvened the regular session at 2:15 pm.

Item 20 Consider and Take Possible Action(s) Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Session

Councilmember Johnson moved, seconded by Judge Jenkins, that the Hiring Committee appointed by President Justice work with staff to conduct a procurement for an executive recruitment firm for the position of Executive Director and bring back a recommended firm for consideration in October. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Johnson moved, seconded by Judge Jenkins, that the Executive Board appoint Monte Mercer to serve as Acting Executive Director until such time as the Executive Director position is filled, and 2) in accordance with NCTCOG policies governing acting assignments authorize a temporary salary adjustment of a 10% increase in base salary effective at the beginning of the next pay period, October 4, 2026, until no longer serving in that capacity. Motion passed unanimously.

President Justice adjourned the meeting at 2:16 pm.

Approved by:

Signed by:
Jennifer Justice
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Jennifer Justice, President
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Councilmember, City of Richardson

Checked by:

Ken Kirkpatrick, General Counsel
North Central Texas Council of Governments