

MEETING SUMMARY

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, September 25, 2026

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) met on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 1:30 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following STTC members or representatives were present: Ahmed Alqaisi, Marah Aqqad, James Bell, Nathan Benditz, David Boski, Erika Bridges, Daniel Burnham, Jeffrey Bush, Travis Campbell, John Cordary, Jr., Clarence Daugherty, Chad Davis, Taylor Derden, Pritam Deshmukh, Becky Diviney, Matthew DeBois, Phil Dupler, Eric Fladager, Chris Flanigan, Austin Frith, Ricardo Gonzalez (representing Stanford Lynch), Gary Graham, Rajnish Gupta, Namoo Han, Chris Harris, Sophia Harvey, Daniel Herrig, Matthew Hotelling, Jeremy Hutt, Thuan Huynh, Joel James, Major L. Jones, Ryan Jones (representing Joe Atwood), Gus Khankarli, Matt Leppla (representing Chad Marbut), Eron Linn, Auro Majumdar, Dillon Maroney, Brian McNulty (representing Ron Hartline), John Mears, Brian Moen, Chandra Muruganandham (representing Farhan Butt), Mark Nelson, Chad Ostrander, Tim Palermo (representing Tanya Brooks), Joyce Palmer, Jana Pimcutel (representing Tara Crawford), Caleb Polster (representing Brenda Callaway), Kelly Porter, Elizabeth Reynolds, Greg Royster, Robert Saucedo, Brian Shewski, Chelsea St. Louis, Aaron Tainter, Errick Thompson, Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize, Daniel Vedral, Stephanie Wagner (representing Melissa Baker), Tommy Weir, Jana Wentzel, and Larry Wright.

Others present at the meeting were: Amany Abu-Hijih, Vickie Alexander, Bryan Alldridge, Carli Baylor, Emily Beckham, Natalie Bettger, Jason Brown, Katherine Cadena, Lori Clark, Thomas Cochill, Shawn Conrad, Brian Dell, Cody Derrick, Nancy Dover, Teresa Epps, Analisa Garcia, Diana Garcia, Gypsy Gavia, Rebekah Gongora, Christie Gotti, Kyle Hoener, Chris Hoff, John Hudspeth, Jessica Josselyn, Dan Kessler, Amsal Khimanl, Chris Klaus, Kevin Kokes, Dan Lamers, Charles Marsh, Malcolm Mayhew, Travis Mitchell, Joaquin Moreno, Michael Morris, Dylan Niles, Jackie Nolasco, Christina Noskin, Evan Paret, Travis Pierce, Chris Poe, Bill Prieto, Jim Reiser, Jackson Rose, Elizabeth Sin, Toni Stehling, Derek Sweeney, Vivek Thimmavajhala, Shashider Velogati, Jeff Whitace, and Amanda Wilson.

1. **Approval of the August 28, 2026, Meeting Summary:** Approval of the August 28, 2026, meeting summary contained in Electronic Item 1 was requested.

The Meeting Summary of the August 28, 2026, meeting was approved as submitted in Electronic Item 1. Eron Linn (M); Daniel Burnham (S). The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda:**

- 2.1. **Endorsement of Collin County Rides Funding Update:** Surface Transportation Technical Committee endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) approval to utilize up to \$98,887 in remaining previously approved RTC Local funds to extend the Collin County Rides program through Spring 2027, to ensure Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) can continue transit service for seniors and individuals with disabilities for residents in Allen and Fairview was requested.

The Committee approved staff's recommendations on Item 2.1 on the Consent Agenda. Brian Moen (M); Nathan Benditz (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **2027 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region (Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plus)**: Kevin Kokes provided an overview and requested action to open the 2027 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas region, including eligibility, criteria, and schedule.

The Committee approved staff's recommendation as illustrated below. Eron Linn (M); Gus Khankarli (S). The motion passed unanimously.

**REQUESTED ACTION:
2027 TA CALL FOR PROJECTS**

Recommendation for RTC approval of:

Elements related to program rules, eligible activities, eligible project areas, schedule, funding, and use of Transportation Development Credits for the 2027 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region

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4. **Fiscal Years 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation Competitive Grant Program**: Amelia Hayes requested the Surface Transportation Technical Committee's recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of a candidate project to be submitted for Fiscal Years 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Competitive Grant Program. Applications were due to the United States Department of Transportation by October 9, 2026.

The Committee approved staff's recommendation as illustrated below. Daniel Burnham (M); Mark Nelson (S). The motion passed unanimously.

FY2024-2026 PROTECT Grant Program
Requested STTC Action

Recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for:

- Submittal of **South/East Region TSI Study Expansion** for the FY2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Planning Grant.
- Administratively amending NCTCOG's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), as well as other planning and administrative documents, to include the proposed project if selected for a FY2024-2026 PROTECT award.

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5. **Request to Use Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for Air Quality**: Vivek Thimmavajjhala provided an overview of proposed investments in air quality modeling infrastructure and staff training to enhance regional air quality planning capabilities. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds in the amount of \$365,000 was requested, along with the \$180,000 previously approved, for a combined total of \$545,000, to establish modeling capabilities, acquire necessary resources, and provide technical

training to support future air quality analyses related to transportation planning, air quality conformity, and emissions reduction efforts. In addition, staff requested to use RTC Local funds in the amount of \$55,000 to cover the administrative costs related to the modeling part of the Rider 7 Local Air Quality Planning Grant - fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Staff also sought approval to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project.

The Committee approved staff's recommendation as illustrated below. Mark Nelson (M); Daniel Vedral (S). The motion passed unanimously.

Requested Action - Request to Use RTC Local Funds for Air Quality

Endorse \$180,000 in RTC Local Funds, previously approved by RTC, to establish and support in-house modeling infrastructure and training.

Recommendation for RTC approval of:

- Additional \$365,000 of RTC local funds to continue establishing and supporting the in-house modeling infrastructure and training.
- \$55,000 of RTC local funds for TCEQ Rider 7 PM_{2.5} in-house conceptual modeling.
- Unused funds will be returned to the RTC local account.

Amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and update administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the funds.

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Request to Use Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for Air Quality

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6. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items:** Michael Morris provided an overview on the following current transportation items:
 1. North Central Texas Council of Governments 60th Anniversary
 2. Dismissal Papers Filed to the District and Appellate Courts
 3. Status of Texas Department of Transportation Signature on Three-Party Agreement
 4. Regional Transportation Council Meeting Rescheduled to November 5, 2026
 5. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery
 6. Three Additional Railroad Grade Separations: Grant Award \$189,840,698; Total Project Cost - \$237,300,873
 - Dallas – Westmoreland Road @ Union Pacific Railroad/Dallas, Garland, Northeastern Railroad - Grant Award - \$89,828,698
 - Fort Worth – NE 23rd Street/Decatur Avenue @ Union Pacific Railroad/Burlington Northern and Santa Fe/Fort Worth & Western Railroad/TEXRail - Grant Award - \$75,821,000
 - Terrell – Las Lomas Parkway @ US 80/ Union Pacific Railroad - \$24,191,000
 7. Dallas Area Rapid Transit \$70 Million Light Rail Replacement
 8. Interstate Highway 635 East Phase Three \$1.7 Billion (Managed Lanes)
 9. Irving Summit Funding Presentation
 10. The Importance of Independent Air Quality Analysis
7. **Access North Texas 2026 Update:** Evan Paret provided information on the 2026 Access North Texas Update, including a brief overview of outreach efforts and a summary of developed regional goals and strategies. The plan outlined strategies to address transit needs and served as a guide to improve access to work, medical appointments, education, and the community during the next four years.

8. **Role of Surface Transportation Technical Committee: Upcoming Regional Transportation Council Bylaws**: Michael Morris and Dan Kessler initiated a conversation regarding the most appropriate role for the Surface Transportation Technical Committee. The Regional Transportation Council Bylaws are under review, and we wish to be considerate of the Committee's interest.
9. **Briefing on 2027 Strategic Transportation Funding Program**: Brian Dell briefed the Committee on the 2027 Strategic Transportation Funding Program and the process for submitting project funding requests for consideration.
10. **Fast Facts**: Staff provided brief presentations on Items 1 through 9 below:
 1. Charles Marsh – Submittal Deadline for Transportation Improvement Program Modification Requests for the First Quarter Cycle 2027
 2. Joaquin Moreno – Fall 2026 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement – November 5, 2026
 3. Kyle Hoener – Training for Safe Routes to School Planning
 4. Lori Clark - Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee Information
 5. Travis Ripley – Correspondence to the Environmental Protection Agency
 6. Analisa Garcia – 2026 Ozone Season Update
 7. Bill Prieto – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight
 8. Elizabeth Sin – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
 9. Elizabeth Sin – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports
 - July - August Public Comments Report
 - August Public Meeting Minutes
11. **Other Business (Old or New)**: Daniel Burnham, Assistant Director, City of Arlington, invited everyone to the Open House for the Traffic Management Center at the Cities Municipal Towers at 11:30 a.m. on September 30, 2026.
12. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm, October 23, 2026**.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.