



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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

Virtual Via Microsoft Teams

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

Meeting ID: 238 070 191 264 14

Passcode: VU7A8bB6

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

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

PRESENTATION

1. **Design Downtown Denton Plan.** Julie Wyatt, Principal Planner with the City of Denton, will present on the sustainable public rights-of-way (SPROW) focused recommendations and results of the 2024 Design Downtown Denton Plan.

Julie Wyatt (City of Denton) presented on how the Design Downtown Denton Plan utilized community engagement to achieve SPROW-focused results. Julie shared public comments about rights-of-way and how community engagement influenced the goals of the plan. More information can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) asked about the challenges faced during the design or community engagement phase. Julie answered that the biggest challenges throughout the entire process were funding and reckoning between the already existing rights-of-ways and what they wanted to achieve. Julie detailed how the downtown area was originally designed without the large vehicles we see today, and planners therefore had to take into account how emergency services, solid waste, and utility vehicles utilize that space and accommodate for those vehicles. This is especially true since Denton is a full-service city. Another challenge planners had to bear in mind during the design phase was the fact that the downtown area is in a floodplain. Denton has already moved several buildings in the area out of the floodplain and has continued to find new ways to mitigate flooding.

Joe Trammel (Tarrant County) asked for clarification on how the City of Denton was able to move buildings out of the floodplain. Julie answered that it was a decade-long project to better manage the water, which included improving drainage ditches to bring water underground and therefore bringing the effected buildings out of the Pecan Creek floodplain.

Mary Abercrombie (City of McKinney) asked if Denton framed “chill streets” more around sustainable aspects or financial aspects. For example, is the major sell of a “chill street” the comfort they provide for residents, or is it the expansion of businesses into more areas

downtown and the resulting increase in sales. Julie answered that although she was not involved in the writing process of the Design Downtown Denton Plan, she believed that both were equally considered with development along those chill streets, while encouraging walking and biking. Another aspect of the plan was encouraging more ridership of the Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA) which connects Denton to Lewisville with a 19-mile rail line. This goal was made to increase ridership and provide people access to the downtown area, including Texas Woman's University and University of North Texas.

David Tayyari (Dikita) asked if Denton intended to get Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) Envision certified and if so, at what level for the Denton Downtown Plan. Julie asked David to clarify the acronym used and mentioned that she was aware of the creation of Public Improvement Districts to support local businesses. Michelle Wood-Ramirez (TRWD) clarified that the acronym stood for the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. David explained that ISI Envision is equivalent to LEED for buildings sustainability certification and Envision is for infrastructure. Julie thanked David for bringing those certifications to her attention and that she would spread the word. David offered assistance if Denton wanted more information.

DISCUSSION ITEM

2. **Subcommittee FY27 Meeting Dates.** NCTCOG will discuss the proposed meeting dates for next fiscal year. (Madisson Dunn)

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) proposed the tentative 2027 SPROW meeting dates. No feedback was offered. The 2027 SPROW meeting dates will be:

- December 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM – Online
- March 24, 2027, at 10:00 AM – In-person at TRWD
- June 23, 2027, at 10:00 AM – Online
- September 8, 2027, at 10:00 AM – Online

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. **Meeting Summary.** The [June 23, meeting summary](#) is available online for your review.

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) shared that the June 23, 2026, [Meeting Summary](#) is available online for review.

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

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) provided an update on the regional Public Works Program, which funds the SPROW Subcommittee. Madisson shared that the FY27 work plan has been approved, and that the PW Roundup was successful.

Madisson asked the subcommittee for any feedback on potential topics or presentations members would like to see at next year's Roundup. David Tayyari (Dikita) offered training

in sustainable infrastructure rating as a helpful topic to consider, as well as educating municipal personal on ISI (Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure).

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. (Katie Hunter)

Katie Hunter (NCTCOG) shared information from the last iSWM subcommittee meeting. iSWM members approved the FY27 Work Plan and the transition of iSWM oversight from the Public Works Council to the Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council. The next iSWM Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at NCTCOG Offices. The meeting agenda is available to view on their [webpage](#).

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

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) shared information on the upcoming RISE meeting scheduled for October 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at NCTCOG offices. To RSVP to the meeting, please visit the [RISE Coalition webpage](#).

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) shared various upcoming events and conferences, all of which are available on the [Public Works Training Calendar](#). More details are available in the [meeting presentation](#).

- [Texas Tree Conference](#) is scheduled to occur September 23rd - 25th in Waco, TX. This conference will focus on arboriculture best practices and will have opportunities to network and earn CEUs.
- [Electrical Hazards Awareness Training](#) is necessary for every arborist to safely operate. The Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council is hosting this workshop on October 29th.

Madisson also shared some additional resources that may be of interest to the subcommittee. More details are available in the [meeting presentation](#).

- Utility Arborist Association has a video library with information on careers, safety, and integrated vegetation management programs, as well as upcoming webinars on topics such as preventing environmental risks in utility work and solar site vegetation management. Links to these resources can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).
- The Staffing and Budgeting and Financing chapters of the Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for PW Managers are linked in the [meeting presentation](#).
- Public Rights-Of-Way Accessibility Guidelines training is available through NCTCOG Transportation department. More information is available in the [meeting presentation](#).

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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, 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

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

Roundtable:

Alexander Farmakis (City of Farmers Branch) shared that he was just observing and learning.

Joe Trammal (Tarrant County) expressed that they do a lot of collaboration with cities as a county, and this meeting is a learning opportunity on how to help and assist those cities.

Mary Abercrombie (City of McKinney) noted that she really appreciates these meetings. McKinney is participating in Lights Out Texas.

Michelle Wood-Ramirez (TRWD) thanked the subcommittee for the opportunity to listen in.

Molly White (NCTCOG) shared that it was her first time attending a SPROW meeting and shared some information about the Blue-Green-Grey DART Lawnview Station Composting Project. The purpose of the project is to build on the approach of converting small, unused parcels in DART-owned right of ways to food production related uses. This project parcel will be used for a vermiculture composting station.

Todd Milburn (Barlett & West) expressed that he joined to broaden his horizons.

7. **The Next SPROW Meeting.** The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.
8. **Adjournment.**

Madisson Dunn (NCTCOG) formally adjourned the meeting.

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.