

## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

### North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

NCTCOG Offices, CP II, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Metroplex Conference Room

Chair: Lindsay Graf, City of Plano

Vice Chair: Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and reviewed housekeeping items.

#### 2. **Purpose of the RISE Coalition.** NCTCOG staff will share an overview of the RISE Coalition, highlighting the group's history and purpose.

NCTCOG reviewed the history, purpose, and mission of the RISE Coalition. Voting membership is open to all NCTCOG members as well as universities and nonprofits, non-voting members may attend meetings.

### PRESENTATION

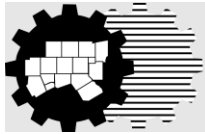
#### 3. **Micromobility Presentation.** Mayor Travis Mitchell, City of Kyle, and Rick Koch, TRIPP Consulting, will present on innovations in micromobility in City of Kyle.

Mayor Travis Mitchell (City of Kyle), accompanied by Rick Koch (TRIPPP Consulting), shared about the micromobility efforts being implemented in the City of Kyle. Mayor Mitchell highlighted how the city is embracing new technologies through its rideshare partnership with Uber, the Roundabouts First Policy that aims to improve safety and traffic flow, utilization of road bonds to ensure the city has complete streets, and the urban trails project Vybe. These innovations by the city have set the tone for private development to follow. More information can be found in the [meeting presentation](#).

### ACTION ITEMS

#### 4. **Meeting Summary.** Review and approve the July 30, 2025, meeting summary, which can be viewed [here](#).

Lindsay Graf (City of Plano) made a motion to approve the meeting summary. Alex Pharmakis (City of Farmers Branch) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

5. **Approval of the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan - Comprehensive Action Plan (DFW AQIP-CAP).** NCTCOG staff will seek the RISE Coalition's approval of the DFW AQIP-CAP. If approved, the plan will be brought to NCTCOG's Executive Board for endorsement.

Savana Nance (NCTCOG) provided an update on the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan (DFW-AQIP) and led a discussion on the measures and targets for all sectors in the plan. A survey was shared with members to collect feedback on the plan before its submittal on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

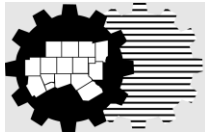
Savana began by presenting the transportation measures. Feedback included providing clarification on heavy-duty vehicle eligibility, defining attractiveness of transit station appearance, and including a definitions page with the measures. Savana then shared information regarding the energy measures. Feedback included inquiring about whether the energy allocation charts take into consideration the impact of data centers on private sector overtaking residential energy usage, changing the implementing agency for LED streetlight upgrades as they are not owned by the city, updating reduction goals for heat pumps and HVAC processes, and prioritizing residential retrofits. Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) shared information concerning the water and wastewater measures. Feedback included defining what qualifies as aging infrastructure and clarifying what the cap is for the cost of fixing aging infrastructure. Corinne continued with measures on materials management. Feedback included clarification on projections including additional distance travelled by trash collectors once local landfills are at capacity. Corinne rounded out the update and discussion with the measures on agriculture, forestry, and land use, pointing out decreases in emissions in this sector due to increasing urbanization.

Staff discussed upcoming related efforts, including presentation of the draft plan at the November NCTCOG Executive Board meeting, and a public listening session on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Details on how to get involved with the DFW-AQIP process can be found on the [program website](#).

## DISCUSSION

6. **FY2026 Work Plan project Updates.** NCTCOG will discuss progress on the FY2026 Work Plan initiatives.
  - FY2026 Workshops and Webinars: Discuss prioritization of workshop and webinar topics for FY2026.
  - FY2026 Regional Training: Discuss potential focus areas for the regional training workshop.

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) stated that the FY2026 goals are the same as the FY2025 goals with the exception of the biennial CLIDE Awards. A regional training will



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

be offered in place of the awards this fiscal year. Corinne asked the group what topics are of high priority for the workshops and webinars. Lindsay Graf (City of Plano) stated that they would be interested in sustainable procurement first, then energy efficiency. Brandi Kelp (City of Fort Worth) added that green spaces should include trails. Sujata Gautam (City of McKinney) stated that energy efficiency and sustainable procurement were their top two choices. Cory (City of Carrollton) ranked energy efficiency, sustainable procurement, and regional green space in that order of interest. Jody Cason (City of Grand Prairie) stated that sustainable procurement and energy efficiency were their priorities, specifically energy efficiency as it relates to policy development. Julissa Amador (City of Denton) was most interested in energy efficiency. Alex (City of Farmers Branch) had no preferences between sustainable procurement, energy efficiency, and regional green space. Dorothy Kindell (Tarrant Regional Water District) stated that sustainable procurement and green spaces would be of most interest.

Corinne (NCTCOG) asked what topics would be a high priority at the Regional Training Initiative. Lindsay Graf remarked Plano would be interested in LEED Green continuing education, and Cory Heiple agreed. Alex Pharmakis stated that professional certifications would be of the most interest, with Dorothy Kindell and Brandi Kelp seconding that sentiment. Susan Alvarez (NCTGOG) shared that LEED started a community rating system that would be worth sharing and confirmed that this program replaced the STAR Community Rating System. Sujata Gautam added that if the climate action plan training topic was considered, it should also consider local air monitoring development.

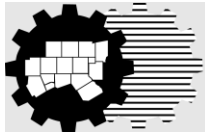
## INFORMATION ITEMS

7. **FY2026 Member Cost share Commitments.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the status of cost shares for FY2026

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) shared that the cost share invoice delivery was delayed due to the implementation of new software, and invoices should be received in members' inboxes within the next month. All cost share amounts stayed the same from FY2025.

8. **89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Update.** NCTCOG will provide an update on notable energy and grid-related legislation relevant to local governments.

Chris Northup (NCTCOG) shared relevant updates related to energy and grid legislation such as Senate Bill 6 from the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session. [A handout outlining relevant updates is available here.](#)



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

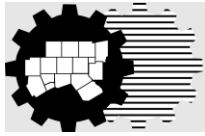
9. **Upper Trinity River Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure Project (TSI).** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on the TSI Project, which seeks to reduce future flood risk through the integration of transportation, environmental, and stormwater planning based on continuation and expansion of the region's urbanization. Staff are seeking feedback on elements to include in a moral development code and floodplain ordinance that is underway.

Susan Alvarez (NCTCOG) presented on the TSI Project, highlighting its purpose to manage flood and drought risk that comes with the rise in urbanization. The goal of the project is to implement green infrastructure for water storage in the most impactful ways. Additionally, Susan requested that examples of implemented codes and risk mitigation measures be shared to be included in the report, with a survey being made available soon to provide feedback for the project. For those interested in being further involved in this project, a Model Development and Floodplain Ordinances Workshop is scheduled to take place January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10AM in the NCTCOG Transportation Council Room.

10. **NCTCOG Regional Opportunities.** NCTCOG will go over other opportunities in the North Central Texas region that relate to sustainability and the Coalition's focus areas.

NCTCOG staff presented updates on upcoming meetings, opportunities, webinars, and workshops that may be of interest to members. More details are available in the [meeting presentation](#).

- **Regional Energy Survey-** A survey will be sent out to all members in the coming weeks to assess regional energy management interests, needs, priorities, and capacities. The results of the survey will guide workshop and webinar development under the Regional Energy Management program.
- **Decision-making Tools for Extreme Heat and Stormwater Flood Mitigation in the Dallas Metro Area Webinar-** NCTCOG is hosting a webinar with the Smart Surfaces Coalition to share online tools to assess smart surfaces on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:30 PM.
- **North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicles Project-** \$5.6 million has been awarded to NCTCOG to fund the replacement Class 6 and 7 vehicles. Two learning sessions to better comprehend the scope and application process are scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. The deadline to apply for funding is February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- **Texas Energy Summit-** Scheduled to occur on November 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> in Austin, Texas, this summit will focus on the intersection of air quality and energy systems. Scholarships for local and state government employees may still be available.



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

- Energy and the Economy Summit- This summit is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Denver, Colorado with a virtual attendance option. It will focus on global energy markets, energy trade flows, and domestic energy infrastructure.
- Dallas College Sustainability Summit- Dallas College is relaunching their Sustainability Summit, with the next session scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 8:00 AM. It will be held at the Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**11. Participant Roundtable.** Participants will have an opportunity to share activities happening in their communities/organizations to identify areas for collaboration and sharing sustainability programs or success stories.

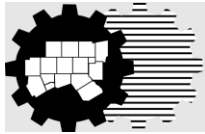
**Dorothy Kindell, Tarrant Regional Water District-** TRWD interviewed solar owner agents for the solar RFP for the pump station and have selected a candidate. They are also moving forward with presenting their Sustainability Plan to their Executive leadership team.

**Lindsay Graf, City of Plano** – Plano's residential food scrap composting program, which was initially only funded through summer 2026, has found additional funding sources and will be able to continue. They are also working on food waste reduction education materials, which will be finalized by the end of November. Plano is planning on celebrating Texas Recycles Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The city is currently evaluating locations for new Level 2 and fast chargers and is waiting for EECBG funding to support their window replacement program.

**Cory Heiple, City of Carrollton** – Carrollton hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new transit center. Carrollton also shared they are starting phase three of their storm drain art contest has begun and encouraged other members to share this opportunity with local artists.

**Alex Pharmakis, City of Farmers Branch** – Farmers Branch received a Top 20 Award from Texan by Nature, as well as a certification for their water rebate program. The city also recently received their SolSmart Bronze designation. Farmers Branch is hosting a tree giveaway event on November 8<sup>th</sup> and recently submitted their preliminary LEED for Cities and Communities application. The city is presenting their Active Transportation and Complete Streets Plan to their city council next week and have also submitted an EECBG grant application for EV charging infrastructure.

**Michael Tran, City of Fort Worth** – Fort Worth has opened a new Materials Recovery Facility and will be celebrating America Recycles Day on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Keep Fort Worth Beautiful Business Partner Program has been revamped in anticipation of the upcoming FIFA World Cup. Fort Worth conducted a successful Litter Stomp event with



## **North Central Texas Council of Governments**

over 2,000 volunteers collecting 34,000 pounds of litter. They are also in the process of retrofitting streetlights with LED bulbs. Finally, Fort Worth is hiring an entry level Planner in their Environmental department.

**Jody Cason, City of Grand Prairie** – Grand Prairie is in the process of developing a Sustainability Plan and are currently awaiting the arrival of EV and solar chargers that have been purchased using EECBG funding. They will apply for reimbursement from the EV funding sources as the vehicles arrive.

**Lauren Foust, City of Cedar Hill** – Cedar Hill will be hosting its Fall Beautification Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Sujata Gautam, City of McKinney** – McKinney is in the process of developing a Sustainability Roadmap to present to leadership and is working toward a SolSmart designation. The city will host a tree giveaway event on November 8<sup>th</sup>. McKinney is looking to expand their EV infrastructure and will also be hosting a Texas Recycles Day event.

**Julissa Amador, City of Denton** – Denton has ended their year with two businesses joining their Green Businesses program and asked for advice on recruiting additional businesses to participate in the program. After their successful Lawn Equipment Pilot Program, the program budget was increased to \$100,000 to provide residential rebates. Denton is finalizing their Sustainability Plan to present to their city council. The city will host their Texas Recycles Day event on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **12. Future Agenda Items.** Suggestions for future agenda items.

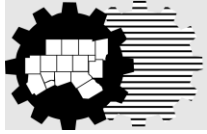
Lindsay Graf (City of Plano) expressed an interest in hearing updates on sustainability initiatives surrounding upcoming FIFA events.

### **13. Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. This meeting will be held online via Microsoft teams. [Add to your calendar.](#)

Upcoming meeting dates for 2026:

- April 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. – In person at NCTCOG Offices
- July 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. – Online

### **14. Adjournment.**



**North Central Texas Council of Governments**

Lindsay Graf (City of Plano) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cory Heiple (City of Carrollton) seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Corinne Buckley at (817) 704-2510 or [cbuckley@nctcog.org](mailto:cbuckley@nctcog.org).


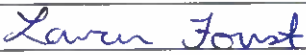






If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Ashley Barnett at (817) 695-9231 or [abarnett@nctcog.org](mailto:abarnett@nctcog.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to



**RISE Coalition**

October 29, 2025  
9:30 a.m., NCTCOG Offices

**VOTING MEMBER & ALTERNATE SIGN IN SHEET**

NAME	SIGNATURE	REPRESENTS
Cory Heiple		City of Carrollton
Krista Pender*		City of Carrollton
Lauren Foust		City of Cedar Hill
Colten Richardson*		City of Cedar Hill
Rosaerlinda Cisneros		City of Dallas
Oppong Hemeng*		City of Dallas
Julissa Amador		City of Denton
Kaitlynn Davis*		City of Denton
Alex Pharmakis		City of Farmers Branch
Shane Davis*		City of Farmers Branch
Avery Pesek		City of Fort Worth
Betsy Yost*		City of Fort Worth
Kylie Wieden		City of Grand Prairie
Jody Cason*		City of Grand Prairie
Melissa Canclini		City of Lewisville
Shante Akafia*		City of Lewisville
Sujata Gautam		City of McKinney
Mary Abercrombie*		City of McKinney
Lindsay Graf		City of Plano
Lenna Smith*		City of Plano
Dorothy Kindell		Tarrant Regional Water District
Jason Gehrig*		Tarrant Regional Water District

\* Indicates alternate member



**RISE Coalition**

October 29, 2025  
9:30 a.m., NCTCOG Offices

**MEMBER & GUEST SIGN IN SHEET**

NAME	SIGNATURE	REPRESENTS
Grace Darling		Arlington Conservation Council
Eric Tate		Atmos Energy
Larry Howe		Citizens' Climate Lobby
Novella Landau		City of Carrollton
Alireza Hatefi		City of Dallas
Heather Berryman		City of Fort Worth
Cody Whitenburg		City of Fort Worth
Brandi Kelp		City of Fort Worth
Emily Asbury		City of Irving
Melissa Canclini		City of Lewisville
Alyson Foreman		City of Lewisville
Kerry Shields		City of McKinney
Anna Clark		Cooksey Communications
Madison Peppers		DFW Intl. Airport
Renee Bellew		EPA - Region 6
Jose Canario		EEVEO
Yarcus Lewis		Federal Reserve Bank
Lydia Vollmann		Grant Our Community Non Profit
Kathy Fonville		NTMWD
Chris Hill		SMU
James McClinton		Tarrant County
Autumn Radle		Texas PACE Authority
Heather Firn		Trinity River Authority
James Orenstein		Trinity River Community Solar Systems
Megnah Tare		UTA
Laurel Zaima-Sheehy		
Susan Alvarez		NCTCOG
Corinne Buckley		NCTCOG
Cassidy Campbell		NCTCOG
Lori Clark		NCTCOG
Crysta Guzman		NCTCOG
Alyssa Knox		NCTCOG
Savana Nance		NCTCOG
Chris Northup		NCTCOG

[illegible]