

## AGENDA

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, December 8, 2023**  
**North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda**  
**(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

- 1:30 – 1:35**
1. **Approval of October 27, 2023, Minutes**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5  
Presenter:      Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the October 27, 2023, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.  
Background:      N/A
- 1:35 – 1:40**
2. **Consent Agenda**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5
    - 2.1. **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program**  
Presenter:      Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications will also be sought.  
Background:      The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP was approved by the Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board in July 2023 and identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates, and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments are provided in Electronic Item 2.1.1 and are posted on the NCTCOG website for public review and comment as part of the November 2023 online public outreach opportunity. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 2.1.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2.2. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Additional Funding for National Environmental Policy Act Consultant**

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval for additional funding (as a “not to exceed” amount) for a consultant contract to complete preliminary engineering and environmental documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additional funding provision requested not to exceed 10 percent of original contract budget; Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds will be requested for this purpose.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis of high-speed modes and corridors, which was completed in late 2022. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project’s next steps; this phase is expected to be complete in late 2024. Public and stakeholder input as well as constraints resulting from conceptual engineering analysis required development of additional alignment alternatives than originally anticipated and inclusion of tunneling expertise for preferred alignment in the NEPA process. Additional reference material is provided in Electronic Item 2.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2.3. **Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for North Texas Innovation Alliance Urban Resilience Fellowship Program**

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$18,000 in RTC Local funds to support three problem statements submitted through the North Texas Innovation Alliance (NTXIA) Urban Resilience Fellowship Program.

Background: During the summer of 2023, NTXIA initiated the Urban Resilience Fellowship Program. This program connects teams of students from higher education institutions across Dallas-Fort Worth with a community partner from local governments or industry to develop innovative solutions to pressing local issues. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation staff submitted the following three problem statements:

- Municipal Broadband Deployment Related to the Enhancement of Roadway and Residential Connectivity
- Development of an Integrated Network Design and Demand Estimation of Advanced Air Mobility
- Evaluating the Change to an Electric Aircraft Fleets, Developing Strategies, Benchmarking and Modeling the Market for Electric Aircraft Costs.

NCTCOG has partnered with the University of Texas at Arlington to address these problem statements. The program will begin in the 2024 Spring semester and will start with introductions of the community partner and student teams, along with the development of a baseline understanding of the problems and a path forward towards solutions. Then, students move into a four-week sprint of prototyping and development, with a final close out of project outcomes and presentations. Each problem statement cost \$6,000, for a total not to exceed \$18,000. Staff is requesting a recommendation for RTC approval of \$18,000 in RTC Local funds to participate in this program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety and Transit

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Additional Professional Services for the Cotton Belt Trail**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of funds will be requested for additional design services associated with the Cotton Belt Trail.

Background: The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line rail project is coordinating a parallel regionally significant Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail that will provide pedestrian and bicycle access to rail stations in seven cities across three counties. Accommodations for the approximate 26-mile regional trail has been included as part of DART’s planning for the commuter rail corridor. Construction of the Cotton Belt Trail is being managed by DART and will occur in phases as funding is available. Engineering design for the Trail initiated in January 2021. Additional design services, which were not anticipated with the initial negotiated consultant scope of work, are required to integrate the trail with the Silver Line Rail project and help reduce future construction costs. As such, additional design services are needed to adequately complete the plans that will be issued for construction. Staff will request \$4 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Project (CMAQ) Program funds for the

additional professional design services. An overview of the proposed funding request is contained in Electronic Item 3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped +, Transit

**1:50 – 2:00**

**4. Safety Program Implementation of Innovative Ideas to Reduce Youth Fatalities Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$4 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for the implementation of innovative ideas to reduce youth fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes.

Background: In 2021, only 12 percent of licensed drivers within the state of Texas were under the age of 25 years and they accounted for nearly 19 percent of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. This disproportionate risk can be explained by a number of causes including inexperience, critical errors in driving decisions, distracted driving, speeding, as well as substance abuse. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) would like to partner with industry experts to implement innovative ideas to reduce youth fatalities associated with motor vehicle crashes. Staff is requesting a recommendation to RTC to approve \$4 million in RTR funds to be utilized to implement ideas that are generated through a Call for Partners. Additional information regarding this item can be found in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

**2:00 – 2:10**

**5. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of current transportation items will be provided.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

1. Approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board Action on Advertising and Introduction of Risk Analysis
2. Status of Texas Department of Transportation Rule Making for Metropolitan Planning Organization- Selected Funding (Electronic Item 5.1)
3. Local Elected Officials Meeting with Texas Department of Transportation Commissioners (Electronic Item 5.2)
4. Update on Transportation Development Credits and Regional Transportation Council Local funds

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Texas Department of Transportation State Infrastructure Bank Loan Opportunities**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dallas Teston, Texas Department of Transportation

Item Summary: The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will brief the Committee on the availability of State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan opportunities available to local governments.

Background: The SIB is a federal revolving loan fund managed by TxDOT for roadway projects. The SIB can lend funds for roadway projects to cover items such as a local contribution or local match, utility relocation, or even local road projects. TxDOT will outline the SIB program requirements, eligibility, and application process. See Electronic Item 6 for additional information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

2:20 – 2:30

7. **End of Ozone Season Recap**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of the 2023 ozone season activity and other air quality updates for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region. The ozone season is from March 1 to November 30.

Background: The end of November concluded another ozone season for the DFW region. The region continues to work towards compliance for both the 2008 and 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Staff has been tracking the exceedance days at each monitor and will provide a summary of the 2023 ozone season data for the North Central Texas 9-and 10-county nonattainment areas and compare against previous ozone seasons and what the state has modeled. For more information, please see Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation Program**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the grant and possible project opportunities for a regional application for the 2023-2024 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovative (ATTAIN) Program.

Background: In November 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an announcement for the ATTAIN program proposals that deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. The USDOT will provide funding of up to \$12 million per grant. A 20 percent local match is required. The link to the Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the grant program for Fiscal

Year 2023-2024, as well as the application requirements are located at: [grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055](https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055). Applications are due to the USDOT by February 2, 2024. Staff will provide a summary and a brief overview of possible regional project opportunities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Safety

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Fast Facts**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Brief staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Aliyah Shaikh* – Deadline for May 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Modification Cycle
  2. *Dylan Niles* – Transportation Development Credit Annual Report (Electronic Item 9.1)
  3. *Daniel Snyder* – Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects Obligations Notice (Electronic Item 9.2)
  4. *Connor Sadro* – Broadband as a Transportation Service Update (Electric Item 9.3)
  5. *Jesse Brown* – High Occupancy Vehicle Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 9.4)
  6. *Trey Pope* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 9.5)
  7. *Maggie Quinn* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding))
  8. *Maggie Quinn* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
  9. *Jackie Castillo* – December Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 9.6)
  10. *Jackie Castillo* – October Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 9.7)
  11. *Taylor Benjamin* – Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 9.8)
  12. *Toni Stehling* - 2024 Surface Transportation Technical Committee and Regional Transportation Council Meeting Schedules (Electronic Item 9.9)
  13. Written Progress Reports:
    - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 9.10)
10. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
11. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on January 26, 2024**.