



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# MEETING SUMMARY

### Public Works Council

Thursday, November 16, 2023

9:30 a.m., Virtual Meeting through Microsoft Teams

Chair: Carrie Jones, City of Plano

Vice Chair: Matt Leppla, City of Weatherford

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) welcomed everyone to the meeting and took attendance via an electronic checklist to ensure at least 11 Public Works Council (PWC) members were present for a quorum and to provide accurate attendance records. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and state their affiliation in the meeting chat, and to indicate if they were filling in for an absent PWC member. The attendance checklist is included at the end and quorum was met. Erin stated that Vice Chair, Matt Leppla will be leading the meeting because Chair, Carrie Jones has a conflict. Matt Leppla (Weatherford) introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### ACTION ITEMS

#### 2. Meeting Summary

A motion was brought forward by James Gaertner (Waxahachie) and seconded by Jeremy Hutt (Cleburne) to vote on approval of the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary. All voted for approval, none opposed.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### 3. New Member Welcome

Erin Blackman recognized all the new FY24 PWC members, including Brister Merritt (Grand Prairie), Aaron Russell (Lewisville), John Mears (Mesquite), Danielle Rix (Farmers Branch), Raymond Coffman (Mansfield), James Gaertner (Waxahachie), and Ted Sugg (Council of Engineering Companies). The City of Allen, represented by Joseph Cotton, is a new seat for this fiscal year because their population size meets the population threshold for a standing seat. Erin indicated that the nominations were approved at the Executive Board's September meeting. Matt welcomed the new members.

Samuel Morrall (NCTCOG) introduced himself to the members of the PWC as the new Public Works Planner. Erin described the bylaws for the PWC, including the NCTCOG mission, PWC purpose, membership/qualifications, appointment process/terms of office, officer duties, meetings, annual work program/budget, and bylaws guidance. Erin mentioned that the cost-share calculation is reviewed by the PWC every five years and will



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need to be reviewed for FY26. This discussion may need to occur this summer to ensure communities have enough notice to prepare for their annual budgets. A special subcommittee within the PWC usually helps with the process.

### 4. Implementing Infrastructure AI for Roadway Safety

Collin Moffett, Senior Transportation Planner at NCTCOG, presented information about their efforts to prepare infrastructure to operate autonomous vehicles, which covers AI, cybersecurity, and intelligent infrastructure.

Collin explained that the freight optimization project seeks to leverage a cloud-based infrastructure light solution to provide signal prioritization for trucks at freight heavy intersections. The system sends signals to the cloud for the traffic signal to do priority request three to five seconds of actual green time to allow a truck to get through without stopping. Studies show this results in a 10 to 12 percent increase in fuel efficiency and provides emissions reduction. The Green Light Optimized Speed Advisory (GLOSA) provides notifications through mobile devices that truckers have in cabs to give a speed advisory. Data is translated to provide truckers with an optimized speed advisory on how to hit the next green light. People without reliable internet cannot access these features. Digital navigation tries to provide resources and tools for public education on how they can use broadband to meet transportation needs.

Collin explained the Automated Vehicle (AV) 2.0, 2.1, and 2.2 programs are intended to assist local governments with the implementation of automated vehicles and associated technologies. AV 2.0 includes the bulk of autonomous vehicle deployments to improve the scale at which autonomy is deployed in a region. AV 2.1 includes: I-30 test bed, Waze data sharing, traffic signal data sharing, and a Regional AV Plan. Private app developers such as Waze can incorporate public sector-produced data streams, such as planned outages, public sector transportation data about design and lanes, grade, and topography. Waze or Google maps can offer a more efficient route when considering the topography. AV 2.2 includes planning for infrastructure and deployment. The Fort Worth AV truck port just received Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval and meets the need for truck parking. Also, it allows for autonomous trucks to operate in a more efficient way. The program seeks to promote the use of transit through autonomy and providing connected vehicle technology to improve fixed route service. Round 1 of AV 2.2 originally included AV bus deployment for the DART-Love link but will be revised to include other Tech Transit services.

Collin further explained the Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx). It is important because autonomous vehicles need to know what lanes of traffic are closed, if workers are present, and if there is a speed advisory. It is helpful for human drivers to see in advance whether they are approaching a work zone and which lane to be in. Eventually, this will be implemented into vehicles' software. The TXShare program awarded five vendors to provide work zone data reporting services. Any public sector entity that joins the TXShare program may take advantage of this federally compliant procurement process.



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Collin mentioned a pilot study in Plano used AI infused dashcam data analysis that reduced the need for manual inspection to automatically detect work zones. Also, there was an automated four-mile road survey in Plano versus a manual road survey that resulted in about a \$475,000 potential savings. NCTCOG's Transportation Department has investigated improving emergency response to roadway incidents using traffic speed deviation alerts from crowdsourced data through Waze. Future initiatives may include: regional ITS cybersecurity, distributed acoustic sensing, dynamic flood warning system, smart intersections, and AI-enabled infrastructure inspections.

Sam Davis (Texas Materials) asked if they are looking for private entities to work with on any of these initiatives, and if so, he would be interested in participating. Collin provided his contact information for any follow up.

### 5. City of San Antonio's Cool Pavement Program

Murray Myers (San Antonio) presented information on the city's cool pavement pilot program and their overall urban heat island (UHI) mitigation efforts. The program started when a Climate Action Plan passed in 2019 to include UHI mitigation. A workshop for smart surfaces was held in Los Angeles where products were evaluated for mitigation by various cities. Murray mentioned that there was a lot San Antonio did not know about heat mitigation, but there is a need for heat mitigation tools. The City Manager's office created a UHI delivery team in 2022 to address the various mitigation tools (e.g., cool roofs, tree canopy, cool pavement, and cool walls).

Sunscreen that goes on streets and titanium dioxide that reflects heat are helpful. Parking lots are releasing heat into neighborhoods at night which prevents neighborhoods from cooling down. Cool pavement became common during maintenance in East San Antonio. Ten cool pavement pilot projects began in 2023, funded by the city's Climate Action Fund, which allocates \$8 to 10 million annually under four categories (Business Incentives, UHI Mitigation, Leverage Federal Funding, and Small Grants to Community Organizations). The 10 locations were data driven and prioritized by equity, heat, pavement condition, and tree canopies using GIS.

Murray mentioned that four products were tested (GAF, Guard Top, Pave Tech, Seal Master). Professors from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) assisted with testing to identify pavement performance and heat mitigation and are currently working on data analysis. Choosing the most effective product takes coordination. Another UTSA team looked at data sets which include heat score of surface temperature to create a heat and equity map to prioritize UHI mitigation.

The City of Baltimore produced a cost-benefit analysis of heat mitigation tools which prompted San Antonio to do the same. Cool pavement is 20 to 35 percent more expensive but lasts twice as long. All the products tested have pavement preservation and Guard Top and GAS were the best. San Antonio is conducting a resident survey about the color,



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which is lighter than asphalt. Two weeks before installation, educational materials were provided to residents to explain the cool pavement and 90 percent of comments were positive.

San Antonio was selected for a Google Cool Roofs Project to track average albedo of cool roofs. Murray mentioned that next year, they will conduct two cool neighborhood pilot projects to include cool roofs, cool pavement, and tree canopies to see how effective they are.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 6. Regional Public Works Draft FY24 Work Program

Erin Blackman displayed a slide listing the cities and counties that have paid their FY24 Public Works Program cost-shares, as well as any donations received. Eight communities are participating, which accounts for 11 percent of the budget.

- **Public Works Roundup**

A survey was provided to all Roundup attendees to complete at the end of the Roundup. Erin displayed the results of the survey. Most responses for the overall impression and usefulness of content presented were excellent. Most respondents also thought that their subject needs were addressed (good or excellent). Attendees thought the most useful parts of the program were the presentations, networking opportunities, and the legislative updates. Attendees wanted to add sustainable public rights of way (SPROW) topics, a 30 to 45-minute session to meet with attendees, and water quality and pumping topics. Other topics they wanted to see at future roundups include how cities conduct plan reviews and approvals, railroads and highways, project management tools, and conflict resolution for communication. Erin asked attendees for suggestions on other venues, as we may have outgrown the Grapevine Convention Center. None were suggested.

- **Standard Drawings Subcommittee.**

Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) said there were no comments during the 30-day period. Drawings will be taken to the Executive Board later today for adoption and expect drawings to be available in the online NCTCOG store after Thanksgiving. Emails will be sent out to previous purchasers of the 5th edition with a free digital copy of the updated Standard Drawings. If you believe your organization should receive a copy, please contact NCTCOG staff. Print versions will require payment to reimburse costs of printing and compiling.

- **Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) Subcommittee**

Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) suggested the possibility of combining the SPROW and iSWM subcommittees since there is topic overlap. There were no comments from PWC members and she asked them to think more about it.

- **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee**

Casey Cannon (NCTCOG) provided an update on Ranjan Muttiah's (Subcommittee Chair) behalf. The next meeting will be held virtually on January 17th. NCTCOG staff



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and Halff Associates have been developing preliminary material for project deliverables for iSWM BMP training (development submittal and review), iSWM promotional presentations, panel discussion on iSWM implementation, and research on cumulative stormwater impacts of small footprint development.

### 7. Other Program Activities.

#### • **Cooperative Technical Partnership (CTP) Program and the Community Rating System (CRS) Users Group**

Kate Zielke provided an update on CTP, a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program. The East Fork program includes the cities of Lowry Crossing and McKinney and Collin County and is 56 percent complete. The Hog Branch program includes the towns of Ponder and Northlake and Denton County and is 74 percent complete. FEMA's priorities have changed so they will not be pursuing new risk map projects in the next year.

Erin Blackman provided an update on the CRS Users Group. NCTCOG, in coordination with the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) and FEMA hosted a Floodplain Seminar for Elected Officials and Municipal Staff on October 19th.

There were 56 attendees, including 10 elected officials. • **Public Works Emergency Response Team (PWERT)**

Barry Fulfer, former PWERT Chairperson, has retired from the City of Grand Prairie and Clay Riggs (Flower Mound) was elected. He provided a brief update on PWERT's recent activities. For those who are unfamiliar with PWERT, it was created to provide public works assistance when an emergency or disaster overwhelms local resources. The response team was created by and for local governments and operates on a voluntary quid pro quo basis. PWERT first deployed in answer to calls for assistance during the 2012 tornado outbreak and continues to grow to meet regional needs.

The 2026 World Cup will take place in Arlington and PWERT is gearing their grant programming toward any World Cup response that is needed. Research has shown one game generates an audience like the Superbowl. Vehicle interdiction trailers will be present at the site to create roadblocks and traffic management trailers for traffic control.

For 2024, the goal is for three possible vehicle interdiction trailers in multiple cities (e.g., Garland, Irving, Richardson) and light towers. In June, the City of Commerce had 30 water mains break. Rowlett and Grand Prairie assisted by deploying message boards, and other cities provided light towers. Commerce is now seeking to join PWERT due to the disaster response.

#### • **Texas Chapter of American Public Works Association (TX-APWA)**

Katie Barron (City of University Park), President of the North Central Texas Branch of APWA, provided an update on the following events and activities:

- Their monthly board meetings take place on the third Tuesday of seven months.



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- They hosted an educational one-day seminar on November 15<sup>th</sup> in Hurst and 230 people were registered.
- The annual holiday luncheon will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup> in Carrollton with raffles to benefit foodbanks.
- The Texas Chapter Public Workshop is scheduled for February 5 to 7 in Wichita Falls.
- Roundtables will be presented, and inspector roundtables will be developed by Robert Woodbury (Cedar Hill).
- The sporting clay tournament is a large fundraising opportunity and registration opens in the new year. The scholarship amount will increase pending board approval.

### OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

#### 8. Roundtable Topics/other Business

Matt Leppla brought up the topic of high-speed internet and the challenge in Weatherford is that existing infrastructure has been damaged in placement of these lines. Gas lines have been hit and city staff want to put in safeguards for these issues. They have also explored penalties to offset cost and incentivize companies to protect infrastructure.

Sam Davis (Texas Materials) mentioned a citation model for willful or negligent damage via code compliance. Matt said that an ordinance was implemented in June that cites work being done without a permit or an expired permit. The citations are severe especially if hardscape infrastructure is damaged during the work period. This model was patterned after the City of Dallas and the best protection possible is with boots on the ground.

Sue Alvarez mentioned that the City of Dallas charges a franchise fee and puts limits on what they can do in a public ROW. This would take at least a resolution and maybe a charter change for cities. Cities could monetize it and slow down rogue installers. James Gaertner (Waxahachie) added that the idea of citing companies if they do not get a permit is favorable.

Joseph Cotton (Allen) holds a monthly franchise utility meeting with all franchises that have active permits. He said that in the beginning it was not a well-attended meeting, but permits will be delayed if there is a lack of attendance. They also keep spreadsheets of approved vendors, so they know who applied for permits.

9. **The Next PWC Meeting** is scheduled for in-person on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Erin mentioned there are Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) courses available at NCTCOG. Sue gave an update that NCTCOG received a million-dollar planning grant from EPA. It is attached to a climate pollution reduction program, partly to address local climate impacts, but focusing on regional air quality. The region is in severe nonattainment, and we have less than three years to reach attainment. NCTCOG hopes to develop a plan through a consensus with member governments for viable alternatives



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to improve air quality. That plan will be submitted to the EPA in March, and April is when grant applications are due for implementation actions with funding up to \$500M.

### 10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

**Public Sector Standing Member**

Allen

Joseph Cotton

Arlington

Keith Brooks (represented by

Andrea Ruales)

Christopher Funches

Carrollton

Jody Byerly

Collin County

Mark Hines

Dallas

Ali Hatefi

Derek White

Dallas County

Cecelia Rutherford

(represented by Ted Tegene)

Denton

Brett Bourgeois

Denton County

Stephen Belknap

Fort Worth

Juan Cadena

Michael Owen

Frisco

David Chacon

Garland

Mike Rozelle

Grand Prairie

Brister Merritt

Irving

Walter Thomas

Lewisville

Aaron Russell

McKinney

Paul Sparkman

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Mesquite

John Mears

Plano

Carrie Jones

Richardson

Jim Dulac

Tarrant County

Joseph Jackson

**Public Sector Subregional Representative**

Denton/Lake Cities Subregion

Jeffrey McSpedden, Town of Hickory Creek

DFW North Subregion

Clayton Riggs, Town of Flower Mound

East Subregion

Scott Monaghan, City of Fate

Mid-Cities Subregion

Caroline Waggoner, City of North Richland Hills

Northeast Subregion

Andrew Figueroa, City of

Celina

Northeast Dallas Subregion

Ronnie O'Brien, City of Rowlett

Northeast Tarrant Subregion

Keith Miertschin, City of Grapevine

Northwest Subregion

Dillon Luna, Town of Northlake

Northwest Dallas Subregion

Danielle Rix, City of Farmers Branch

Northwest Tarrant Subregion

Larry Hoover, City of White Settlement

Southeast Subregion

James Gaertner, City of Waxahachie

Southeast Dallas Subregion

Brooks Williams, City of Ferris

South Tarrant Subregion

Raymond Coffman, City of Mansfield

Southwest Subregion

Jeremy Hutt, City of Cleburne

Southwest Dallas Subregion

Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

West Subregion

Matt Leppla, City of Weatherford

**Private Sector Representative**

Associated General Contractors

Sam Davis, TexasBit

Connor VanSteenberg, AGC of Texas

Council of Engineering Companies



- Chris Cha, Pacheco Koch
- Ted Sugg, CobbFendley

Texas Council of Engineering  
Labs / Geoprosessionals  
Serving Texas  
 Lyndon Cox, Terracon  
Consultants

Public Works Council Meeting Attendance

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16, 2023

**Guests**

Susan Alvarez, NCTCOG

Katie Barron, City of University Park, TxAPWA North Texas Branch President

Erin Blackman, NCTCOG

Casey Cannon, NCTCOG

Layne Cline, City of Coppell

Carlos Geo Navarro, City of Dallas

Stephanie Griffin, Half Associates

Chris Klaus, NCTCOG (Transportation Department)

Collin Moffett, NCTCOG (Transportation Department)

Samual Morrall, NCTCOG

Murray Myers, City of San Antonio

Joshua Spencer, City of Dallas

Tewodros Tegene, Dallas County Kate

Zielke, NCTCOG

