

## **MINUTES**

### **Regional Transportation Council Thursday, November 13, 2025**

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The following RTC members or representatives were present: Daniel Alemán, Bruce Arfsten, Steve Babick, Rick Bailey, Elizabeth Beck, Curtis Berghold, Lorie Blair, Alan Blaylock, Randall Bryant, Ceason Clemens, Bill Cox, Theresa Daniel, Jeff Davis, Pat Deen, Andy Eads, Michael Evans, Carlos Flores, T.J. Gilmore, Raul Gonzalez, Lane Grayson, Mojoy Haddad, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jill Jester, Stephen Mason, Cara Mendelsohn, Cesar Molina, Jesse Moreno, John Muns, Matthew Porter, Paul Ridley, Jim Ross, David Salazar, Alisa Simmons (representing Matt Krause), Kathy Stewart, Burt Thakur, Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, and Duncan Webb.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Jennifer Arnold, Renee Arnold, Melissa Baker, Micah Baker, Jay Barksdale, Emily Beckham, Nathan Benditz, Natalie Bernal, Natalie Bettger, Brandi Bird, Alberta Blair, Jason Brown, Farhan Butt, Daniel Byrd, Katherine Cadenan, Jack Carr, Priscilla Chambliss, Lori Clark, Mandy Clark, Thomas Cochill, Dina Colarossi, Liam Crowley, George Cuba, Brian Dell, Rebecca Diviney, Darel Dryden, Clarence Falon, Ron Ford, Carmen Garcia, Mike Garcia, Eric Gallt, Gypsy Gavia, Rebekah Gongora, Christie Gotti, Gary Graham, Michael Haithcock, Tony Hartzel, Harris Hassan, Millie Hayes, Brianna Hernandez, Joel James, Tim Jauarel, Amy Johnson, Mike Johnson, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Dan Lamers, Anette Landeros, Eron Linn, Aaron Long, Juan Loya, Stanford Lynch, Clem Maddox, Dillon Maroney, Rob Matwick, Malcolm Mayhew, Joshua Menhennedt, Terry Meza, Kate Milner, Kenna Mitchell, Brian Moen, Juaoquin Moreno, Michael Morris, Faith Morse, Mark Nelson, Amir Omar, Mayah Parish, Donald Parker, David Parnell, Linda Patrick, Michael Peters, Vikrant Polke, John Polster, James Powell, Ezra Pratt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Marcus E. Ray, Gabe Rivas, Jasmine Rodriguez, Gary Slagel, Adam Socki, Claude Spivey, Toni Stehling, Christopher Taylor, Steve Templer, Luke Tinker, Lauren Trimble, Elisa Villnave, Laura Weis, Mark Wiggins, Amanda Wilson, Karla Windsor, Chris Wright, and Hua Yang.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda:** Rick Bailey, Regional Transportation Council Chair and Johnson County Commissioner, asked if there were any public comments. Chair Bailey read a written public comment submitted by Liam Crowley on agenda item 4. Written comments were provided and can be found in the Public Comments Report under the Director's Report agenda item.
2. **Approval of October 9, 2025, Minutes:** Approval of the October 9, 2025, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 was requested.

A motion was made to approve the October 9, 2025, meeting minutes as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Theresa Daniel (M); Matthew Porter (S). The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

- 3.1. **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program:** Regional Transportation Council approval of modifications to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was

requested. Direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and update any administrative and/or planning documents, as needed, to incorporate the programs and projects contained in the UPWP modifications was also sought.

3.2. **Air Quality Funding Recommendations Related to the Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program:**

Regional Transportation Council approval of funding recommendations for Waste Management through the North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 Call for Projects utilizing Environmental Protection Agency funds was requested.

3.3. **Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup Operational Projects and Staff Support and Trinity Railway Express Funding Trade:**

Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested to assign \$800,000 in Regional Toll Revenue funds from the existing Transit Sustainability Program to the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority for Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) preparedness and operations of the historic M Line trolley, replace \$400,000 of staff time out of the Transit Sustainability Program with RTC Local funds, and award the North Central Texas (NCT) 9-1-1 with \$200,000 in RTC Local funds to support Artificial Intelligence transcription and translation services in preparation for the World Cup. Approval to repurpose \$3.5 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funding previously approved for improvements to the Trinity Railway Express in preparation for the FIFA World Cup was also requested.

3.4. **Approval of Regional Transportation Council Local Funds to Support Regional Energy Management Assistance Program:**

Approval of \$62,500 in additional Regional Transportation Council Local funds was requested to support the Regional Energy Management Assistance Program which is anticipated to be funded by the State Energy Conservation Office.

A motion was made to approve Items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 on the Consent Agenda. Duncan Webb (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.

This Consent Agenda item was pulled and presented by Brian Dell.

3.5. **Funding for Klyde Warren Park Phase 2 Cost Overrun:** Regional Transportation Council approval of \$7.85 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funding and changes to non-federal funding for the Klyde Warren Park Phase 2 project was requested.

A motion was made to table this item until the December 11, 2025, Regional Transportation Council meeting. Duncan Webb (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris briefly highlighted items 1 through 3, 5, and 6, and requested action on item 4.

1. Implications from Federal Government Shutdown
2. Status Report on Regional Transportation Council Transit Vision Subcommittee Meeting in January

3. Denton County Judge Eads Honored with Texas Department of Transportation Road Hand Award
4. Dallas Area Rapid Transit Correspondence and Proposed Action on Regional Transportation Council Correspondence
5. 2025 Federal Certification Review Report for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney Frisco Transportation Management Areas
6. 2025 Regional Transportation Council Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Priorities
7. North Texas Zero Emission Vehicles Call for Projects Is Open Now
8. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report
9. Additional Correspondence from Hunt-Related Entities on High-Speed Rail
10. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight
11. 2025 Ozone Season Update
12. Air Quality Funding Opportunities ([www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding))
13. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events ([www.dfwcleancities.org/events](http://www.dfwcleancities.org/events))
14. September – October Public Comment Report
15. October Public Meeting Minutes
16. November Public Meeting Notice
17. Recent News Articles
18. Recent Correspondence
19. Recent Press Releases

A motion was made to approve Regional Transportation Council correspondence to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Department of Transportation regarding ongoing discussions related to transit services in the Dallas-Fort Worth region that could have implications to the State Implementation Plan (Electronic Item 4.3). Randall Bryant (M); Bill Cox (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Proposed Traffic Signal Program Funding Process**: Natalie Bettger presented and requested Regional Transportation Council approval of the proposed strategic traffic signal funding process.

A motion was made to approve the Traffic Signal Funding Process including eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria for funding requests, categorization of traffic signal improvements, and cost-sharing; development of a funding program through the Regional Transportation Council to implement traffic signal needs identified as part of this process; and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the program. Duncan Webb (M); Michael Evans (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan - Transportation Elements**: Chris Klaus requested Regional Transportation Council approval of transportation elements of the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan.

A motion was made to approve the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan: Comprehensive Action Plan - Transportation Elements, including emissions inventories, 2030 and 2050 Transportation Emissions Projections, 25 percent emission reduction goal, and transportation measures; and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed. Theresa Daniel (M); Lorie Blair (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Advance Fort Worth to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor Identification and Development Program, Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Study, and the McKinney Passenger Rail Corridor Study:** Dan Lamers reviewed the background and current context for each item and requested the Regional Transportation Council consider the following items for approval:

- Item 1 Request the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board and direct the Project Team to proceed with the Federal Railroad Administration-led Corridor Identification and Development Program for Step 1: Scope of Work development for the Fort Worth to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor.
- Item 2 Request the NCTCOG Executive Board and direct the Project Team to proceed with the Federal Transit Administration's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) initiative for the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Study, including direction to advance the Western Dallas Alignment Alternative with the Interstate Highway 30 Integrated High-Speed Rail Corridor through the NEPA process.
- Item 3 Request the City of Fort Worth and City of Arlington to complete their high-speed rail Economic Impact Study for evaluation, along with completed economic impact study efforts.
- Item 4 Add the City of Plano's withdrawal election from the Dallas Area Rapid Transit to Go/No-Go decision point between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the McKinney Passenger Rail Corridor Study.
- Item 5 Administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the above actions.

A motion was made to take a separate action on each of the five items listed above in Item 7. Steve Babick (M); Paul Ridley (S). The motion to consider items individually passed unanimously.

A motion was made to table action on Items 1 and 2 until the January 2026 RTC meeting. Paul Ridley (M); Cara Mendelsohn (S). The motion to table failed.

A motion was made to approve Items 1 and 2. Jim Ross (M); Michael Evans (S). Jesse Moreno requested an amendment to the motion to remove the Eastern Alignment from consideration through the NEPA process. The amendment was accepted by Jim Ross and Michael Evans. The motion with amendment passed.

A motion was made to table action on Item 4 until the February 2026 RTC Transportation Council meeting. Steve Babick (M); Matthew Porter (S). The motion to table passed.

No action was taken on Items 3 and 5.

8. **Interim Final Rule on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program:** This item was not presented due to time constraints.
9. **Status Report on Major Regional Transportation Council Initiatives; Path Forward for 2027–2029 Management and Operations Program:** This item was not presented due to time constraints.

10. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle Round 6**: This item was not presented due to time constraints.
11. **Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program**: This item was not presented due to time constraints.
12. **Regional Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Transit Safety Performance Measures – Crime Data Request**: This item was not presented due to time constraints.
13. **Progress Reports**: Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 13.1, and Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes were provided in Electronic Item 13.2.
14. **Other Business (Old or New)**: There was no discussion on this item.
15. **Future Agenda Items**: There was no discussion on this item.
16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for **1:00 pm, Thursday, December 11, 2025.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.