

REVISED AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, August 23, 2024

North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda (Meeting Will be Held as a Videoconference)

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of July 26, 2024, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Gus Khankarli, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the July 26, 2024, 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. Transportation Paid Education Campaigns for Fiscal Year 2025

Presenter: Whitney Vandiver, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will seek the Committee's support for the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) recommendation to the North Central Texas Council of Government's (NCTCOG) Executive Board for the approval of funding up to \$1,779,750 for Transportation Paid Education Campaigns that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

Background: Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale advertising purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. The education campaigns are for Public Involvement for multiple projects including safety campaigns of Drive Aware North Texas, Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety (Look Out Texans), Unmanned Aircraft Safety, and Freight North Texas; the Congestion Management Program (Try Parking It); air quality campaigns of Car Care Awareness and Ozone Season Emissions Reduction (Air North Texas), and Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications is for possible unanticipated costs that may arise, such as a specialized public meeting series that may need notifications posted. Efforts will be supported by a combination of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds, Transportation Planning Funds, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds,

Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Toll Revenue, RTC Local funds, Private funds, RTC Transportation Development Credits, and Federal Highway Administration in lieu of cash match. Education campaigns will be in multiple languages and may be presented through out-of-home advertising, print, screen, social media, digital, and audio platforms. [Electronic Item 2.1](#) provides more detail.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Safety

2.2. November 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Modification Cycle

Presenter: Charles Marsh, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: November 2024 revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP are provided as [Electronic Item 2.2](#) for the Committee's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2.3. North Texas Advanced Air Mobility and Uncrewed Aviation Systems Funding

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to increase RTC Local funding to continue efforts related to Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) deployment in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Background: Since 2017, staff has been collaborating with the region's cities and other relevant stakeholders to integrate AAM Technologies. Work in this area continues to increase as regional partners have implemented pilot projects with private-sector partners. To continue support with these efforts, staff will be requesting an increase of \$1,700,000 in RTC Local

funding to work with regional airports, local jurisdictions, and other partners to continue efforts within the region to deploy AAM operations. This funding increase includes funding to support staffing resources, Phase 2 of the North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot, infrastructure, and other costs associated with AAM operations. [Electronic Item 2.3](#) provides additional information on this item.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Endorsement of Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Submission**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Committee endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council's approval for the submittal of a regional planning grant application and local match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY2024) 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program.

Background: The United States Department of Transportation has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the solicitation of applications for FY2024 SS4A funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new SS4A discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next five years. A maximum of one grant application of any type may be submitted per agency. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed regional planning grant that will be submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Total project cost is \$2 million. The grant application will request \$1.6 million in federal funds, supported by \$400,000 of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds for the required 20 percent local match. If awarded, the planning grant will advance the regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan by conducting a feasibility study and in-depth planning for regional trail and on-street bikeway connections through the cities of Fort Worth, Haltom City, North Richland Hills, and Richland Hills to passenger rail stations in northeast Tarrant County, including various Trinity Metro TEXRail stations and the Trinity Railway Express Trinity Lakes station. This supplemental safety planning will include the future Cotton Belt Trail alignment between Fort Worth and North Richland Hills and numerous necessary safe trail crossings of major arterial roadways, highways, freight railroads, and waterways. On August 8, 2024, the RTC approved the requested funding

to support the grant application due on August 29, 2024. An overview of the proposed project is contained in [Electronic Item 3](#).

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

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Federal Performance Measures Update: System Performance, Freight, Air Quality**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Jenny Narvaez and James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on a proposed reaffirmation of 2026 targets for federally required performance measures related to excessive delay, non-single-occupant-vehicle travel, and emissions reductions.

Background: In 2022, the RTC adopted 2024 and 2026 targets for the set of federally required performance measures commonly known as PM3. This includes measures broadly related to roadway system performance, freight, and air quality. The RTC now has an opportunity to adjust or reaffirm 2026 targets for a subset of these measures, if appropriate, based on new data and analysis methodologies. Staff will present results and recommendations to the RTC for action on September 12, 2024. Action on the remainder of the PM3 performance measures is anticipated in early 2025. Refer to [Electronic Item 4](#) for more details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Application Partnership for the Cotton Belt Trail**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for a partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) for a capital construction grant application and associated federal and local match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program for portions of Phase 3 of the Cotton Belt Trail along the Silver Line rail project. The action will also include a request for additional Surface Transportation Block Grant/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds and Regional Toll

Revenue funding to support this leveraging of requested federal funds.

Background: The United States Department of Transportation has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the solicitation of applications for FY2024 RCP funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the RCP program, with \$457 million allocated for capital construction grant funding in FY2024. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project that removes, retrofits, or mitigates transportation facilities which create mobility, accessibility, and/or economic development barriers to community connectivity and vitality. Staff will provide an overview of the DART partnership and funding recommendations for the proposed capital construction grant to construct Phase 3 sections of the Cotton Belt Trail located in Addison, Carrollton, Coppell, and Dallas. If awarded funding, DART will procure a contractor and manage construction of the trail which is primarily located within rail right-of-way. Additional information is provided in [Electronic Item 5](#).

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

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Work Zone Data Exchange Implementation Call for Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Vickie Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the eligibility, criteria and schedule for the Work Zone Data Exchange 2024 Call for Projects will be requested.

Background: In March 2022, a procurement was issued to secure vendors through the North Central Texas Council of Government's (NCTCOG) TXSHARE Cooperative Purchase for Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx). Five vendors are under contract to perform work in three areas related to WZDx including the conversion of raw work zone data into WZDx format, establishment of a WZDx-compliant reporting system, and general WZDx services. In June 2023, the RTC directed staff to engage regional partners on project scoping and execution to continue this effort. In addition, the RTC has set aside \$2.5 million to award local governments to implement WZDx services to continue to make progress in this area. Additional information is provided in [Electronic Item 6](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Funding: Program of Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shawn Dintino, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024) Public Transportation Funding Programs of Projects will be requested.

Background: As the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration funds in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney-Frisco Urbanized Areas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has developed Programs of Projects to suballocate approximately \$194.6 million in FY2024 Section 5307, Section 5339, and Section 5337 federal funding to public transit providers in the region. Approximately \$12.75 million in funding will be programmed in the future, including Section 5310 funding. [Electronic Item 7.1](#) includes additional information. [Electronic Item 7.2](#) contains the proposed FY2024 Programs of Projects.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:30 – 2:50

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 20

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. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery ([Electronic Item 8.1](#))
2. Connecting the Dots: High-Speed Rail, Transit 2.0, and 2050 Demographics Forecast
3. Transit 2.0 Implementation – Next Steps ([Electronic Item 8.2](#))
4. North Central Texas Council of Governments Not Selected Under Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Implementation Grants Program
5. Regional Transportation Council 50th Anniversary Celebration
6. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing of Managed Lanes During Reconstruction

7. Selected Regionalism: Interest and Equity (from July Meeting)

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:50 – 3:00

9. **Railroad Crossing Elimination Program – Discretionary Grant Funding**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to submit a project in the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. Applications are due to the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) by September 23, 2024.

Background: In July 2024, the USDOT announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for FY24 RCEP funding. This \$1.150 billion program (two funding years) includes certain funding amounts set aside for the following purposes: (1) Planning - \$38.2 million; (2) Rural or Tribal Grade Crossing Improvement Projects - \$229.3 million; and (3) Highway-Rail Grade Crossing safety information and education programs - \$3 million. Applications for each funding category are due to US DOT by September 23, 2024, and eligible entities are limited to a maximum of three applications per solicitation. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project (or group of projects) improving the safety/mobility of people and goods through: (1) grade separation or closure; (2) track relocation; (3) improvement/installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures, provided such activities are related to (1) or (2); and (4) innovative solutions via technology, education, and/or other means. Available at <https://railroads.dot.gov/grants-loans/railroad-crossing-elimination-grant-program>, the FY23/24 RCEP NOFO describes the application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements, and available technical assistance during the grant solicitation period. A presentation includes the proposed action in [Electronic Item 9](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Safety

3:00 – 3:10

10. **Regional Transportation Council Legislation Program and Status of Transit 2.0**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Rebekah Gongora and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Significant progress is underway. The staff director will highlight the tasks associated with Transit 2.0 and the role of the Regional Transportation Council in the implementation of each task.

Background: [Electronic Item 10.1](#) provides additional information on Transit 2.0 and [Electronic Item 10.2](#) provides the schedule for the legislative program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

3:10 – 3:20

11. **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. *Daniela Tower* – 2024 Ozone Season Update ([Electronic Item 11.1](#))
2. *Irlenia Hermosillo* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
3. *Irlenia Hermosillo* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
4. *Jackie Castillo* – July Public Meeting Minutes ([Electronic Item 11.2](#))
5. *Jackie Castillo* – September Public Meeting Notice ([Electronic Item 11.3](#))
6. *Jackie Castillo* – June – July Public Comments Report ([Electronic Item 11.4](#))
7. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports ([Electronic Item 11.5](#))

12. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on September 27, 2024.**