

North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

# Transit Bulletin

## Topics

- ❖ CHIPS and Science Act
- ❖ Arlington Via Service Hits Record High
- ❖ Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan
- ❖ Fort Worth Benefits from Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant
- ❖ Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge
- ❖ Transit Resources
- ❖ New NCTCOG Staff

## Mark Your Calendars!

Event	Recurrence	Due Date
Charter Service Reports	Quarterly	October 15, 2022
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Mods	Quarterly	Mod Requests for February TIP cycle by October 28, 2022
Monthly Reporting	Monthly	The 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month
COVID-19 Forms	Monthly	The 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month (in conjunction with monthly reporting)

## Reminders

- Email invoices to [trgrants@nctcog.org](mailto:trgrants@nctcog.org)
- Email board packets to [transit\\_ops@nctcog.org](mailto:transit_ops@nctcog.org)

## Celebrate Your Staff

Do you have extraordinary staff?



Let us highlight them in our next bulletin! Send ideas to [transit\\_ops@nctcog.org](mailto:transit_ops@nctcog.org)

## Local Spotlight

Bettie McClellan, Community Transit Services



For the last 18 years, Bettie McClellan has worked with Community Transit Services (CTS) in Ellis and Navarro Counties as a driver and a dispatcher. In her current role as a dispatcher, she responds to clients' needs and manages scheduling reservations for riders. Bettie works with other members of

the CTS team to design routes and provide the best service possible to riders. She maintains contact with drivers and oversees route implementation to ensure that early, on time, and late services can be balanced as needed. While the role is demanding, Bettie is proud of her work, CTS' mission and her amazing coworkers.

# Transit in the News

## CHIPS and Science Act

On August 9, 2022, President Joe Biden signed the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act. This law invests in American science and manufacturing to help support the challenges in the supply chain. Transit partners across the region and across the country have felt the strain of the microchip shortage as it has impacted the production of rolling stock. The law does not directly impact transit but should provide needed relief to the supply chain. The full text can be found on [Congress' website](#).

## Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

On July 8, 2022 the State published the Texas Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Plan. This plan calls for charging stations throughout major corridors with a distance no greater than 50 miles between stations. The high level goals of the EV Network are **redundancy**: multiple options at multiple locations, **adequate power**: sufficient connections for market vehicles, **pull through capability**: spaces for light duty vehicles or RV campers, **standardization**: consistent charging ports at all locations, **education**: outreach on charging habits, locations & capability, and **evaluation**: monitoring and adjusting the network as need grows. For more details, please see [the plan](#).

## Arlington Via Service Hits Record High

Arlington's Via Rideshare service served nearly 60,000 rides in June, a record high. The service, which started in 2017 covers the entire city for a fare of \$3 -\$5 based on trip distance. City officials have linked the high cost of fuel to the increased ridership. Other partners in the region have also partnered with Via to provide microtransit including the Denton County Transit Authority, the City of Grand Prairie, and Trinity Metro, who uses Via to operate their ZipZones.

## Southeast Fort Worth Benefits from Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant

The North Central Texas region was awarded over \$250,000 to identify innovative, affordable transit solution and create strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NCTCOG will engage with non-profit partners and individuals who live in areas of persistent poverty. The plan will address racial inequities related to access to food, housing, healthcare, and jobs, as well as environmental justice concerns related to air quality. This will be a step in the right direction to aid [a community with the lowest life expectancy in Texas](#).

## Phase 2: Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge

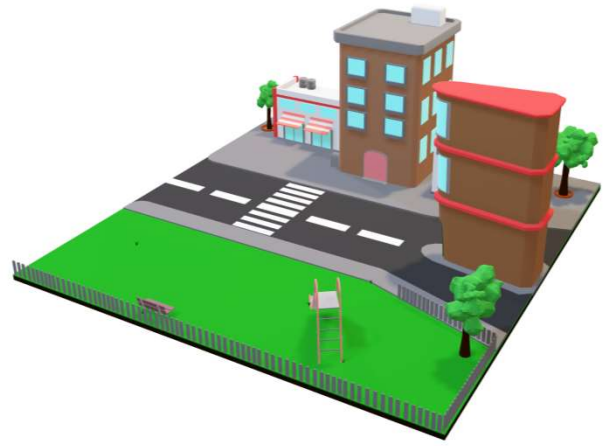
The FTA has launched phase 2 of the challenge which encourages transit agencies to take bold actions to reduce emissions & support reduction goals. The challenge calls on transit agencies to develop plans that include strategies to achieve emission targets.

Phase 2 will seek to increase participation by 25% to 250 total FTA recipients. To learn more about how your agency can participate see the [FTA's website on the Climate Challenge](#).

# TRANSIT RESOURCES

## Friday Transportation Seminars at TREC

The Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) at Portland State University hosts Friday transportation Seminars on what is usually a monthly basis. These seminars include valuable topics including innovative transit practices, equity and social justice measures in transit, and comprehensive planning for cities. These seminars frequently include speakers who are either experts in the field or are upcoming scholars of transit. To learn more about the them, sign up for future ones, or watch recorded archived seminars you can visit TREC's [website](#).



## Regional Mobility Managers Meeting

The Regional Mobility Managers Meetings (RMMM) brings together transportation providers to learn about regional transportation topics, identify best practices, challenges, opportunities, and creates an environment that encourages peer-to-peer discussion. Transportation partners within the NCTCOG 16-County Region are encouraged to participate, share updates pertaining to their programs, and provide feedback on future discussion topics. The next meeting will be hosted on September 7th and staff from Trinity Metro will cover how vanpool enhances regional public transportation efforts. Previous topics have included driver recruitment & retention, travel training programs, equitable fares initiatives, and equity & environmental justice in transit planning.

For more information on these virtual quarterly meetings or to be added to the email invite list, please contact Evan Paret at [eparet@nctcog.org](mailto:eparet@nctcog.org).

## Regional Data Center

[The NCTCOG Regional Data Center](#) is an excellent resource for objective information and analysis for use in planning and development activities. This website allows users to download both tabular datasets and geographic data layers. The data focuses on population, employment, land use, development, and geospatial data in the 16-county region, as well as highway and public transit data.

Data Categories include:

- Boundaries
- Demographics
- Census
- Economy
- Environment
- Hydrology
- Features & Developments
- Land Use
- Transportation



## Upcoming Events



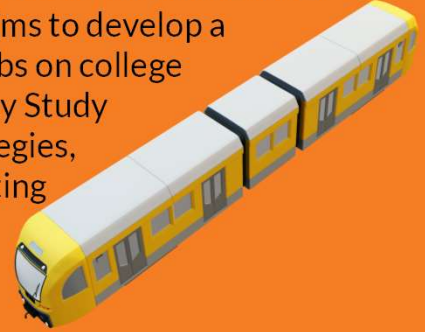
Regional Mobility Managers Meeting..... September 7, 2022  
APTA TRANSform Conference..... October 9-12, 2022  
TxDOT Semi-annual Transit Operators Meeting..... September 14, 2022

### NTI Trainings

-Various Monthly Trainings available at [NTI's website](#)

# Transit Studies Underway

In Spring 2022 NCTCOG launched two transit studies, one for Denton County which aims to develop a comprehensive public transportation plan and will focus on non-member cities of DCTA, and a College and Intermodal Hub Study that aims to develop a guide for planning and strategic implementation of mobility hubs on college and university campuses around the region. The Denton County Study will focus on transit options, funding and implementation strategies, while the College Intermodal Hub study will assess needs, existing conditions and impacts to transit ridership and connections. For more information you can contact Andrew Pagano at [apagano@nctcog.org](mailto:apagano@nctcog.org).



## New NCTCOG Transit Staff

**Margarita Zollo** is a planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning team. She began working with NCTCOG in February 2022. Margarita is from Houston and moved to Fort Worth in 2019. Before starting at NCTCOG, she spent several years working with grants and endowments at Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Arlington. She earned degrees in political science from Texas A&M public administration from UTA. You can reach Margarita @ [mzollo@nctcog.org](mailto:mzollo@nctcog.org).



**Anna Willits** is a planner with NCTCOG. She's been working as a project manager since February 2022. She grew up in Houston, Texas and pursued degrees in political science and geography at the University of North Texas. She's currently pursuing a master's degree in city and regional planning at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is passionate about transit but enjoys cooking, gardening and reading. You can reach Anna via email at [awillits@nctcog.org](mailto:awillits@nctcog.org).

**Asa Woodberry** is a planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning team. Asa is a Dallas native but studied political science and urban & regional planning at Texas Tech & Alabama A&M Universities. He has worked with the US Census Bureau & various political campaigns. Asa enjoys volunteering, relaxing at the beach, trying new restaurants and learning more about real estate and finance markets. You can reach Asa via email at [awoodberry@nctcog.org](mailto:awoodberry@nctcog.org).

