

NCTCOG FACT SHEET

October 2022

QUICK TAKE

What:

Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology (CERTT) program

Details:

Authorized by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in May 2022, the CERTT program creates the opportunity for technology providers of innovative, capital-intensive transportation technology to connect with local governments that may be interested in deploying that technology to meet a transportation need in their community.

Significance:

For technology providers, CERTT provides a single point-of-contact to coordinate across the entire planning area. For local governments, CERTT provides assurance that the providers involved have serious proposals for solving transportation problems in the 12-county metropolitan planning area as well as equal opportunity to submit locations for consideration.

RTC Program Streamlines Transportation Solutions

Dallas-Fort Worth has become known for its embrace of innovative approaches to meet transportation challenges. Now, there is a process in place to help determine which potential solutions fit best and where they should be implemented.

The Regional Transportation Council approved the creation of a new program in May 2022 for evaluating innovative transportation technologies that can help meet the pressing transportation needs in the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth area. Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology (CERTT) seeks to build upon the success of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area as a leader in technology advancement and to integrate the development, testing, certification and deployment of new modes of travel.

The CERTT program seeks to solve a problem for developers of new transportation technologies by creating partnerships with the public sector to identify where an innovative and capital-intensive transportation technology can be proven and certified for public use before undertaking widespread implementation.

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Likewise, CERTT helps local governments by offering the opportunity to solve a transportation need in their community. North Texas is the fourth-largest region in the nation with a population of 8 million and continues to grow, posing challenges for its transportation system. The traditional transportation system will be expanded to help accommodate the expected growth.

Even with the recommended improvements in the Mobility 2045 Update, the region's long-range transportation plan, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) forecasts more corridors will become significantly congested by 2045. The region needs new, innovative ways of addressing transportation limitations to provide safe, reliable alternatives to travelers and preserve quality of life.

Cities and counties can take advantage of these innovative solutions and are informed of new technology

providers through the CERTT process. These local governments can submit potential locations for implementation, allowing the providers to choose the most appropriate candidates to pursue. This provides a level playing field where all local government entities in the region have the opportunity to attract new technology to their communities. NCTCOG staff will be available to support coordination for proposals that cross multiple jurisdictions, as some technologies may require longer corridors for their certification. Once a technology provider has selected a potential corridor and local partner to move forward with, detailed negotiations regarding contingencies, project timelines, and funding considerations will occur between the provider and the local government.

CERTT will continue accepting new technology provider proposals for a variety of transportation applications suitable to the ever-growing region, and local governments will be notified of each opportunity to consider new transportation technologies.

Certification Process

When a company decides to propose a transportation technology solution, the policy triggers a process aimed at ensuring a level playing field.

1. NCTCOG staff ensures technology solution conforms to policy guidance and long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
2. NCTCOG staff briefs the RTC, which then take action to initiate the process.
3. Local governments may then submit potential locations for the technology.
4. The Technology provider determines which location to pursue.
5. The RTC initiates development activities, with NCTCOG staff providing support.

