

AGENDA

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Friday, May 24, 2024
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

1:30 – 1:35

1. **Approval of April 26, 2024, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the April 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. **Proposed Amendments to the Mobility 2045 – 2022 Update**
Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to amend the Mobility 2045 Update with the inclusion of one and the removal of two non-regionally significant roadway projects.
Background: A roadway project is proposed for addition to Mobility 2045: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2022 Update for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to advance planning and design activities. These projects are not yet ready to be considered for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and are only proposed to be included as a part of the system of recommendations in the Mobility 2045 Update at this time. As these projects are considered “non-regionally significant” (designation for air quality purposes), their addition to the Plan does not impact transportation air quality conformity. Additionally, two non-regionally significant roadway projects are proposed for removal from the Mobility 2045 Update for financial constraints. Removal of these projects does not preclude them from being re-added at a later date. Fact sheets of the proposed additions can be found in Electronic Item 2.1.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Air Quality and Safety Demonstration Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Anthony Moffa, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of three demonstration projects, including vehicle safety components, metal license plate readers, and a heavy-duty diesel vehicle emission tampering assessment.

Background: Efforts continue to reduce negative transportation impacts on regional air quality and safety. Three projects will total \$1 million in funding from Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) and RTC Local funds. With the phasing out of vehicle safety inspections by January 2025, there is a need to continue to educate the public on the importance of proper vehicle safety component operation and maintenance to decrease roadway crashes and fatalities. The car care safety integration project will partner with vendors and coordinate to replace safety components in vehicles as needed. Staff plan to start the project by January 2025 using RTC Local funds. While vehicle temporary paper plates will phase out beginning July 1, 2025, the potential for fraud remains with the current metal license plates. The license plate readers project will be coordinated with local law enforcement to utilize cameras that can read license plates, determine the rate of fraudulent plates, and identify next steps as necessary. This project will start in the fiscal year 2025 using RTR funds. The ease of which heavy-duty diesel vehicles can have their emissions systems tampered with and disabled has led to potential widespread tampering within the region. The truck assessment and goods movement program will evaluate the severity and impacts of tampered trucks operating in the region, assess air chemistry modeling and regional air quality monitors disparity, and determine options to eliminate these illegal practices. Staff plan to initiate the project in the fiscal year 2025 using RTR funds. These initiatives are an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 3 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. **2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Development**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document, including the final listing of RTC commitments will be requested.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. Electronic Item 4 contains an overview of the TIP development process and schedule. The financially constrained 2025-2028 TIP Document and final Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) listings are available at the following weblink: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/funds/tip/transportation-improvement-program-docs/2025-2028tip>. Projects in FY2025-2028 will be included in the 2025-2028 TIP, and projects in FY2029 and later will be placed in Appendix D of the TIP. Projects in FY2024 and earlier are provided for information but will not be included in the 2025-2028 TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program Grant Application Partnership for the Cotton Belt Trail**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval of a partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to submit a grant application for funding to construct Phase 3a of the Cotton Belt Trail along the Silver Line rail project.

Background: The DART Silver Line rail project is coordinating the regionally significant parallel Cotton Belt Trail providing pedestrian and bicycle access to rail stations in seven cities across three counties from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport to Plano. Accommodation for the approximate 26-mile regional trail was included as part of DART's planning and construction of the commuter rail corridor. A \$12 million federal grant application will be submitted for trail construction consisting of nearly three miles of additional trail sections, trail bridges, signals, and street crossings in portions of Addison, Coppell, and Dallas. Developed by North Central Texas Council of Governments staff, a grant application will be submitted by DART to the Federal Highway Administration Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) to advance Phase 3a construction by leveraging existing federal and local funding currently programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program for trail construction within the application area. Regional Toll Revenue funding of \$4.3 million will be requested as a local contribution to

support this leveraging of requested ATIIP federal funds. If awarded funding, DART will procure a contractor and manage construction of the trail which is primarily within rail right-of-way. Staff will provide an overview of the DART partnership grant application and funding recommendations to construct the Phase 3a sections of this priority regional trail corridor. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 5.

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

2:10 – 2:30

6. 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. New Officers in June
2. Transit 2.0 Implementation – Next Steps (Electronic Item 6)
3. Committee Status Survey
4. Regional Transportation Council Cluster Membership Correspondence Deadline – June 30, 2024
5. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing of Managed Lanes During Reconstruction

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

7. 2050 Demographics for New Mobility Plan

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) staff will present Population and Employment Regional Control Totals for the year 2050 to support the upcoming development of the Mobility 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Background: Federal Metropolitan Planning regulations require that demographic forecasts to support the Metropolitan Transportation Plan are evaluated every four years consistent with the four-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan development cycle. One of the initial steps in NCTCOG's demographic forecasting process is the review of Regional Control Totals for population and employment. Forecasts from external sources have historically been utilized to estimate these regionwide estimates of future growth in the region. Over the past year, NCTCOG Research and Information Systems (RIS) and Transportation staff have completed an analysis of various control total forecasts. Results of this analysis and the

recommended 2050 Regional Control Total for Population and Employment will be presented. A summary of data collection activities which have been pursued over the past four years to develop the detailed 2050 demographic forecast and steps being taken to complete the 2050 forecast for local review will be highlighted.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:40 – 2:50

8. **Updates on Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present an update on the status of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Clean Cities Coalition and highlight opportunities to get involved, including an upcoming process to be redesignated by the Department of Energy.

Background: Since 1995, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been the host organization for DFW Clean Cities Coalition, a United States Department of Energy initiative to reduce total energy impacts in the transportation sector. DFW Clean Cities recently completed a major data-gathering effort to compile impacts of local fleet efforts in using alternative fuels, reducing idling, and other measures to improve fuel and energy efficiency. The Coalition has also established a Technical Advisory Committee and established a strategic plan. Finally, the Department of Energy has notified NCTCOG staff that the Coalition is due for a review and redesignation this fall. Electronic Item 8 provides more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:50 – 3:00

9. **Invitation to Participate in the Charging Smart Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief update and invite local governments to participate in Charging Smart, a new designation program that awards municipalities for electric vehicle (EV) readiness.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments, in conjunction with its role as host agency of the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition, received funding to partner in a project led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) called Charging Smart. This program launched a pilot phase of Charging Smart for local governments in North Texas. Through this program, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition will provide personalized, no-cost technical assistance to local governments in setting and achieving EV readiness goals. This will help local governments align their local policies with national best practices to facilitate the

equitable expansion of EVs. Local governments that achieve certain metrics are awarded Bronze, Silver, or Gold designations, providing national recognition of their work to support the advancement of EVs and the improvement of local air quality. Electronic Item 9 provides additional detail.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:00 – 3:10

10. **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. *Brian Wilson* – Connecting North Texas (Handout)
2. *Gwen Schaulis* – Public Involvement and Mobility 2050 Outreach
3. *Maggie Quinn* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
4. *Maggie Quinn* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
5. *Maggie Quinn* – Air Quality Project Spotlight: Hydrogen Planning Project (Electronic Item 10.1)
6. *Daniela Tower* – 2024 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 10.2)
7. *Jackie Castillo* – April Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 10.3)
8. *Jackie Castillo* – June Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 10.4)
9. *Jackie Castillo* – March – April Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.5)

10. Written Progress Reports:

- Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.6)

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

12. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on June 28, 2024**.