

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

April 11, 2024

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following members or representatives were present: Bruce Arfsten, Dennis Bailey, Rick Bailey, Elizabeth Beck, Gyna Bivens, Alan Blaylock, J.D. Clark, Ceason Clemens, Michael Crain, Theresa Daniel, Jeff Davis, Andy Eads, Michael Evans, George Fuller, Raul Gonzalez, Barry Gordon, Lane Grayson, Mojoy Haddad, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Brandon Jones, Terry Lynne (representing Steve Babick), Cara Mendelsohn, Ed Moore, Jesse Moreno (representing Chad West), John Muns, Omar Narvaez, Long Pham (representing Jim Ross), Manny Ramirez, Tito Rodriguez, David Salazar, Chris Schulmeister, Gary Slagel, Jeremy Tompkins, and Duncan Webb.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Susan Alvarez, Steve Anderson, Micah Baker, Jay Barksdale, Natalie Bettger, Alberta Blair, Tandy Boroughs, Stuart Burzette, Laura Cadena, Jack Carr, Lorena Carrillo, Molly Carroll, Angie Carson, Meredith Cebelak, Lori Clark, Jeff Coalter, Dawn Dalrymple, Bob Dubey, Chris Dyser, Chad Edwards, Kevin Feldt, Phil Foster, Carmen Garcia, Rebekah Gongora, Christie Gotti, Joel James, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Carolyn King Arnold, Ken Kirkpatrick, Andy Kissig, Tracey Knight, Kevin Kokes, Dan Lamers, Christopher Lee, Eron Linn, Aaron Long, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Sydnee Mangini, Dillon Maroney, Stephen Mason, Rich Matyiku, Bill Medina, Kate Milner, Kenna Mitchell, Jim Moffitt, Erin Moore, Michael Morris, Paroo Muegliche, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Quang Nguyen, Catherine Osborn, Donald Parker, Brinton Payne, Michael Peters, James Powell, Lauren Prieur, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Abbas Rastandeh, Carrie Rogers, Kathryn Rotter, Connor Sadro, Rodney Schlosser, Aliyah Shaikh, Devon Skinner, Randy Skinner, Toni Stehling, Shannon Stevenson, Jonathan Toffer, Lauren Trimble, Anna Willits, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, and Karla Windsor.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda:** This item allows members of the public an opportunity to comment on agenda items. Regional Transportation Council Chair Gyna Bivens asked if there were any public comments. No members of the public chose to speak at the meeting or provide written comments.
2. **Approval of March 21, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the March 21, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Manny Ramirez (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 3.1 **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program:** Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested of the proposed modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as well as approval and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program along with and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications. The proposed amendments were provided in Electronic Item 3.1.1, that were and had been posted on the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG's) website for public review

and comment as part of the March 2024 public outreach opportunity. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 3.1.2.

- 3.2 **Additional Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Funding for Greenville Avenue Trail Project as Part of Cotton Belt Trail:** Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested -for \$1,092,500 in additional Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) funds and 218,500 Transportation Development Credits for the existing RTC-funded Greenville Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project in Richardson (TIP 40071/CSJ 0918-47-323) to complete the 2023 Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant partnership.

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

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Chair Bivens introduced the Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold, City of Dallas. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Arnold expressed appreciation to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and Michael Morris for their efforts to ensure that everyone works together as an integrated team in terms of mobility and access to achieve greatness. In addition, she expressed gratitude for the \$80 million that was received for funding on four pedestrian caps, including Klyde Warren Park (Phase 2), Southern Gateway (Phase 2), Interstate Highway 30 Farmers Market “Three Fingers”, and McKinney State Highway 5. Also, Michael Morris congratulated Karla Windsor, Sydnee Mangini, and Stuart Burzette of the North Central Texas Council of Governments for writing the applications that won four proposals, and the reason for the visit from Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on April 4, 2024. Michael congratulated Trinity Metro for the grand opening of its Trinity Lakes station Michael also congratulated and expressed appreciation for Victor Vandergriff and his partnership with NCTCOG, RTC, and the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC) as Michael attended his annual event. Rebekah Gongora will bring items back to the Council prior to the Legislative Session this summer along with the Transit 2.0 implementation’s next steps as the members will be contacted to set up their meetings in the future. Devon Skinner, son of Randy Skinner, Tarrant County Director of Transportation and Surface Transportation Technical Committee member were recognized for the heartfelt email honoring his dad, Randy. Michael congratulated Randy for his hard work and the implementation of transportation projects while working at NCTCOG for 10 years and Tarrant County for 24 years. Shannon Stevenson was also recognized for 25 years of employment at NCTCOG. Shannon will be working as the Assistant City Manager for Norman, Oklahoma. Electronic Item 4.1 contained correspondence to Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson and Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker regarding weighted voting on the RTC for the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. The City of Fort Worth felt that the timing was not right at this time to pursue changes to the membership, therefore the topic will be advanced to 2026 when the Bylaws are scheduled for review and no changes will be made. The Metropolitan Planning Organization’s 50th anniversary celebration is in the planning stages and a luncheon will occur on August 8, 2024, during the Irving Summit. The Spring 2024 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course will be held on May 2, 2024, and details and registration information was provided in Electronic Item 4.2. Michael thanked Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn King Arnold for her encouraging remarks. Commissioner Theresa Daniels asked about a news article provided in Electronic Item 4.10, “Dallas Residents Hear City’s Plan to Address Traffic Dangers on Ferguson Road.” She asked how does striping work to address speeding. Michael Morris responded that along with the RTC approving \$50 million in safety programs, more law enforcement is needed in that area, and

staff will look into what traffic operation devices, such as speedbumps or engraved concrete, can be placed in the roadway, and possibly lighting for illumination.

5. **North Central Texas Council of Governments Grant Management and Regional Transportation Council Initiative Fund:** Michael Morris presented information on a proposed Grant Management and Regional Transportation Council Initiative Fund. These funds would be used to support application development, grant management, compliance, performance measures, oversight, and would also be available for staff assistance to broader RTC-directed projects that are not budgeted through authorized programs. RTC Local funds would be added to the fund as new grants are won (estimated 2-5 percent of award) and would establish over \$3 million which would provide direct project benefit by fully funding the original grant project. Michael presented details and an overview of the 15 federal grant applications with either North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) direct funding recipients and grantees or recent direct awards authored by NCTCOG; implemented and/or submitted by others. Duncan Webb asked if the RTC is responsible for indirect funds. Michael responded that RTC has the final decision.

A motion was made to approve the Grant Management and Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Initiative fund with \$3 million in RTC Local funds, with additional funds to be programmed by the Transportation Director for new awards, and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Statewide TIP along with other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes. The motion also included a directive for staff to provide an annual report to both the RTC and Executive Board regarding the level of funding being consumed as well as the frequency of its usage. Duncan Webb (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **2024 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program:** Shannon Stevenson presented a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on a proposed regional submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program. On February 8, 2024, FTA released a Joint Notice of Funding Opportunity under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) with \$1.1 billion in funding available for the low or no emissions and \$393.5 million in funding available for the Bus and Bus Facilities grant. The purpose of the grant programs is to provide support for the state and local efforts to buy or modernize buses, improve bus facilities, and improve regional air quality goals, but have two requirements that must include a zero-emissions transition plan with 5 percent of a federal request that must be dedicated to workforce development. Shannon mentioned North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) proposal for the Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities grant would purchase up to 59 electric vehicle (EV) buses and 12 EV charging stations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and regional transit providers. The total budget estimated at \$55,472,890 million that includes a local match of \$2,840,916 from Trinity Metro and 5,906,168 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). The application deadline is April 25, 2024, with the anticipated award announcement on July 10, 2024. More information was provided in Electronic Item 6. Raul Gonzalez asked what happens to the vehicles after use during FIFA World Cup. Michael Morris responded that staff would like to send the vehicles to 2028 FIFA participants. Barry Gordon asked the impact of inflation on funds that are approved now for vehicle purchases in 2026. Shannon responded that staff has been in contact with vendors and purchases and if approved, staff was ready to go into contract quickly to avoid inflation-related costs.

A motion was made to approve of a regional grant application submittal to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Low-No and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant programs, not to exceed \$55,472,890 including the use of 5,906,168 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of local match. Trinity Metro will provide \$2,840,916 local match for their buses and infrastructure. Staff was also directed to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Statewide TIP, and other planning/administrative documents to include this Federal Transit Administration grant, if selected. Barry Gordon (M); Raul Gonzalez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Proposed Regional Transportation Council Broadband Program:** Connor Sadro presented a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of program criteria related to the four proposed elements of broadband activities. He provided a brief background from March of 2022 with the approval of proposed deployments of phase 1/emergency autonomous vehicles in McKinney and Dallas and phase 2 infrastructure broadband project with the City of Fort Worth. The four proposed elements include: 1) North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will assist the region with the coordination of data collection and analysis for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates; 2) NCTCOG will create a policy committee consisting of elected officials in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office; 3) NCTCOG will leverage this policy committee to form a legislative program that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs; and 4) NCTCOG will continue with outreach to broadband practitioners in the region and encourage municipalities to appoint broadband technical leads. Additionally, NCTCOG will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents, This program requires that the RTC form an ad hoc policy committee that creates and executes a legislative program, guided by the needs of the Technical Committee, that accomplishes the following goals: suggested broadband legislation amendment, additions or deletion, State-level broadband funding program language, and will have 15 seats encompassing the following designations: County representation (2 urban and 2 rural seats) and Municipal representation (7 urban and 4 rural seats). Connor mentioned the critical role for the Internet for All Coalitions is to guide broadband data collection and coordination. The final function is to guide NCTCOG staff in the creation of a regional broadband activity strategy. The Regional Broadband strategy document will serve as a foundation for all public agencies interested in starting or expanding their broadband efforts. Electronic Item 7 provided more details.

A motion was made to approve the program criteria associated with the four proposed elements of broadband activities for North Central Texas Council of Governments as presented and the use of \$1.3 million in federal funds to execute activities. Manny Ramirez (M); Ron Jensen (S). The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Congestion Relief Grant Program Submission:** Natalie Bettger presented a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a regional project submittal and matching funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Congestion Relief Grant (CRG) Program. The program is a continuation of the Congestion Relief Grant program with \$150 million available; a minimum award of \$10 million per grant with a 20 percent local match required, but the project must be obligated by September 30, 2027. A Notice of Funding Opportunity was released on February 21, 2024, and applications are due on April 22, 2024. The goals for the relief program include improving intermodal integration with highway, highway operations, and highway performance; reducing or shifting highway users to off-peak travel times or to non-highway travel modes during peak travel times; and pricing of, or based on,

as applicable to parking, use of roadway, including in designated geographic zones, or congestion. The vision for the program is to determine whether projects are equitable to the traveling public and affected communities, consider and mitigate any safety impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fine particulate matter, and consider and mitigate any potential adverse financial impacts to low-income drivers. Natalie mentioned the location and the scope on congestion corridors such as: United States 75, Interstate Highway (IH) 635E, IH 35W, IH 35E, and IH 30. The program hopes to utilize the technology to verify and offer incentives to change travel behavior for guaranteed transit on-time arrival, shift from car to transit, shift in vehicle time of day traveling, and shift in truck time of day traveling. She mentioned the anticipated total budget of \$20 million with federal funds and requested 4 million in Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of the required 20 percent match. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 8. Barry Gordon questioned why Interstate Highway 45 was not included on the list of corridors being evaluated as part of the program. Michael Morris noted that staff looked at corridors with several modes of congestion and that IH 45 would be considered if the initial review of corridor leads to an expanded list of congested corridors.

A motion was made to approve the submittal of the Dallas-Fort Worth Congestion Relief Program Proposal for funding consideration through the FY24 Congestion Relief Grant Program of \$20 million and 4 million Transportation Development Credits, and to administratively amend the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP, as well as other planning and administrative documents, to include the proposed project if selected for an FY24 Congestion Relief Grant Program. Elizabeth Beck (M); Omar Narvaez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants Submission:** Karla Windsor presented a request for approval of a regional planning project submittal and local match funds for the fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program. The SS4A grant has \$1.26 billion for FY24 available and is inclusive of all types of roadway safety interventions across the safe systems approach with only one application per agency allowed. There's \$580 million in funding available with a \$100,000 minimum or \$10 million maximum award for the planning/demonstration grant. Staff proposed the Crossing Students Safely in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region (CroSS-DFW) project to conduct additional planning around schools in targeted corridors and beyond recommended by the Regional Roadway Safety Plan and the Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. The total planning budget - \$6.25 million with \$5 million in federal funds and \$1.25 million in Regional Toll Revenue funds as the match source. Executive Board action will be requested on April 25, 2024. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will be submitting an application by the May 16 deadline. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 9 for more information.

A motion was made to approve the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) planning grant application for the FY 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program, using \$1.25 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for non-federal match should the project be selected for funding. The motion also included direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP, along with other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes. Tito Rodriguez (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program:** Jeff Neal presented a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. A total of \$5.2 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (RURAL) with applications due on May 6, 2024. For the Dallas County Inland Port (DCIP) Multimodal Connectivity Project, all of the funding amounts and sources are the same as they were for RAISE except that staff will submit the RURAL Grant application on behalf of Dallas County. Jeff also highlighted the cost and funding characteristics of the SH 183 Segment 2E project, indicating that while the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) anticipates being a co-applicant on Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) MEGA Grant submittal, no direct non-federal funding contribution from the RTC is included. NCTCOG proposes to also resubmit the AllianceTexas Smart Port Project for the INFRA Grant. He mentioned that the FY25-26 MPDG Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released on March 26, 2024, and RTC signed letters of support for projects submitted by partners are due April 24, 2024. Additional program, application requirements, and candidate project details were included in Electronic Item 10, while more comprehensive information can be obtained at: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-program>.

A motion was made to approve the submittal of proposed Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program applications, with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as the applicant for two projects and co-applicant for another project; allocation of previous Regional Transportation Council (RTC) funds: AllianceTexas Smart Port Project & Dallas County Inland Port (DCIP) Multimodal Connectivity Project – same as FY 23/24 MPDG (INFRA) & FY 24 RAISE applications, respectively, but to also include as contingency responsibility for \$10,900,000 in non-Federal funds to partner with local/private entities for the AllianceTexas Smart Port Project only; and administratively amend Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP, as well as other planning/administrative documents, to include proposed projects if selected for FY 25-26 MPDG program awards. Michael Evans (M); Jeremy Tompkins (S). The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Developing Mobility 2050: Kickoff:** Dan Lamers presented information on development of Mobility 2050. The Mobility Plan requires an update every four years and the life of the plan must look forward to at least 20 years into the future. The Plan must be financially constrained and go through federal conformity determination process once adopted. The focus areas include new demographics; updated travel demand model and analysis; major updates to projects, programs, and policies; a new financial plan; robust public involvement; and enhanced final product (plan document and tools). Dan highlighted the timeline including the Plan kickoff which began in October 2023, draft Plan to be posted online in January 2025, RTC adoption in June 2025. Dan briefly mentioned the federal, State, and regional goals and planning factors. There are multiple ways to provide input via www.nctcog.org/M50, such as taking the survey/opinion poll or using Map your Experience. Visit www.nctcog.org/PlanInProgress for more information on the Plan. Electronic Item 11 contained additional details.

12. **Look Out Texans Video Local Distribution:** Kevin Kokes provided an update about the Look Out Texans safety campaign and a request for local government assistance to distribute the campaign videos through local media outlets. The Look Out Texans campaign funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDOT) was launched in 2015 by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as an education campaign aimed at increasing safety for all road users across North Texas. The campaign highlights the rights and responsibilities when walking, bicycling, or driving, and encourages neighbors, friends, and families to do so as well. Kevin briefly provided driving, walking, or bicycling safety tips including personal testimonies of crash survivors, responsibilities, sharing the road, driver distractions, and awareness. He requested that local governments help spread safety information by running Look Out Texans safety educational videos during March through November on local government access channels, online streaming platforms, public building message boards, and social media. Videos available for distribution range in length and examples can be viewed online at: www.lookouttexans.org/videos. An overview of the partnership effort for local safety education and outreach was contained in Electronic Item 12.
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):** Theresa Daniels mentioned an article in the Dallas Morning News on “How Flying Cars Could Change How We Travel” and how we could incorporate that in our travel in the future.
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 Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.