

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, February 9, 2023
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

- 1:00 – 1:10**
1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda**
 Information Minutes: 10
Item Summary: Members of the public may comment on any item(s) on today's agenda at this time. If speaking, please complete a Speaker Request Card, available at the meeting, and provide to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum three (3) minutes is permitted per speaker. At the conclusion of this item, no further opportunities for public comment will be provided for the duration of the meeting.
Background: N/A
- 1:10 – 1:15**
2. **Approval of January 12, 2023, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Duncan Webb, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the January 12, 2023, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:15 – 1:20**
3. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes : 5
 - 3.1. **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program**
Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the FY2022 and FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to also administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications will also be sought.
Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2022 and FY2023 UPWP was approved by the Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board in July 2021 and identifies the activities to be carried out

between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2023. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect a project update, funding adjustments, and the creation of a new UPWP chapter to reflect initiatives that have been approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) but are outside of the timeframe of the current Work Program. The proposed amendments are provided in Electronic Item 3.1.1 and will be posted on the NCTCOG website for public review and comment as part of the February public outreach opportunity. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.1.2. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee took action at its January 27, 2023, meeting to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3.2. Fiscal Year 2023 Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives: Phase Two

Presenter: Mindy Mize, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will seek the Council's support to recommend NCTCOG Executive Board approval of up to \$1,041,000 in funding of Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives: Phase Two that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Last month, the Surface Transportation Technical Committee recommended Regional Transportation Council approval.

Background: Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale advertising purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. Electronic Item 3.2.1 provides a reminder of Phase One FY 2023 budget previously approved as well as more information on Phase Two 2023 education campaign costs along with examples of past education campaigns and associated campaign performance measure summaries. Education campaigns in Phase Two will support Car Care Awareness, Drive Aware North Texas, Engine Off North Texas, Freight North Texas, HOV 2+ Incentive Program (GoCarma), Know Before You Fly, National Drive Electric Week, Ozone Season Emissions Reduction Campaign (Air North Texas), Report Smoking Vehicles Program, Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions, Transit COVID Recovery Campaign, and Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications. 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. Education campaigns will be in multiple languages and

may be presented through out-of-home advertising, print, screen, online, audio, and social media mediums.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

1:20 – 1:35

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Executive Board Work Session Air Quality Summary (Electronic Item 4.1)
2. Changing Mobility Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 4.2)
3. USDOT Announcement of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program Awards
4. Mobility 2045 Update Executive Summary (www.nctcog.org/PlanInProgress)
5. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Policy Bundle Workshop, February 15, 2023 (www.nctcog.org/policybundle)
6. Development of FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program: Project Ideas
7. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 4.3)
8. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
9. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
10. DFW Clean Cities Annual Survey Open (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/annualreport>)
11. Local Government Energy Reporting Due March 3 (Electronic Item 4.4)
12. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 4.5)
13. February Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.6)
14. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.7)
15. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.8)
16. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.9)
17. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.10)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Cotton Belt Trail Phase One and Phase Two Partnership**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval regarding funding for the Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail in partnership with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line rail project from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine to Shiloh Station in Plano.

Background: The DART Silver Line rail project is coordinating a parallel regionally significant Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail corridor that will provide pedestrian and bicycle access to rail stations in seven cities across three counties.

Accommodations for the approximate 26-mile regional trail have been included as part of DART's planning for the commuter rail corridor. Additional funding is needed for construction of the Phase 1 bridge sections of the trail intended to be completed by the Silver Line rail design-build contractor prior to the rail beginning revenue service. Funds will also be requested to provide an extension of betterment walls associated with the Silver Line rail project. A two-contractor approach will be used for construction, partnering with DART for additional trail bridges and trail segments in the corridor. An expedited Phase 2 will be implemented with a second contractor to be procured by DART to construct various remaining trail bridges, street crossings, and trail sections before the Silver Line rail revenue service. Supported by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), applications will be submitted by DART to the Texas Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects and the US Department of Transportation 2023 RAISE grant for the Phase 2 construction and will leverage existing federal and local funding currently programmed for trail construction in the corridor. Regional Transportation Council funding to support this leveraging of funds will be requested. Staff will provide an overview of funding recommendations and DART partnership grant applications to implement various sections of this priority regional trail corridor. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 5.

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

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Regional Safety Performance Targets Update 2023-2027**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of federally required regional Roadway Safety Performance targets for 2024-2027 and will provide an update on 2021 actual performance. Roadway Safety targets are focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities for motorized and non-motorized travelers.

Background: In December 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. The FAST Act requires certain performance measures be included in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. These measures were established by a series of four rulemakings: Safety, Infrastructure Condition, System Performance/Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transit Asset Management. In December 2017, the Regional Transportation Council adopted 2018 targets for Roadway Safety performance and in February 2019 affirmed that support through target year 2022. Adoption of new safety performance target setting for 2024-2027 is now needed. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the North Central

Texas region, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is required to set regional targets for Roadway Safety. These safety targets will be used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the State of the Region report. The proposed 2024 Roadway Safety targets and reduction schedule for 2024 – 2027 targets will be presented as Electronic Item 6 along with the preliminary biennial report for 2021 targets vs. 2021 actual performance.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology Round Two: Swyft**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action to advance Swyft Cities' proposal to interested local governments that may wish to submit locations for the technology provider to consider. This technology follows the requirements established by the RTC as defined in Policy P22-02, including the utilization of the initial certification track or pilot corridor for eventual commercial service that fulfills a transportation need identified by the Mobility 2045 Update.

Background: In May 2022, the RTC adopted Policy P22-02 to develop a process for the Transportation Infrastructure Certification Program (now named CERTT). This program serves to guide a consensus-building path among the RTC, interested local governments, and transportation technology providers in bringing innovative transportation solutions to our region with the end goal of a commercial application serving a long-range transportation need. This transparent process ensures a level playing field for transportation technology providers wishing to prove their technology and for local governments wishing to attract unique and innovative transportation technologies to solve their transportation needs. Swyft is a gondola-like transportation developer based in California, focused on developing overhead transportation gondolas operating in either a gridded or linear fashion. Staff is continuing to review letters of interest from technology providers wishing to join this program and will update the RTC and Surface Transportation Technical Committee on the results of these applications as they advance through the process. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 7.1 and Policy P22-02 is provided as Electronic Item 7.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

Background: In December 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program regarding strategic capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have significant local or regional impacts. A copy of the amended Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is published at: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>, providing specific program details and application requirements for the \$2.275 billion program. Electronic Item 8 provides information regarding candidate projects. Applications are due to the US DOT by February 28, 2023. For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Wednesday, February 10, 2023, at nallen@nctcog.org.

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

2:15 – 2:25

9. **Federal Railroad Administration Grant Programs**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of intercity rail corridors/projects to be submitted for funding consideration and/or inclusion in future project development activities through two programs administered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA): Corridor Identification and Development Program and Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program. Staff efforts for both programs may include coordination with external partners, including the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Amtrak, as well as development of application materials to support the primary applicant(s).

Background: In December 2022, the United States Department of Transportation announced the solicitation of applications for FRA's Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program (new) and Federal-State Partnership (FSP) for Intercity Passenger Rail Program. Both programs are designed to advance intercity passenger rail, of which high-speed rail projects are eligible. The Corridor ID Program is designed to

facilitate the development of intercity passenger rail corridors, establishing a pipeline of intercity rail projects, to guide future project development and capital investments. In summer 2022, FRA sought expressions of interest for this Corridor ID Program to which the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) responded in August 2022 with the Dallas-to-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail corridor. The Texas Department of Transportation also responded to FRA with an expression of interest in October 2022 citing several intercity passenger rail corridors throughout the state, including renewed service between the Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas and the Houston Amtrak Station, and new service east of Marshall, Texas connecting the Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas to the Meridian, Mississippi Union Station. The Federal State Partnership (FSP) for the Intercity Passenger Rail Program focuses on advanced project development and implementation of intercity passenger rail projects. Application deadlines are included as follows: Corridor ID Program – March 20, 2023, and FSP Intercity Passenger Rail Program – March 7, 2023. Electronic Item 9.1 includes previous letters of support from the RTC for Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer expansion. RTC’s resolution, R22-01, reaffirming support for intercity passenger rail along the IH 20 corridor between Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta, Georgia is included as Electronic Item 9.2. Expressions of Interest submitted by NCTCOG and TxDOT for FRA’s Corridor ID Program cited above are included as Electronic Item 9.3. Further information can be found in Electronic Item 9.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:25 – 2:35 10.

Federal and State Legislative Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Rebekah Gongora, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 118th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2023. The 88th Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023. This item will allow staff to provide updates on key positions of the Regional Transportation Council and allow any additional positions to be taken, if necessary.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:35 – 2:45 11. **Latest Transportation Performance Metrics for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present the latest congestion performance measures related to the mobility success of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region.

Background: Electronic Item 11 contains two graphics: the first figure has previously been presented to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and demonstrated the congestion levels in the DFW region over time. The second figure is recent information that indicates the DFW region is the 14th most congested region in the United States (US). This is an amazing finding since the DFW region is the 4th soon to be the 3rd largest region in the US. This graphic compares Dallas-Fort Worth's congestion levels with other more congested cities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:45 – 2:55 12. **Roadway Safety Plan**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the newly developed Regional Roadway Safety Plan including analysis, High Injury Network, recommended countermeasures, and next steps.

Background: From 2016-2020, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 12-county area experienced 3,752 fatalities and 19,405 serious injuries on its roadways. The Regional Roadway Safety Plan is the first regionwide plan to eliminate all fatal crashes on our roadways by 2050 in accordance with safety positions adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and the Texas Transportation Commission. Staff will provide an overview of the newly developed Roadway Safety Plan, including goals, analysis, emphasis areas, and recommended safety countermeasures. The plan also includes a High Injury Network, which is a prioritized list of the most dangerous roadway segments in the region. The Regional Roadway Safety Plan will serve as a guide for the implementation of future systemic safety projects and programs to work towards a goal of zero fatalities on the region's roadways by 2050. Staff will provide an overview of the Roadway Safety Plan as Electronic Item 12. A draft version of the Roadway Safety Plan can be reviewed on the Transportation Safety web page: [North Central Texas Council of Governments - Transportation Safety \(nctcog.org\)](http://North Central Texas Council of Governments - Transportation Safety (nctcog.org)).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

13. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 13.1)
- STTC Attendance (Electronic Item 13.2)

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

15. **Future Agenda Items:** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

16. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm on March 9, 2023, in the Transportation Council Room.***