

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

Technology Project Identification

North Texas Zero Emission Vehicle Call for Projects

Fiscal Year 2027-2029 Management, Operations and Air Quality Program

Meeting Date and Location

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held a hybrid public meeting on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025, at noon in Arlington. Patrons could attend in person, via phone or view the live stream at www.publicinput.com/nctcogNov25. Natalie Bettger, Senior Program Manager, moderated the meeting attended by 89 people.

Public Meeting Purpose and Topics

The public meeting was held in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Plan, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the metropolitan planning organization, and amended on Nov. 10, 2022. Staff presented information about:

- Technology Project Identification – **presented by Braulio Bessa**
- North Texas Zero Emission Vehicle Call for Projects– **presented by Juliana VandenBorn**
- Fiscal Year 2027-2029 Management, Operations and Air Quality Program – **presented by Cody Derrick**

The public meeting was held to educate, inform and seek comments from the public. Comments were solicited from those attending who wished to speak for the record. The presentations made during the meeting as well as a video recording were posted online at: www.publicinput.com/nctcogNov25.

Summary of Presentations

Technology Project Identification presentation:

<https://nctcog.org/getmedia/ba4abf4e-144b-4774-9062-a8be69f33a23/Technology-Project-Identification.pdf>

The Technology Innovation Program aims to promote regional coordination and innovation readiness by deploying emerging transportation technologies that improve safety, efficiency and connectivity. The program currently includes seven completed projects, three canceled projects and six ongoing initiatives with continued partner coordination. Funded through \$8.7 million from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), the Innovation Program uses transportation development credits to cover local matches and supports the new Technology Project Identification (TPI) Framework, which is a three-step process for collecting ideas, evaluating eligibility and managing procurement.

The TPI Framework will guide future project selection in five emphasis areas: road safety, innovative mobility for food access, delivery bots/drones, next-generation traffic systems and autonomous shuttles/vehicles. Projects will be evaluated based on innovation, regional investment value and partnership potential, with projects requiring a maximum cost of \$3 million, technology readiness, data-sharing commitments and compliance with federal procurement and connected vehicle standards. A draft schedule is under development as timelines and next steps continue to be refined. The Regional Transportation Council is expected to take action on final ideas for the Technology Innovation Program in July 2026.

North Texas Zero Emission Vehicle Call for Projects presentation:

<https://nctcog.org/getmedia/8b0e8856-d883-4f14-90c9-d812ba7ea0a1/North-Texas-Zero-Emission-Vehicle-Call-for-Projects.pdf>

NCTCOG was awarded \$60 million from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Program for the North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicles Project. Most of the funding supports a call for projects that provide rebates for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)—specifically battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles—and their supporting infrastructure. An additional \$1.4 million will fund zero-emission workforce development and training through a separate proposal process. Eligible applicants include both public and private fleets that adopt the Regional Transportation Council's Clean Fleet Policy. Replacing diesel heavy-duty trucks, which are responsible for approximately 70 percent of ozone-forming pollution in the Dallas-Fort Worth region, will significantly reduce air pollution.

The call for projects opened Oct. 24, 2025, and applications are due Feb. 13, 2026, at 5 p.m. If funds remain, NCTCOG may reopen applications in 90-day increments. All reimbursements must be requested by Oct. 31, 2027. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is also offering free technical assistance for applicants. For more information, visit [NCTCOG - North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicles Project](#).

Fiscal Year 2027-2029 Management, Operations and Air Quality Program presentation:

<https://nctcog.org/getmedia/3dfaa90e-93bc-451c-b358-3937caf32fd9/FY2027-2029-Management-Operations-and-Air-Quality-Program.pdf>

The Management, Operations and Air Quality Program provides funding to improve the region's air quality, manage the transportation system and address safety issues. The funds are also used to provide planning and implementation assistance to reduce congestion and support public transit as well as bicycle/pedestrian projects and programs. The last funding cycle covered fiscal years 2024 through 2026. The current proposal recommends funding for fiscal years 2027 through 2029 using a mix of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and other regional resources. These programs help the region remain below the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) motor vehicle emissions budget, which is critical as long-range air quality projections show emissions trending upward toward 2050.

Over the next three fiscal years, NCTCOG is proposing approximately \$90 million in funding: \$16.06 million for planning activities, \$18.02 million for air quality initiatives, \$47.67 million for implementation programs and \$8.24 million for travel demand management efforts, including employer trip reduction and vanpool programs. The proposed timeline includes public involvement efforts, a Regional Transportation Council (RTC) information briefing and potential action by the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and RTC in December 2025.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE MEETING

Technology Project Identification

Don Stilley, Citizen

A. Additional project information

Comment: Some of the projects mentioned here are listed as ongoing or canceled. How can I find more information about them, specifically the AV projects?

Summary of response by Natalie Betteger: I can provide you with additional information about those projects, along with more detail on why certain projects were canceled. Many of the cancellations were based on the agencies' level of interest, while the ongoing projects are still moving forward. Since these are technology projects that were funded several years ago, we've been emphasizing the need to either get them started or consider canceling them. That's why you're seeing some listed as canceled—those decisions were based on feedback from the agencies.

For the projects that are still active, we can definitely give you more information, including points of contact at the agencies so you can reach out directly to the project managers. I can follow up with you after the meeting and provide all of the information.

Fiscal Year 2027-2029 Management, Operations and Air Quality Program

Phyllis Silver, Citizen

A. Traffic signaling and congestion initiative

Comment: I'm particularly interested in learning more about the Fiscal Year 2027–2029 Management and Operations items that Cody Derick discussed. I'm very interested in topics like traffic signaling and congestion conformity, so I'm hoping the handouts will provide additional detail. Thank you.

Summary of response by Jackie Nolasco: We'll make sure you receive all of the standard information. Thank you so much for your comment.

Other

David Robison, Citizen

A. Regional airport expansion

Comment: I read the recent newsletter and noticed the discussion about developing air travel and aviation career opportunities. It made me wonder whether NCTCOG has explored creating a commercial passenger or freight airport in the eastern part of the region, specifically near Poetry, Texas, in Kaufman and Hunt counties. With McKinney expanding its regional airport and other major cities having multiple airports, I believe this area, especially with nearby Rockwall County and the future Collin County Outer Loop, could serve many communities like Greenville and Tyler.

As our population grows, traffic will only worsen; even now, getting to DFW from Mesquite during rush hour is difficult. Based on what I've seen in Los Angeles, congestion can become extreme if we don't plan ahead. I think now is the right time to consider an airport in this part of the Metroplex while land is still available, and I wanted to share this idea so it's on NCTCOG's radar.

Summary of response by Natalie Betteger: Yes, and I'll definitely make sure this comment gets to the people who handle that work. I do work on the aviation side of things, and while most of our aviation efforts focus on general aviation facilities, we also coordinate closely with Love Field and DFW Airport to monitor their capacities and identify when they may reach maximum capacity. They share that information with us, and we assess it from a regional perspective.

We've also been in communication with McKinney as their interest in expanding airport capabilities has grown. I will make sure this information reaches the appropriate staff who are looking at these issues.

George Cuba, Citizen

A. DART referendum

Comment: I have a question regarding DART. How is NCTCOG and the Transportation Department accounting for and adjusting to the four DART member cities that voted this past week to put their DART memberships up for a citywide referendum, especially since some of these cities have little intention of providing a suitable transportation alternative if they withdraw from DART?

Summary of response by Natalie Bettger: Regarding those items, that's something our director, Michael Morris, is taking to our policy board—the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). They will ultimately decide how these developments may impact on the region's transportation plans and operations. RTC will be discussing this as an agenda item at their upcoming meeting, and I can provide you with information on how to view that meeting online if you're interested in following the discussion or the decisions made about transit.

The Regional Transportation Council serves as our department's policy board. They consider regional policies, approve transportation projects and guide many of the decisions we implement. The meeting is on Thursday, November 13. RTC will be taking up this issue at their next meeting.

Phyllis Silver, Citizen

A. DART referendum

Comment: Hello, my name is Phyllis Silver, and I live in Addison. My main question is essentially the same as the previous caller's what COG plans to do regarding the potential DART member city withdrawals, though you've already addressed that.

Summary of response by Jackie Nolasco: We'll make sure you receive all of the standard information. Thank you so much for your comment.

AI Disclosure: This document was edited with the support of Artificial Intelligence.