

## AGENDA

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, April 26, 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 March 22, 2024, Minutes**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5  
Presenter:      Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the March 22, 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. **Endorsement of Additional Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Funding for Greenville Avenue Trail Project as Part of Cotton Belt Trail**  
Presenter:      Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$1,092,500 in additional Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) funds for the existing RTC-funded Greenville Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project in Richardson (TIP 40071/CSJ 0918-47-323) was received on April 11, 2024. NCTCOG staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) endorsement of this additional funding to complete the 2023 RAISE grant partnership.  
Background:      In September 2020, the RTC approved \$1,702,948 TASA funds matched with 340,589 in Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) through the 2020 TASA Call for Projects. The project recently let with a higher-than-expected bid price and a \$1,250,000 funding shortfall. The City reached out to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for additional TASA funding needed in order to let the project this summer. Typically, projects selected via the 2020 TASA Call for Projects like this one are not eligible for cost overruns. However, in July 2023, in order to expedite engineering on a small section of the RTC's 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant award for the Cotton Belt Trail, the City agreed to pay for a portion of the design of the Cotton Belt Trail Project in Richardson. At the time, NCTCOG staff concurred with a request to offset that local cost through the award of \$1,092,500 in federal funds on another project in the City at a later date. The City has officially requested that

the cost overrun on the Greenville Avenue project be partially funded with the \$1,092,500 federal funds plus TDCs with the City paying for the balance of the cost overrun.

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

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Reconnecting Communities Update**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed regarding the award of \$80 million (of the \$95 million requested) in Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program funds and will be requested to recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to cover the \$15 million funding gap.

Background: In March 2024, the United States Department of Transportation announced the award of \$80 million in RCN funding for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region's "Bridging Highway Divides for DFW Communities" application. This proposal included a request 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. No increase in local commitments is proposed to make up for the funding gap. Instead, the staff is requesting a recommendation for RTC approval to cover the funding difference. Coordination is underway with the Texas Department of Transportation and local agencies about the next steps needed to get projects to construction. More information is included in Electronic Item 3.

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

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Endorsement of Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of approved Regional Transportation Council (RTC) projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. This \$5.1 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

Background: As with previous years, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) combines three major discretionary grant programs in efforts to reduce burdens for State and local applicants, increase the pipeline of "shovel-worthy" projects now possible because of the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law (BIL), and enable the United States Department of Transportation to get a more comprehensive view of projects in development nationwide. The MPDG Program application deadline is May 6, 2024. Additional program, application requirement, and candidate project details are included in Electronic Item 4, while more comprehensive information can be obtained at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-program>. For agencies in the region submitting their own projects, please be aware you must complete the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) registration process, usually requiring two to 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, April 24, 2024, at [nallen@nctcog.org](mailto:nallen@nctcog.org).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Endorsement of the Congestion Relief Grant Program**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a regional project submittal and match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Congestion Relief Grant (CRG) Program.

Background: In February 2024, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an announcement for the Congestion Relief Grant program proposals to reduce highway congestion, reduce economic and environmental costs associated with that congestion, including transportation emissions, and optimize existing highway capacity and usage of highway and transit systems. The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) will provide funding for a minimum of \$10 million per grant. A 20 percent local match is required. A copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the \$150 million grant program, as well as the application requirements is provided at: [grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055](https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055). Applications are due to the USDOT by April 22, 2024. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed regional project that will be submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Total project cost is \$20 million. Staff will be submitting for \$20 million in federal funds and requesting 4 million in Transportation Development Credits in lieu of the required 20 percent match. An overview of the proposed project is contained in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Project Status Report: Fiscal Year 2024 Project Tracking and Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Round 2**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) with a status report on the FY2024 Project Tracking and Milestone Policy Round 2 projects. A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of various updates to Milestone Policy project deadlines will be requested.

Background: The Milestone Policy was adopted by the RTC to focus on projects that have been funded for more than 10 years and have not gone to construction. By highlighting these projects, the policy creates agency accountability to implement projects in a timely manner. Staff coordinates with implementing agencies to assess project risk until they go to construction. Similarly, the annual project tracking effort focuses on projects slated for implementation in the current fiscal year. Projects are monitored early, allowing staff to highlight potential problems that could lead to delays, which enables the RTC to take corrective actions to avoid building up carryover balances in federal funding categories. Milestone Policy status updates, along with the latest risk ratings, can be found in Electronic Item 6.1. FY2024 Project Tracking status updates can be found in Electronic Item 6.2. Details on the status reports can be found in Electronic Item 6.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

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. Ribbon Cutting on Trinity Lakes Station
2. Secretary of Transportation Visit on April 4, 2024
3. Transit 2.0 Implementation
4. Senior Program Staff Organization Changes
5. Committee Status
6. Metropolitan Planning Organization 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
7. Regional Transportation Council Bylaws Related to Weighted Voting for the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing of Managed Lanes During Reconstruction**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will introduce a policy allowing for the suspension of dynamic pricing of managed lanes during major corridor reconstruction where managed lanes operate.

Background: It is the Regional Transportation Council's policy that all managed lanes operate with dynamic pricing. When a corridor with managed lanes goes under construction for a significant portion of time, it may be desirable to suspend dynamic pricing in the interest of commuter safety and reducing user confusion. If the Texas Department of Transportation District Engineer requests the suspension of dynamic pricing, several operational factors should be taken into account as described in the recommended RTC policy. Electronic Item 8 includes a draft of the policy that will be proposed for Surface Transportation Technical Committee's consideration next month.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:40 – 2:50

9. **2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Draft Listings**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed on the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process. The TIP document, which includes a draft listing of current Regional Transportation Council (RTC) commitments, will be provided for review and comment.

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 9 contains an overview of the TIP development process, focus areas, and schedule. The financially constrained draft project listings for the 2025-2028 TIP will be available at the following weblink:

<https://www.nctcoq.org/trans/funds/tip/transportation-improvement-program-docs/2025-2028tip>.

Local agency comments on the draft listings must be provided by May 3, 2024, in order to be included in the final listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:50 – 3:00

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

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Anthony Moffa, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on efforts to develop three demonstration projects, including vehicle safety components, metal license plates, and heavy-duty diesel vehicle emissions systems.

Background: 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. This project will partner with vendors and coordinate replacing safety components in vehicles as needed. While temporary paper plates will phase out beginning July 1, 2025, the potential for fraud within the currently utilized metal license plates increases. This project will coordinate with local law enforcement on the utilization of cameras that can read license plates, determine the rate of fake plates, and, if necessary, identify next steps. The ease of which heavy-duty diesel vehicles can have their emissions systems tampered and disabled has led to potential widespread tampering within the region. This project will evaluate the severity and impacts of tampered trucks operating in the region and determine options to limit these illegal practices. These initiatives are an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 10 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

3:00 – 3:10

11. **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. *Camille Fountain* – Regional Safety Advisory Committee Membership Appointment Deadline, May 24, 2024 (Electronic Item 11.1)
2. *Brayan Cervantes* – Deep Ellum District Parking Study ([North Central Texas Council of Governments - Deep Ellum Parking Study \(nctcog.org\)](https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/Portals/0/Deep%20Ellum%20District%20Parking%20Study.pdf))
3. *Bradley LeCureux* – Air Quality Project Spotlight: Multimodal Drone Delivery (Electronic Item 11.2)
4. *Bradley LeCureux* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([www.nctcog.org/AQfunding](https://www.nctcog.org/AQfunding))
5. *Bradley LeCureux* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. *Valerie Alvarado* – Car Care Awareness Spring 2024 Campaign (<https://www.ntxcare.org/Toolkit>)
7. *Daniela Tower* – 2024 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 11.3)
8. *Jackie Castillo* – March Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 11.4)
9. *Jackie Castillo* – May Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 11.5)
10. *Jackie Castillo* – February – March Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 11.6)

11. Written Progress Reports:
  - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 11.7)
12. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
13. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on May 24, 2024.***