

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL February 8, 2024

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, February 8, 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: Daniel Alemán, Steve Babick, Dennis Bailey, Rick Bailey, Elizabeth Beck, Gyna Bivens, Alan Blaylock, Joel Burns (representing Raj Narayanan), Ceason Clemens, Michael Crain, Jeff Davis, Pat Deen (representing J.D. Clark), Bob Dubey (representing Bruce Arfsten), Andy Eads, Michael Evans, Gary Fickes, George Fuller, Raul Gonzalez, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Stephen Mason (representing Barry Gordon), Cara Mendelsohn, Ed Moore, Jesse Moreno (representing Adam Bazaldua), Omar Narvaez, Jim Ross, David Salazar, Chris Schulmeister, Gary Slagel, Andy Sommerman (representing Theresa Daniel), Jeremy Tompkins, Oscar Trevino Jr., William Tsao, and Duncan Webb.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Susan Alvarez, Steve Anderson, Rich Andreski, Micah Baker, Jay Barksdale, Emily Beckham, Natalie Bettger, Brandi Bird, Jon Blackmon, Alberta Blair, Stephanie Boardingham, Chris Bosco, Rachel Bradford, Laura Cadena, Drew Campbell, Jack Carr, Molly Carroll, Angie Carson, Lori Clark, Michael Collins, Jeff Coulter, John Cox, Dawn Dalrymple, Clarence Daugherty, Chris Dyser, Mike Eastland, Chad Edwards, Bob Fitzner, Carmen Garcia, Richard Garcia-Isarrasak, Rebekah Gongora, Christie Gotti, Tom Hammons, Tony Hartzel, Kristina Holcomb, Vickie Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Andy Kissig, Chris Klaus, Kevin Kokes, Dan Lamers, Sonya Landrum, Tom LeBeau, April Leger, Eron Linn, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Dillon Maroney, Rich Matryiku, Jon McKenzie, Bill Medford, Monte Mercer, Cesar Molina, Erin Moore, Michael Morris, Joaquin Mureno, Jenny Narvaez, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Cintia Ortiz, Andrew Pagano, Michael Peters, John Polster, Greg Porter, Kelly Porter, James Powell, Ezra Pratt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, B.J. Putman, Abbas Rastandeh, Randy Richardson, Tito Rodriguez, Chris Ryan, Connor Sadro, Devon Skinner, Randy Skinner, Angelica Solano, Toni Stehling, Shannon Stevenson, Lauren Trimble, Caroline Waggoner, Venus Wehle, Brendon Wheeler, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, and Susan Young.

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 January 11, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Cara Mendelsohn (M); Daniel Alemán (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** There were no items on the Consent Agenda.
4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris highlighted selected items in the Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report. He noted that the implementation of the Riverside project in Dallas involved a minor utility issue with Oncor. Correspondence containing positive feedback from Texas Transportation Commissioners W. Alvin New and Alejandro "Alex" Meade III, was provided in Electronic Item 4.1. Michael presented some data and insight on the quarterly report for Changing

Mobility by noting that afternoon congestion is increasing with employees returning home and running errands after working at home, and slow speeds are decreasing around midnight. Staff will provide more information in future reports regarding the increase in speeds around 10:00 and 11:00 pm. Michael presented the status of consultants for Transit 2.0 by highlighting the seven tasks contained in Electronic Item 4.3 that the consultants will work on. Staff will work with the consultants and local governments to schedule meetings and to discuss next steps. Michael expressed appreciation for Ken Kirkpatrick, Emily Beckham, and April Leger's work on developing agreements for Transit 2.0. Michael provided the analysis of Dallas High-Speed Rail Tunnel request along with other options and the advancement of the Corridor Identification Program. He highlighted the meetings with the Federal Transit Administration were terrific and the region won the Corridor ID program award with the Federal Railroad Administration and will proceed to a set of steps that qualify the region for federal funds to implement high-speed rail. Dallas Transportation Committee Chair Narvaez participated in the press conference held by Lori Clark in Dallas and announced that \$70 million was won on the hydrogen fuel self-service stations, along with \$20 million for electric vehicles, and 15 percent of money available in the recent grant awards. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 4.4. Michael provided Superbowl lanyards at each RTC member's place in honor of the Super Bowl XLV transportation plan and provided the status of the FIFA World Cup by announcing that the region won nine events to be held at the AT&T Stadium, Globe Life Field, and Choctaw Stadium. Michael then provided the status of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Rulemaking report in which TxDOT proceeded with Category 5 and Category 7. TxDOT made some minor changes. Michael encouraged everyone to take a look at Electronic Item 4.5 in regard to local government energy reporting and to review Electronic Item 4.6 with detailed State Implementation Plan comments to the Texas Commission on Environment Quality. He briefly noted the 2023 Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Annual Fleet Survey awards mentioned in Electronic Item 4.7. Mayor Ross expressed appreciation to Monica Paul and the FIFA World Cup Committee, along with everyone's help in the regional effort, making it possible for FIFA World Cup 2026 to be held in the City of Arlington.

5. **2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program:** Christie Gotti requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the 2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program. She provided a little background, over the past couple of years, North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) staff has inventoried numerous funding requests from transportation agencies and local governments. After going through the evaluation process, several projects and partnerships are being proposed for funding. A full list of projects and partnerships were provided in Electronic Item 5.1. Christie highlighted a few of the projects to identify some of the higher-level initiatives for RTC's review. The first group of projects she highlighted were part of partnerships with several entities that have passed local bond programs. Tarrant County and Parker County asked NCTCOG to partner on projects of regional interest that are being funded in part through their bond programs. Christie requested funding for two programs that would provide funds for projects that have come out of completed planning activities including the Railroad Crossing Safety Program for \$10 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds to be matched with local funds from project sponsors; and the Traffic Signal Equipment Standardization and Upgrade Program for \$30 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds to be matched with regional Transportation Development Credits (TDC) to address safety, mobility, and air quality. Performance tracking identified that new rail vehicles are needed because existing vehicles are nearing the end of their useful life. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and Trinity Metro have requested funding assistance for new and replacement vehicles for the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) and to

enable the extension of the TEXRail line. The proposed funding for the TRE vehicle is \$30 million in STBG, \$30 million from Trinity Metro, and \$30 million from DART. TEXRail's proposed funding; is \$31.2 million CMAQ and \$33.8 million in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds matched with regional TDCs and Trinity Metro's Metropolitan Transportation Plan policy bundle TDCs. NCTCOG has been coordinating with the City of Dallas on a funding partnership for new projects and for additional funding to address cost overruns on existing projects. There are several proposed projects utilizing RTR funds. There is a resolution coming, but the partnership is contingent on City of Dallas' approval of the "One Seat Ride" concept and Union Station siting plans for High-Speed Rail and projects will be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) once resolved. Christie highlighted an expansion of the RTC's investment in the Dallas County Inland Port area by proposing the \$23.15 million in Dallas County RTR funds for the Belt Line/Sunrise Road project and to exchange existing federal funding for preconstruction phases to RTR in order to expedite projects and make the next RAISE application for that project more competitive. Staff also proposed funding to establish a Dallas County Inland Port Local Government Corporation. She also highlighted the proposal to fund construction of County Road (CR) 4668 at Bobo's Crossing in Wise County to reconstruct a two-lane roadway, including the bridge to elevate a low water crossing out of the 100-year floodplain (addresses roadway safety and resiliency) with \$12 million STBG matched with regional TDCs. The summary of proposed funding with the private sector and local contributions totals \$740.54 million, with 32.04 million in TDCs. Christie highlighted the Strategic Transportation Funding Program funding distribution; for CMAQ in the western subregion is 66 percent and 34 percent in the eastern subregion; and for STBG, it is 58 percent in the west and 42 percent in the east. The total funding distribution, including RTR, for the West is 38 percent and for the East is 62 percent. A list of the proposed projects and partnerships was provided in Electronic Item 5.1. Additional details on the funding program were provided in Electronic Item 5.2.

A motion was made to approve of the proposed 2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program, delaying the Dallas projects marked as contingent until the March RTC meeting and taking action on all other projects, including amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), along with updating any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project funding. Jesse Moreno (M); Cara Mendelsohn (S). The motion did not pass.

An amended motion was made to exclude the Dallas North Toll Way at Frankford project from the proposed contingency list of projects. Duncan Webb (M); Cara Mendelsohn (S). The motion did not pass.

An amended motion was made to remove the contingency notation from all Dallas projects. Cara Mendelsohn (M); Chris Schulmeister (S). The motion did not pass.

An amended motion was made to approve the projects as originally recommended by North Central Texas Council of Governments staff including the contingency on selected projects. Omar Narvaez (M); Jim Ross (S). The motion passed.

6. **Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program:** Jeff Neal requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. Jeff reported none of the projects in the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant (MPDG); INFRA/MEGA/RURAL, were selected. He mentioned that the North Central Texas Council of Governments is awaiting an award announcement for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program: Implementation Grants for the Bridging Highway Divides for Dallas-Fort Worth Communities application: Southern Gateway Park – Phase 2.0 (SGP2.0) - FY 23 RAISE “Project of Merit”, Klyde Warren Park – Phase 2.0 (KWP2.0), Interstate Highway (IH) 30 Canyon: Dallas Heritage Village/Farmers Market “Tri-Deck”, and State Highway (SH) 5 McKinney – Lower 5 Plaza. As a result of the continuing resolution that was passed by Congress on March 1st, there will not be an amendment to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the \$25 million RAISE cap maximum. Jeff mentioned to complete the resubmittal for SGP2.0, in which the amount originally requested of this project was above \$25 million, it was necessary to remove the Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds in place of additional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds so the maximum request cap would not be exceeded. KWP2.0 is proceeding as presented. The new project submitted; the US 377/SH 144 in Granbury is proceeding via the 2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program. The Dallas County Inland Port (DCIP) Multimodal Connectivity, with new RTR funds, provides a greater ability to get the project across the goal line. IH 30 Canyon “Tri-Deck” is proceeding via the 2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program. The deadline for an RTC letter of support is February 14, 2024. For FY 2024, RAISE applications are due to the US DOT by February 28, 2024, and awards will be announced by June 27, 2024. The application requirements were presented, as well as several candidate projects under consideration for application submittal and/or authoring for other partners to submit given application limit constraints, in addition to finalization of project scope, cost, and revenue attributes which were provided in Electronic Item 6.

A motion was made to approve the allocation of previous and new Regional Transportation Council (RTC) funds: Southern Gateway Park 2.0 with \$15 million Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds and another \$5 million replaces Regional Toll Revenue funds previously approved for the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)/Reconnecting Communities Neighborhoods (RCN); US 377/SH 144 – Granbury with \$83,250,000 in Category 2 and 4 funds via future Unified Transportation Program allocations; Dallas County Inland Port Multimodal Connectivity Project with adjusted project limits and budget needs resulting in added developer (\$5,050,000), and reduced City of Lancaster (\$2,800,000)/Franchise Utility (\$950,000) contributions; any request for any new funds from local Texas Department of Transportation partners, as specified; proposed projects to submit for funding consideration through the FY 2024 RAISE program; and administratively amend the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP), as well as other planning and administrative documents to include proposed projects if selected for FY2024 RAISE awards. Michael Crain (M); Duncan Webb (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan:** Lori Clark requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of transportation elements of the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is leading a collaboration with local governments across the region to develop a Dallas-Fort

Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan that outlines measures to reduce emissions of ozone-forming pollutants, fine particulate matter, and greenhouse gases (GHG) in all 16 counties. Lori reminded the RTC members of the Priority Climate Action Plan, first deliverable for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) is due March 1, 2024, and submission is required to participate in the CPRG Implementation Grants. In Electronic Item 7.1, an outline of the scope and structure of the plan following a template recommended by the EPA was provided. She briefly listed the elements required, such as the GHG inventory, quantified GHG reduction measures, low income/disadvantaged communities' benefits analysis, and review of authority to implement. Lori provided an overview of the screening criteria for the plan and for the EPA scoring criteria for the grant based on interest in the region, willingness to implement, timeliness if it can be done in the next five years, and does it provide broad, quantifiable GHG air and criteria pollutant reductions. We are anticipating the next step, which is to file a grant proposal with the EPA as presented in Electronic Item 7.2. Public input was summarized in Electronic Item 7.3. Lori noted that each measure was identified as "Plan Only" or "Potential Funding Request", indicating that EPA funding may be sought to support implementation of that measure. Lori provided a quick reminder that transportation is a big contributor to both GHG emissions and the ozone forming pollution inventories, so it is imperative to have good performance measures for the comprehensive plan. She mentioned the State's Plan, potential measures by focusing on three specific sectors that contribute 87 percent of State GHG emissions: industry, electric power, and transportation. Lori presented 16 measures or programs being proposed to put into the plan, along with the CPRG implementation grants, that will be requested for action on the funding amount at the March RTC meeting. She presented some financial mechanics to be prepared for when action is sought. Lori mentioned some deadlines including the plan is due to EPA on March 1, 2024; the grant applications due on April 1, 2024; anticipated award of the CPRG grant in October 2024; and the comprehensive climate action plan is due to EPA on June 17, 2025. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 7.4 and www.publicinput.com/DFWAQIP.

A motion was made to approve of proposed plan content and structure, and to include the list of Transportation Measures as provided in the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement plan. Andy Sommerman (M); Jim Ross (S). The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program**: Due to time constraints, this item was not presented.
9. **Regional Roadway Safety Performance Targets Update**: Due to time constraints, this item was not presented.
10. **Broadband as a Transportation Service: Four Proposed Elements**: Due to time constraint, this agenda item was not presented.
11. **Progress Reports**: Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 11.1 and Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and Minutes were provided in Electronic Item 11.2.
12. **Other Business (Old or New)**: Duncan Webb announced that Collin County's Commissioner's Court approved all of the cost for \$ 8 million to turn United States (US) 380 as a Freeway in every city in our corridor, that will equal \$250 million, without delays. George Fuller thanked Commissioner Webb for all of his hard work on the US 380 project.

13. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.

14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024, 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.