

in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) boundaries. Staff is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on 44 FFCS amendments within the Dallas, Fort Worth, and Paris TxDOT districts. These amendments involve the construction of new roadways and improvement of existing roadways which are included in the current 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These amendments are necessary to lift FFCS related TIP exceptions applied by the Federal Highway Administration. A summary table of the proposed amendments is included in Electronic Item 3.1 with coordinating maps provided in Electronic Item 3.2. Staff will also brief the Committee on the status of a series of proposed amendments to the FFCS which were previously approved by the RTC after 2013. A summary table for these previously approved amendments is provided in Electronic Item 3.3. Information as presented to RTC is included in Electronic Item 3.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. **2023 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Julie Anderson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation 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.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration has released the Fiscal Year 2023 Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which is expected to award approximately \$1.7 billion for modernizing bus fleets, improving bus facilities, and supporting workforce development. Eligible projects include the purchasing or leasing of low or no emission buses, related equipment (e.g., electric vehicle charging stations), and workforce development and training. Applications are due by April 13, 2023. In response to the NOFO, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff will request approval to submit a proposal to procure electric vehicles and charging infrastructure for small transit providers to replace buses near or at the end of their useful life with electric vehicles. The total grant budget will not exceed \$7,205,921 including utilizing 1,205,921 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) for match. Please see Electronic Item 4 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. COVID Transit Funding Round 2

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program Transit Partnership (Round 2) projects and programs will be requested.

Background: In the fall of 2020, the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and the RTC approved the third round of the COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program, including a \$25 million placeholder for investments in transit. Since then, the RTC has awarded approximately \$15 million to various transit initiatives to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on transit and advance transit in the region. In an effort to utilize the remaining funds and complete the initiative, additional projects are being proposed. The details of the proposed programs and projects are provided in Electronic Item 5.1 and Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program for the Metropolitan Statistical Area

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Savana Nance, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval to pursue funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. Staff will also request letters of support from municipalities within the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to be the lead applicant for the grant.

Background: Created by the Inflation Reduction Act, the EPA's CPRG program will provide grants to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. This two-phase grant program will provide \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. As one of the 67 most populous metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA, which includes Wise, Denton, Collin, Parker, Tarrant, Dallas, Rockwall, Kaufman, Ellis, Johnson, and Hunt counties, is eligible for a \$1 million noncompetitive planning grant to develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The CPRG program requires a single eligible lead organization to apply for the grant, manage grant funds and oversee the CCAP development process on behalf of the MSA. Implementation grants to fund measures contained in a CCAP will be announced later in 2023 and will be awarded through a competitive process to entities included in, or covered by, the CCAP. Electronic Item 6 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

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. Results of US 75 Technology Texas Department of Transportation Public Hearing
2. Advancement of Silverline Rail; Mediation
3. US High Speed Rail Coalition Membership
4. Intercity Passenger Rail Corridors

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Federal and State Legislative Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas Allen, 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 in the United States (U.S.) Congress and in preparations for the upcoming Texas legislative session. The 2nd session of the 118th US Congress convened on January 3, 2023. The 88th Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Start of 2023 Ozone Season and Letter to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas Vanhaasen, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding the region's 2023 ozone season and request feedback on correspondence to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Background: The 2023 ozone season began on March 1 for the North Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas and runs through the end of November. Concurrently, the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. Daily ozone information including current conditions and forecasts is provided at <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/ozone>. A letter has been drafted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) seeking answers to many challenges facing North Central Texas's ability to reach ozone attainment, such as air chemistry, vehicle emission program effectiveness, and monitoring. Electronic Item 9.1 contains a copy of the draft correspondence to TCEQ. Committee

feedback is welcome. More details can be found in Electronic Item 9.2

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- 2:50 – 3:00** 10. **Creation of Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will discuss the creation of a new Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee and invite participation.
Background: Staff continues to implement goals established during the most recent Department of Energy redesignation of the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition, which was finalized in March 2020. One goal is to establish a Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Advisory Committee. The Technical Advisory Committee will provide support to Coalition staff by providing input from diverse perspectives, assisting in event and project publicity and networking, and increasing collaboration and engagement with stakeholders. The makeup will be at least 51 percent public sector representatives but will also be open to private sector participation. Staff plans to have the Technical Advisory Committee in place by the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2023) and is seeking nominations. Nominees should be knowledgeable about alternative fuels, vehicles, or infrastructure or other subject matter relating to the Technical Advisory Committee. Nominations should be submitted to cleancities@nctcog.org by May 31, 2023. For more information, please see Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

- 3:00 – 3:10** 11. **Carbon Reduction Program**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will brief and present a plan of action to the Committee on the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding introduced in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
Background: The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) was created with a goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from on-road sources. Now that the funding can be programmed on projects, staff has formulated a plan for utilizing these funds and administering them. Additional details on CRP funding, including eligible project types and the amount of funding available, can be found in Electronic Item 11.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

3:10 – 3:20

12. **Census Bureau Update to Urbanized Areas: Potential Implications**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: James Powell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a status report on recent Census Bureau updates to urban area boundaries impacting the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Background: On December 29, 2022, the Census Bureau published updates to urban areas based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing counts and density calculations. Based on the 2010 Census there are three urbanized areas in the Dallas-Fort Worth region: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney. Under the new 2020 designations, Frisco is being combined with McKinney to create the McKinney-Frisco urbanized area. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration are expected to issue guidance in the coming weeks. Staff is reviewing potential implications and will provide an initial status report. More information is available in Electronic Item 12.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3:20 – 3:35

13. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Item Summary: Staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Martin Bate* – Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Policy Bundle
(www.nctcog.org/policybundle)
2. *Martin Bate* – CERTT Program, Upcoming Deadline: April 10, 2023
3. *Donald Parker* – Getting Ready for Rail
4. *Jared Wright* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
5. *Jared Wright* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. *Jared Wright* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 13.1)
7. *Jackie Castillo* – April Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 13.2)
8. *Jackie Castillo* – February Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 13.3)
9. *Taylor Benjamin* – Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.4)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.5)

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

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on April 28, 2023**.