



July 2022

Welcome to the Local Motion, a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department. This publication may look familiar, but it has been reimagined to deliver the same transportation news you are used to directly to your inbox. Thank you for reading.

RTC Approves the 2022 Update to Mobility 2045



The Regional Transportation Council recently approved an update of Mobility 2045, NCTCOG's current long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which guides the spending of federal and state transportation funds based on our regional goals. The \$148.3 billion Mobility 2045: 2022 Update makes recommendations for transportation improvements over the next 20-plus years through policies, programs and projects designed to improve regional mobility and increase efficiency, safety and system capacity.

Long-range transportation plans such as Mobility 2045 are federally required to be updated at least every four years.

The last comprehensive update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) happened in 2018 with the adoption of Mobility 2045. Since then, planners have continued to refine policy, program, and project recommendations for the 2022 Update.

This plan's financial analysis considers capital, operation and maintenance costs associated with the preservation and continued operation of the existing transportation system, as well as the costs associated with the recommended improvements.

Now that the RTC has approved the plan, the US Department of Transportation must determine if the plan complies with federal air quality regulations which will allow the proposed current and future transportation projects to proceed. This is a step required because 10 Dallas-Fort Worth area counties are in nonattainment for ozone pollution. Learn more about the update at: www.nctcog.org/PlaninProgress.

Join NCTCOG August 3 for Clean Air Action Day

Clean Air Action Day is Wednesday, August 3, the day North Texans are asked to make one or more small changes to their routines in an effort to improve the region's air quality.

They can take their lunch to work, use mass transit to get to the office or take steps to reduce idling when they do have to drive. Those who are working from home can incorporate active transportation options such as bicycling or walking when they have to run errands. All these actions and more make a difference in improving air quality.



This is especially important in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where 10 counties fall under nonattainment for the pollutant ozone and are working to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's standards. The quality of the air is important to all of us. Poor air can have a direct impact on quality of life and can even affect people's health. Clean Air Action Day is an opportunity for North Texans to make easy changes to their daily routines that can directly impact the air they breathe.

North Texans are encouraged to maintain the commitments they make on Aug. 3 throughout ozone season, which ends Nov. 30. A good way to take action is to sign up for ozone alerts at www.airnorthtexas.org/signup. On Clean Air Action Day, share with NCTCOG how you celebrate by logging your commitment at www.airnorthtexas.org/cleanairactionday and by using #CAAD2022 and tagging us, @NCTCOGtrans.

It is easy to participate on Clean Air Action Day and throughout the year.

By the Numbers

148.3 billion

The long-range investment to be made in the transportation system, according to the newly adopted Mobility 2045: 2022 Update.

RTC approves projects, \$1M in federal funding for EV chargers



The RTC approved funding recommendations for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Call for Projects on June 9. Nine applicants were selected to receive the previously allocated \$1M in federal funds for a total of 19 publicly accessible EV Direct Current Fast Charge and Level 2 charging stations to be built across North Texas. Projects were required to be in the 10-county ozone nonattainment area and must be operational by July 31, 2023.

Some notable locations for the planned projects include Weatherford College, a community college campus that will host seven charging stations, two DART transit facilities, and public buildings in the cities of Dallas, Irving, Mesquite and Lewisville.

To help narrow down the applicants, NCTCOG staff used a point system to give priority to projects that serve North Texas communities prioritized by the Justice40 Initiative, which directs benefits of federal clean transit and energy investments to disadvantaged communities. The projects were also awarded points for including strategies to minimize impacts to the state electric grid and enabling new electrification for public fleets with no existing EVs.



Spotlight: Progress North Texas 2022 examines transportation's response to the pandemic

Progress North Texas 2022 is available online and in print. Readers of this year's transportation state of the region report will learn about how the region's transportation system continues to respond to COVID-19.

While the pandemic persists, North Texans have the tools and understanding to move forward in a healthy way. This year's report is organized around a COVID-19-related theme and looks at the performance of the roadway, transit and bicycle-pedestrian systems, as well as examining the performance of freight and aviation. Progress North Texas also provides insight into the work the region is doing to improve safety. A few highlights:

- Traffic congestion was up slightly last year, compared to 2020, but remained lower than before the pandemic began. The fourth-largest metropolitan area in the country is 37th in traffic congestion.
- Roadway safety remains a significant issue the region is working to improve. Crashes and fatalities rose last year. The region launched Drive Aware North Texas, an effort to reduce incidents resulting in serious injuries and fatalities.
- Transit was impacted more than most other modes by the pandemic, but NCTCOG and the region's public transportation providers are working together to welcome riders back at their own pace.
- Active transportation proved to be a bright spot again in 2021, with bicycle-pedestrian activity remaining high throughout much of the year. The exception came in February, which was impacted by the week-long winter storm.
- Aviation saw improvement last year, as both Dallas Fort Worth Airport and Dallas Love Field experienced significant gains in daily flights.

Read about these and other trends in Progress North Texas 2022, at www.nctcog.org/ourregion. Request copies of this FREE report at the same site.

Freight Vehicle Intersection Optimization Services Project



NCTCOG kicked off its Freight Vehicle Intersection Optimization Services project in June, aiming to improve freight operations with the deployment of signal-timing technology at key intersections across the region.

The deployment of freight-signal technology at up to 500 key signals across 10 jurisdictions could improve freight delivery by addressing bottlenecks at strategic points in the region. Specific intersections have not yet been

determined, but the focus will be on areas and hubs of significant freight activity. The approach taken in this case is aimed at optimizing the flow of freight within the identified bottlenecks, while reducing any impact or delay to other traffic.

This system will integrate with existing infrastructure and mobile applications—apps known as Automated Vehicle Location systems, or AVL—which will communicate with signal infrastructure. This system will, in a limited but dynamic and strategic way, increase the length of green lights at signalized intersections.

The traffic engineering firm Kimley-Horn was selected to develop and implement this project and is expected to take place over the course of approximately six years.

Collin County Commissioner Duncan Webb Elected Chair of RTC



Collin County Commissioner Duncan Webb was elected chair of the Regional Transportation Council on Thursday and will lead the 44-member transportation policymaking body for the next year.

Webb takes over for Commissioner Theresa Daniel of Dallas County, who has chaired the RTC through its transition from virtual meetings to in-person gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Webb will steer the RTC through the 88th Texas Legislature, which begins in January.

Webb has served on the transportation policymaking body since 2011 and has represented Collin County as a commissioner since 2011. He spent the past year as vice chair of the RTC after a year as secretary.

Fort Worth Mayor Pro Tem Gyna Bivens was elected vice chair, and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins will be the next secretary. Bivens has represented Fort Worth on the RTC since August 2021, while Jenkins was appointed in 2011. The new officers will serve in their positions through June 2023.

The RTC includes local elected or appointed officials from the Dallas-Fort Worth area and representatives from the area's transportation providers. As the transportation policymaking body for the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth area, the RTC oversees transportation planning for the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the country, which has a current population of approximately 8 million people.

The RTC guides the development of roadway, rail and bicycle-pedestrian plans and programs; allocates transportation funds; and recommends projects to the Texas Transportation Commission for other programs. The policymaking body also ensures transportation services are coordinated throughout the region and the metropolitan area complies with federal air quality standards.

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

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