

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL March 21, 2024

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, March 21, 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, Bruce Arfsten, Steve Babick, Dennis Bailey, Rick Bailey, Adam Bazaldua, Gyna Bivens, Alan Blaylock, J.D. Clark, Ceason Clemens, Jorga Clemson (representing Ron Jensen), Theresa Daniel, Andy Eads, Michael Evans, Gary Fickes, Carlos Flores (representing Michael Crain), T.J. Gilmore, Raul Gonzalez, Barry Gordon, Lane Grayson, Sharla Horton (representing Jeff Davis), Cara Mendelsohn, Omar Narvaez, Manny Ramirez, Tito Rodriguez, Jim Ross, David Salazar, Chris Schulmeister, Gary Slagel, Jeremy Tompkins, Duncan Webb, and Chad West.

Others present at the meeting were: Patience Akuffo, Angela Alcedo, Vickie Alexander, Nick Allen, Julie Anderson, Micah Baker, Berrien Barks, Jay Barksdale, Emily Beckham, Natalie Bettger, Brandi Bird, Jonathan Blackmon, Alberta Blair, Carolyn Burns, Shyla Camarena, Molly Carroll, Brayon Cervantes, Lori Clark, Dina Colavessi, Alyssa Cunningham, Clarence Daugherty, Yvonne Davis, Caryl DeVries, Mike Eastland, Chad Edwards, Joaquin Escalante, Kevin Feldt, Laura Freeland, Gypsy Gavia, Rebekah Gongora, Ricardo Gonzalez, Christie Gotti, Tom Hammons, Tony Hartzel, Ashley Harvey, Amy Hodges, Joel James, Zachary Joseph, Maya Joyner, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Andy Kissig, Chris Klaus, Kevin Kokes, Sonya Landrum, Tom LeBeau, Porter LeCody, Christopher Lee, Eron Linn, Nancy Luong, Stanford Lynch, Dillon Maroney, Rich Matyiku, Wes McClure, Bill Medina, Monte Mercer, Erin Moore, Joaquin Moreno, Michael Morris, Paroo Murglich, Jenny Narvaez, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Vanna Ngo, Catherine Osborn, Donald Parker, Linda Parker, Dipak Patel, Michael Peters, John Polster, Kelly Porter, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Randy Richardson, Carrie Rogers, Chris Ryan, Connor Sadro, Gwen Schanlis, Shane Shepard, Devon Skinner, Toni Stehling, Shannon Stevenson, Steve Templer, Jill Van Hoewyk, Juliana VanderBorn, Brendon Wheeler, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, and Karla Windsor.

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 February 8, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the February 8, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Jim Ross (M); Duncan Webb (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 3.1 **May 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for the revisions to the 2023-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), along with amending the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other planning administrative documents with TIP-related changes. May 2024 revisions to the 2023-2026 TIP were provided in Electronic Item 3.1.

3.2 **Modifications to the Critical Regional Infrastructure Land Banking**

Program: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for the reallocation of funding: \$2,400,000 in parcel acquisition and \$300,000 in site improvements and maintenance, with the total funding amount of \$2,700,000 associated with the Critical Regional Infrastructure Land Banking Program. The reallocation of funds will be used to accommodate acquisition of the second remaining parcel through a land exchange. The property is located at the south end of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth runway, within the Accident "Clear Zone." Additional supplemental materials were provided in Electronic Item 3.2.

A motion was made to approve Items 3.1 and 3.2 on the Consent Agenda. Duncan Webb (M); Barry Gordon (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris highlighted selected items in the Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report. Dan Kessler, the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) Assistant Director of Transportation; the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and NCTCOG were recognized as recipients of the University of Texas at Arlington 2024 Star Partner – Public Award. Dan highlighted the partnership between NCTCOG and UTA collaborating on projects. Dan also announced that tickets are available online for the Wings Over Cowtown Airshow in Fort Worth on April 13 and 14, 2024, Shannon Stevenson and NCTCOG were also recognized by Federal Transit Administration Regional VI Administrator Gail Lyssy as the 2024 Transit System of the Year. The Spring 2024 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course is scheduled on May 2, 2024, with details provided in Electronic Item 4.1. The 2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 15-19, 2024 with more information provided at [2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week](#).

Michael also announced recent federal approvals from National Competitions: Jason Brown was awarded \$3 million for lower emission reduction equipment from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Karla Windsor was awarded \$80 million in pedestrian caps. Michael thanked NCTCOG staff and the Texas Department of Transportation for their hard work. Michael reflected on and celebrated Eddie Bernice Johnson for her many accomplishments -- Dallas-Fort Worth will forever be known as the community that reconnects neighborhoods as we advance and create economic development. Michael noted the analysis of the Federal Transit Administration Support for Environmental Assessment, Federal Railroad Administration Corridor ID Program is advancing. He mentioned there are multiple funding sources between Dallas and Fort Worth and the upcoming Dallas High-Speed Rail workshop session to be held prior to an Regional Transportation Council meeting this spring. A copy of the Dallas City Council presentation with AMTRAK was provided in Electronic Item 4.2. Michael mentioned that Transit 2.0 is advancing and highlighted the nine tasks contained in Electronic Item 4.3 that the consultants will work on. Rebekah Gongora will bring items back to the Council prior to the Legislative Session this summer. Michael encouraged questions and/or feedback to advance Transit 2.0. He noted that Natalie Bettger will provide innovative ideas for the Fiscal Year 2022 – 2024 Congestion Relief Grant Program with proposals due on April 22, 2024, with details provided at grants.gov/search-results-detail/352531. The Notice of Funding Opportunity opened for Safe Streets and Roadways for All grants program with more information provided at [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program | US Department of Transportation](#). Retirement of North Richland Hills Mayor and long-time RTC member Oscar Trevino, Jr. was noted. Mayor Trevino was one of the foundational members of the Regional Transportation Council. North Richland Hills Councilmember and Trinity

Metro Board Member Tito Rodriguez will assume Mayor Trevino's Council responsibilities. Michael expressed his appreciation for Mayor Trevino's tremendous impact on a dozen cities that he represented for 20 years or more. Michael noted the handout for the April Public Meeting Notice with an updated date of April 9, 2024, since the Electronic Item 4.9 was incorrect in the mailout. Michael highlighted that the fourth or fifth most tenured state representative from the House of Representatives, Yvonne Davis, was in attendance at the meeting. Representative Davis has been instrumental in helping transportation accomplish wonderful things by being a strong advocate.

- 5. Approval of Transportation Progress for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program:** Lori Clark presented transportation measures that she would later request the Regional Transportation Council to include in a grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG): Implementation Grants Program, as well as key principals for staff to follow as the grant request is refined. The plan was submitted to the EPA on March 1, 2024, and posted at www.publicinput.com/dfwAQIP. EPA has reviewed the plan and indicated that it satisfies all of their requirements. This means that all projects are eligible to compete for all competitive grant implementation money that the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is anticipating applying for by April 1, 2024. Lori provided an overview of the Implementation Grant structure by mentioning NCTCOG plans to pursue Tier B, up to \$199 million, on behalf of the entire region. Of the \$199 million, \$122 million would be allocated for transportation measures. Lori mentioned the State's plan of potential measures that were focused on three sectors that contribute 87 percent of State GHG on industry, electric power, and transportation for clean vehicle grants to rural areas. The State intends to apply in Tier A for their individual application and is considering participation in applications with other entities. However, in the event that the State chooses not to pursue their proposal, staff wishes to increase the grant request to compete in Tier A. Lori provided an overview of the list of the proposed projects and partnerships that was presented in Electronic Item 5, with scenarios for the minimum funding of Tier B and maximum funding of Tier A. The scheduled timeline included requested action at the March 21, 2024, RTC meeting and March 28, 2024, Executive Board meeting; grant applications due to EPA on April 1, 2024; an anticipated award of the CPRG grant in October 2024; and the comprehensive climate action plan due to the EPA on June 17, 2025.

A motion was made to approve the transportation programs to be included in the application to the Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Implementation Grants Program, proposed funding ranges to be adjusted by staff as needed to accommodate Environment and Development Department and State application; and the ability to increase the funding request to Tier A grant range of up to \$200 million - \$500 million if the State does not apply. Theresa Daniel (M); Chad West (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. Transit Strategic Partnerships Program: Selected Project from the November 2023 Cycle:** Shannon Stevenson presented a request to provide funding to Trinity Metro for on-demand service to the City of Mansfield through the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program. She provided an overview of the different types of funding sources available for transit: Section 5307, through Urbanized Area Formula, including Job Access/Reverse Commute projects that serve the general public with capital match projects with an 80/20 split and operating projects with a 50/50 split. Section 5310, through the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, serve only the needs of the elderly and

individuals with disabilities with the capital match projects with an 80/20 split and operating projects with a 50/50 split. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions Sections 5307 and 5310 funds to our region, with 98 percent a formula base through a Program of Projects (POP) process. Through RTC policy, 2 percent is set aside for transit projects that support long-range mobility plan goals and address needs outlined in Access North Texas. The competitive funding program is to support strategic transit projects and implement new or expanded services that address Mobility 2045 update goals as well as Access North Texas by briefly providing the program eligibility for eligible applicants such as transit authorities, public transit providers, and non-profits that must be an entity that can receive federal funds typically within a two-to-three-year pilot. The projects that were submitted include Trinity Metro, Feonix Mobility Rising, and City of Richland Hills. Trinity Metro's project is a Mansfield On-Demand ZIPZONE service seeking a \$684,254 federal request. Feonix Mobility Rising submitted a Catch-A-Ride Program in Southern Dallas County seeking a \$454,648 federal request. The City of Richland Hills requested a transportation service for mobility impaired and residents over age 60 seeking a \$375,000 federal request. The Trinity Metro project was recommended by staff for federal funding of \$684,254, as the selected project aligns with regional goals set forth in Mobility 2045, Access North Texas, and a completed transit study for Tarrant County. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 6. Mayor Michael Evans, City of Mansfield expressed appreciation to Shannon and other NCTCOG staff for their work on this item.

A motion was made to approve the use of existing Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula program funds from the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program in an amount not to exceed \$855,318 total to fund pilot on-demand service by Trinity Metro to the City of Mansfield, and direction for staff to revise and update administrative documents as appropriate to incorporate all projects. Michael Evans (M); Omar Narvaez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Broadband as a Transportation Service: Four Proposed Elements:** Connor Sadro provided information on the Municipal Stakeholder Broadband Roundtable held on December 4, 2023. He provided a brief background from March of 2022 with the approval of proposed deployments of phase 1/emergency autonomous vehicles in McKinney and Dallas and phase 2 infrastructure broadband project with the City of Fort Worth. At the National level, there has been \$65 billion in broadband funding for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), with \$42.45 billion provided to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program (BEAD) with the lion share that has gone through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) programs with taking on roles with enabling middle mile broadband infrastructure program at \$1 billion, tribal broadband connectivity program at \$2 billion, and digital equity act programs at \$2.75 billion. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) programs such as the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) with \$14.2 billion that provides \$30 a month to eligible households enrolled for internet service. The NTIA/FCC collaboration created the [National Broadband Availability Map](#) with data collection via Form 477 data and over 1.5 million serviceable locations added to map through community challenges. Connor provided an overview of the State of Texas Broadband Program and Legislation by mentioning the creation of the State of Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) as the largest BEAD allocation among all States with \$3.3 billion along with the approval of the Broadband Infrastructure Fund (BIF) with \$1.5 billion that supplements 20 percent match for BEAD grants. Connor provided an example of Legislative challenges with utility code 54.201 that disallows a municipality from obtaining the certificate to operate as a service provider for telecommunications service. On December 4, 2023, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) hosted a

municipal stakeholder broadband roundtable to compile the suggested action steps be taken to increase the presence of broadband in the region. The four proposed elements include: 1) assist the region with the coordination of data collection and analysis for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates, 2) create a policy committee consisting of elected officials in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office, 3) leverage the policy committee to form a legislative program that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs, and 4) continue with outreach to broadband practitioners in the region and encourage municipalities to appoint broadband technical leads. Additionally, the NCTCOG Transportation Department will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents. Staff will request action at the March 22, 2024, Surface Transportation Technical Committee and April 11, 2024, RTC meeting with a preference in creating an RTC Ad Hoc Broadband Policy Subcommittee that reviews these needs and provides suggestions, as will introduce these suggestions during the 2024 legislative session as well. There was general discussion and questions among the RTC members with topics such as guidance for funding, utility coop being outlined, good data, rights of way, and school districts being added for internet service.

8. **Regional Roadway Safety Performance Targets Update:** Sonya Landrum provided an update on the 2024 Regional Roadway Safety Targets for federally required performance measures and actual performance of the 2022 Safety targets. Sonya presented the recent and upcoming federal performance measure action with focusing on PM1, roadway safety, with targets established as reductions over a 5-year period. She presented the statistics of fatalities and crashes that occurred during 2018 through 2023. As presented, there was an increase in fatalities and crashes during 2020 and 2021, with a decrease during 2022 and 2023. Safety targets are focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities for motorized and non-motorized travelers, with five targets on the number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of fatalities, and rate of serious injuries, and bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries. As a region, currently North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is supporting the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) targets. Sonya highlighted the goals for 2023 through 2027, with a 4 percent reduction in the number of fatalities and a 2 percent reduction in serious injuries by the year 2027. She provided the safety performance targets for 2024 with targets based on a 5-year rolling average that include a 3.6 percent reduction from the original trend line for fatalities and a 2 percent reduction for serious injuries. She highlighted the increase of regional actual vehicle and bike/ped fatalities and serious injuries from 2018 through 2023 with a projected 5-year trend line and a decrease projected fatalities for 2024 with a 3-year trend line. Sonya also provided a breakdown of the allocations of the \$54 million for the RTC Safety Program for the Dallas-Fort Worth region for Fiscal Years 2024–2026. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 8.
9. **Developing Mobility 2050: Kickoff:** Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not presented.
10. **Look Out Texans Video Local Distribution:** Due to time constraints, 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)**: Chair Bivens announced the Trinity Metro Grand Opening of the New Trinity Lakes Station at 9:00 a.m. on April 5, 2024, and encouraged attendance by all.
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, April 11, 2024, 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.