

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, February 24, 2023 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 January 27, 2023, Minutes**
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Possible Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | Minutes: 5 |
| Presenter: Ceason G. Clemens, STTC Chair | | | |
| Item Summary: Approval of the January 27, 2023, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested. | | | |
| Background: N/A | | | |
- 1:35 – 1:40
2. **Consent Agenda**
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Possible Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | Minutes: 5 |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
- 2.1. **Roadway Safety Plan**
- Presenter: Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of the regional Roadway Safety Plan. The Plan was presented at the January 27, 2023, Surface Technical Transportation Committee meeting.
- Background: From 2016 to 2020 the North Central Texas Council of Governments 12-county area experienced 3,752 fatalities and 19,405 serious injuries on its roadways. The regional Roadway Safety Plan is the first regionwide plan to eliminate all fatal crashes on area roadways by 2050 in accordance with safety positions adopted by the Regional Transportation Council and the Texas Transportation Commission. The Roadway Safety Plan includes regionwide safety analyses, and identifies safety emphasis areas, recommended safety countermeasures, and a High Injury Network, which is a prioritized list of the most dangerous roadway segments in the region. The regional Roadway Safety Plan will serve as a guide for the implementation of future systemic safety projects and programs to work towards a goal of zero fatalities on the region's roadways by 2050. A draft version of the Roadway Safety Plan can be reviewed on the Transportation Safety web page: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/safety/transportation-safety> and additional details are provided in Electronic Item 2.1.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Endorsement of Federal Railroad Administration Grant Programs**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action taken on February 9, 2023, to submit application(s) and/or support applications by others on certain intercity rail corridors affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth region for funding consideration and/or inclusion in future project development activities through two programs administered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA): Corridor Identification and Development Program and Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program. Staff efforts for both programs may include coordination with external partners, including the Texas Department of Transportation and Amtrak, as well as development of application materials to support the primary applicant(s).

Background: In December 2022, the United States Department of Transportation announced the solicitation of applications for FRA's Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program (new) and the national Federal-State Partnership (FSP) for Intercity Passenger Rail Program. Both programs are designed to advance intercity passenger rail of which high-speed rail projects are eligible. The Corridor ID Program is designed to facilitate the development of intercity passenger rail corridors, establishing a pipeline of intercity rail projects, to guide future project development and capital investments. In summer 2022, FRA sought expressions of interest for this Corridor ID Program to which North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) responded in August 2022 with the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail corridor. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) also responded to FRA with an expression of interest in October 2022 citing several intercity passenger rail corridors throughout the state, including renewed service between the Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas and the Houston Amtrak Station, and new service east of Marshall, Texas connecting the Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas to the Meridian, Mississippi Union Station. The national FSP for Intercity Passenger Rail Program focuses on advanced project development and implementation of intercity passenger rail projects. Application deadlines are included as follows: Corridor ID Program – March 27, 2023, and FSP Intercity Passenger Rail Program – April 21, 2023. Electronic Item 3.1 includes previous letters of support from the RTC for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer expansion. RTC's resolution, R22-01, reaffirming support for intercity passenger rail along the IH 20 corridor between Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta, Georgia is included as Electronic Item 3.2. Expressions of Interest submitted by NCTCOG and TxDOT for FRA's Corridor ID Program cited above are included as Electronic Item 3.3. Further information can be found in Electronic Item 3.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **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. Changing Mobility Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 4.1)
2. United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Announcement of Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program Awards
3. Mobility 2045 Update Executive Summary (www.nctcog.org/PlanInProgress)
4. Latest Transportation Performance Metrics for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region (Electronic Item 4.2)
5. Development of FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program: Project Ideas

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:00 – 2:10

5. **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 the Texas legislative session. The 1st session of the 118th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2023. The 88th Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Major Source Emissions Fee Requirements (Section 185)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of potential federal requirements for stationary source fees resulting from recent reclassification. Fees will occur dependent upon attainment status after the 2026 ozone season.

Background: As a result of the recent reclassification of the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area for the 2008 ozone standard's change from "Serious" to "Severe", the region may become subject to a federally required stationary source fee program. The annual fee program applies to major stationary sources of Nitrogen Oxides (NOX) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) in the 2008 ozone nonattainment area. The fees will be implemented as early as 2028 by the Texas Commission on

Environmental Quality (TCEQ) if the region fails to attain the 2008 standard by the end of 2026. TCEQ estimates the impacts to Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) to have an estimated cost burden of \$45 million when implemented in 2028. The TCEQ is currently seeking feedback in development to a contingency plan of emission reduction commitments from any source.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Freight Optimization Project Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Tom Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the Freight Optimization Project and opportunity for involvement by local partners.

Background: In September 2020 the Regional Transportation Council approved a project to optimize the movement of freight vehicles through signalized intersections between freight hubs and expressways in the Dallas-Fort Worth region provided in the presentation in Electronic Item 7.1. In addition to providing time savings for freight vehicles, the project should deliver improved traffic flow for all vehicle types, reduced vehicle emissions, and safety benefits. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. was selected as the lead integrator after a procurement process. The technology requires no new equipment in vehicles or on the roadside. It will be implemented with the approval of and in close cooperation with local partners. There is no cost to the local partners who host the technology or the vehicle participants who use the technology to reduce their stops at red lights. Staff will outline key project elements and status and will focus on the ongoing process of selecting the intersections to include in the project. At the meeting, staff will demonstrate a web tool: (<https://freightpriority.com/publiccoordinatate/>) found on the project website: (<https://freightpriority.com/>) through which local partners can identify freight-heavy intersections that might qualify for inclusion in the project. The Committee will be updated regarding recent outreach to public officials in the region's Optimization Memo provided in Electronic Item 7.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Fiscal Year 2024 – Fiscal Year 2025 Policy Bundle – MTP Policy Bundle Round 5**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle Round 5.

Background: The MTP Policy Bundle Program was created to encourage entities such as local governments, school districts, and transportation agencies to voluntarily adopt at least a minimum of 50 percent of the list of policies identified in the Mobility 2045 Update Policy Bundle. By voluntarily adopting these policies, participating entities will receive Transportation Development

Credits (TDCs) to offset local funds as matching funds for federal transportation projects. MTP Policy Bundle Program – Round 5 began accepting applications on February 1, 2023. To be considered for an award, all requestors must apply by submitting a new application by the final deadline of May 31, 2023. Applications received by the early deadline of March 31, 2023, will be reviewed for completeness by North Central Texas Council of Governments staff and notified of any additional documentation required. Formal notice of awards will be announced to successful applicants following Regional Transportation Council approval in September 2023. Additional details regarding the MTP Policy Bundle Program can be found online at www.nctcog.org/policybundle.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Status Report on Vehicle Temporary Tags and Fraudulent Emissions Testing**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Anthony Moffa, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on improper vehicle inspections and vehicle registrations involving temporary tags. Staff will also cover recent legislative efforts that aim to reduce their prevalence.

Background: There continues to be significant fraudulent vehicle registrations in the form of fictitious paper tags as well as improper vehicle inspections. Vehicles utilizing these fraudulent paper tags have been used to conceal crimes, and also to circumvent proper emissions inspections, leading to a significant loss of revenue at a state, county, and local businesses. In addition, these activities contribute to a worsening of air quality throughout the region, as well as being a safety concern as the requirements of both a passing inspection and insurance to obtain a vehicle registration would be bypassed. Legislatively, a bill has been proposed to eliminate the paper tag altogether in response to the passing of Grand Prairie Police Officer Brandon Tsai who lost his life pursuing a vehicle with a fictitious paper tag. Other bills have been proposed that support the return of fees collected by residents back to counties for implementation of regional air quality and transportation initiatives. Electronic Item 9 contains more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

2:50 – 3:05

10. **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. *Cody Derrick* – Transportation Development Credit (TDC) Annual Report (Electronic Item 10.1)

2. *Jared Wright* - Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
3. *Savana Nance* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
4. *Trey Pope* - Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 10.2)
5. *Kimberlin To* – Air North Texas Partner Awards
(<https://www.airnorthtexas.org/partnerawards22>)
6. *Jackie Castillo* - March Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 10.3)
7. *Taylor Benjamin* - Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.4)
8. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.5)
11. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
12. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on March 24, 2023**.