

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, May 11, 2023
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

1:00 pm

**Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

1:00 – 1:10

1. Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda

Information

Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Members of the public may comment on any item(s) on today's agenda at this time. If speaking, please complete a Speaker Request Card, available at the meeting, and provide it to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum of three (3) minutes is permitted per speaker. At the conclusion of this item, no further opportunities for public comment will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

Background: N/A

1:10 – 1:15

2. Approval of April 13, 2023, Minutes

Action

Possible Action

Information

Minutes: 5

Presenter: Duncan Webb, RTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the April 13, 2023, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.

Background: N/A

3. Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)

Action

Possible Action

Information

Minutes : 0

1:15 – 1:30

4. Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report

Action

Possible Action

Information

Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Appointment of Regional Transportation Council Nominating Subcommittee (Chair Webb)
2. Policy that Restricts Third Parties from Recommending their Will on the Regional Transportation Council (Possible Action)
3. Texas Legislature Testimony ([Transportation - S/C Discretionary Funding Allocations - May 4th, 2023 \(granicus.com\)](#))
4. US 75 Technology Lane Illumination Agreements - Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
5. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) America Conference
6. TxDOT – Transportation Alternative Call for Projects Support for Submittal

7. Tennessee, Atlanta, and Washington D.C., Advancement of P3s
8. Letter from Regional Transportation Council for Metropolitan Planning Organization – Dallas-Fort Worth Area - Rebekah Gongora (Electronic Item 4.1)
9. City of Dallas/Dallas Area Rapid Transit Silver Line Mediation
10. Trinity Railway Express/Burlington Northern Santa Fe Mediation
11. Toyota-Chevron Renewable Gasoline Blend Announcement (Electronic Item 4.2)
12. 2023 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 4.3)
13. Auto Occupancy/High Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 4.4)
14. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
15. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 4.5)
16. April Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.6)
17. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.7)
18. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.8)

1:30 – 1:40

5. Project Status Report: Milestone Policy Round 2 and FY2023 Project Tracking

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) with a status report on the Milestone Policy Round 2 and FY2023 Project Tracking. Staff will request approval of updates to Milestone Policy project deadlines and a revised Milestone Policy and Project Tracking reporting frequency.

Background: The Milestone Policy was adopted by the RTC to focus on projects that have been funded for more than 10 years and have not gone to construction. By highlighting these projects, the policy creates agency accountability to implement projects in a timely manner. Staff coordinates with implementing agencies to assess project risk until they go to construction. Similarly, the annual project tracking effort focuses on projects slated for implementation in the current fiscal year. Projects are monitored early, allowing staff to highlight potential problems that could lead to delays, which enables the RTC to take corrective actions to avoid building up carryover balances in federal funding categories. Milestone Policy status updates, along with the latest risk ratings, can be found in Electronic Item 5.1. FY2023 Project Tracking status updates can be found in Electronic Items 5.2. Details on the status reports can be found in Electronic Item 5.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:40 – 1:50

6. **Application to Federal Highway Administration Charging and Fueling Discretionary Grant Infrastructure Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval to pursue funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI) under the Community Program and Corridor Program grant categories.

Background: Created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the FHWA's CFI Program will provide grants to deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging and other alternative fueling infrastructure in communities and along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged communities. This program will offer funding in two distinct funding categories: \$350 million for Community Program grants and \$350 million for Corridor Program grants, for a total of \$700 million in available funding. Staff proposes to apply for a Community Program grant and a Corridor Program grant. For the community grant, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will apply on behalf of public agencies in the Dallas-Fort Worth region for EV charging stations located on property owned by participating public agencies. For the corridor grant, staff solicited proposals from private sector teams through the 2023 Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Call for Partners with the intent to develop a public-private partnership proposal to FHWA. Twelve proposals were received by the Call for Partners deadline of April 7, 2023. Staff has reviewed proposals and selected three that are suitable for pursuing proposals under the CFI Corridor Program. Some other proposals may be retained for consideration under other funding opportunities throughout the coming year. Expansion of zero-emission vehicle adoption is incorporated as part of the Weight of Evidence in the latest approved Dallas-Fort Worth State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 6 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:50 – 2:00

7. **Federal and State Legislative Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Rebekah Gongora, 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 for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 118th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2023. The 88th session of the Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023, and will conclude on May 29, 2023. This item will allow staff to provide updates on key positions of the

Regional Transportation Council and allow any additional positions to be taken, if necessary.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:00 – 2:10

8. **Walk to School Day Promotion 2023**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of activities planned for the 2023 Walk to School Day promotion and request local government assistance.

Background: Walk to School Day is a national event where students across the nation walk to school on the same day. More students walking to school reduces the automobile traffic around schools, increasing pedestrian safety and improving air quality. This event spotlights the benefits of active transportation to school and the importance of pedestrian and bicyclist safety. For the third year, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will provide safety-related giveaways to schools to generate excitement and incentivize participation for schools in the region. In 2022, NCTCOG assisted 20 schools with Walk to School Day events by providing promotional items and received 973 unique entries for a bike raffle. Early coordination for Walk to School Day 2023 is critical to the process due to school schedules and purchasing requirements. Staff will request assistance from local governments to promote this opportunity with local schools and independent school districts and identify how local staff can collaborate with schools to hold events. Electronic Item 8 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Safety

2:10 – 2:20

9. **Regional Scrap Tire Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is proposing to implement a scrap tire abatement program to reduce the amount of scrap and abandoned tires that exist within the region.

Background: Scrap tires are not only a waste issue due to illegal dumping or recycling burden but also an environmental and public health nuisance. In our region alone, there are millions of dumped tires that are known and are trying to be remediated. The proposed program is a multifaceted approach consisting of education, outreach, technical and legal support, dump site identification for remediation, illegal dumping prevention, and enforcement. For more information, please see Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:20 – 2:30

10. **Air Quality Ozone: Federal vs. State**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on the national and State process for air quality standards and current local efforts to meet them.

Background: Sections 108 and 109 of the Clean Air Act govern the establishment, review, and revision, as appropriate, of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for each criteria pollutant to provide protection for the nation's public health and the environment. The Clean Air Act requires periodic review of the science behind how the standards are set and the standards themselves. Once a standard has been revised by the Environmental Protection Agency, the State has the responsibility of creating a State Implementation Plan documenting how it will comply with the air quality standard. Staff will inform the Committee on the process of reviewing and setting, the plan toward attaining, and the region's work toward coming into compliance with these standards. For more information, please see Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:30 – 2:40

11. **Fiscal Year 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. This \$2.85 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). Staff will provide details highlighting grant requirements and potential candidate projects.

Background: In May 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) is expected to announce the solicitation of project applications for the FY23 MPDG Discretionary Grant Program. As with last year, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) combines three major discretionary grant programs in efforts to reduce burdens for State and local applicants, increase the pipeline of "shovel-worthy" projects now possible because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and enable US DOT to get a more comprehensive view of projects in development nationwide. The expected deadline for applications will be in late June 2023 for the following funding programs:

- The National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) Program will provide \$1 billion in FY23 funding for major projects too large or complex for traditional funding programs.
- The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (continuation of the existing

Infrastructure for Rebuilding America ([INFRA] Program) will provide \$1.55 billion in FY23 funding for highway, bridge, freight rail, intermodal, and marine transportation projects of regional and national significance.

- The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) will provide \$300 million in FY23 funding supporting projects to improve/expand rural area surface transportation infrastructure for increased connectivity and enhanced safety and reliability of people and freight movements to generate regional economic growth and greater quality of life.

For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-to-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Thursday, June 15, 2023, at nallen@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

12. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 12.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 12.2)

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

14. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm on June 8, 2023, in the Transportation Council Room.***