

2.2. Fiscal Year 2023 Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives: Phase Two

Presenter: Mindy Mize, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will seek the Committee's support for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to recommend North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board approval of \$1,041,000 in funding of Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives: Phase Two that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

Background: Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale advertising purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. Electronic Item 2.2 provides a reminder of Phase One FY2023 budget previously approved as well as more information on Phase Two FY2023 education campaign costs along with examples of past education campaigns and associated campaign performance measure summaries. Education campaigns in Phase Two will support Car Care Awareness, Drive Aware North Texas, Engine Off North Texas, Freight North Texas, HOV 2+ Incentive Program (GoCarma), Know Before You Fly, National Drive Electric Week, Ozone Season Emissions Reduction Campaign (Air North Texas), Report Smoking Vehicles Program, Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions, Transit COVID Recovery Campaign, and Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications. Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications is for possible unanticipated costs that may arise, such as a specialized public meeting series that may need notifications posted. Education campaigns will be in multiple languages and may be presented through out-of-home advertising, print, screen, online, audio, and social media mediums.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

1:40 – 1:45

3. Endorsement of Medal of Honor – Museum Partnership Program: Leadership Institute

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of a financial contribution of \$1.895 million in Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds to support the Medal of Honor Institute, the leadership component of the National Medal of Honor Museum currently under construction in Arlington.

Background: This item includes communication received from the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation about partnership opportunities in Electronic Item 3.1, a letter of support to be signed by Regional Transportation Council (RTC) members in Electronic Item 3.2, and additional information in Electronic Item 3.3 to provide background information about the upcoming project and recommended financial contribution.

This item also includes the methodology staff used to identify eligible transportation elements. Staff briefed the RTC in December regarding the proposal to request the entire RTC sign the commitment letter, including recognition of members with current and previous military service.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

1:45 – 2:00

4. **Cotton Belt Trail Phase One and Phase Two**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval regarding funding for the Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail in partnership with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line rail project from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine to the Shiloh Station in Plano.

Background: The DART Silver Line rail project is coordinating a parallel regionally significant Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail corridor that will provide pedestrian and bicycle access to rail stations in seven cities across three counties. Accommodations for the approximate 26-mile regional trail have been included as part of DART's planning for the commuter rail corridor. Additional funding is needed for construction of the Phase 1 bridge sections of the trail intended to be completed by the Silver Line rail design-build contractor prior to the rail beginning revenue service. Funds will also be requested to provide an extension of betterment walls associated with the Silver Line rail project. A two-contractor approach will be used for construction, partnering with DART for additional trail bridges and trail segments in the corridor. An expedited Phase 2 will be implemented with a second contractor to be procured by DART to construct various remaining trail bridges, street crossings, and trail sections before the Silver Line rail revenue service. Supported by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), applications will be submitted by DART to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects and the US Department of Transportation 2023 RAISE grant for the phase 2 construction and will leverage existing federal and local funding currently programmed for trail construction in the corridor. Regional Transportation Council funding will be requested to support this leveraging of funds. Staff will provide an overview of funding recommendations and DART partnership grant applications to implement various sections of this priority regional trail corridor. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 4.

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

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Regional Safety Performance Targets Update 2023 - 2027**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of federally required regional Roadway Safety Performance targets and reduction schedule for 2023-2027 and will provide an update on 2021 actual performance. Roadway Safety targets are focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities for motorized and non-motorized travelers.

Background: In December 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. The FAST Act requires that certain performance measures be included in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. These measures were established by a series of four rulemakings: Safety, Infrastructure Condition, System Performance/Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transit Asset Management. In December 2017, the Regional Transportation Council adopted 2018 targets for Roadway Safety performance and in February 2019 affirmed that support through target year 2022. Adoption of new safety performance target setting for 2023-2027 is needed. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the North Central Texas region, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is required to set regional targets for Roadway Safety. These targets will be used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the State of the Region report. The proposed 2023 targets for Roadway Safety will be discussed along with the preliminary biennial report for 2021 targets versus 2021 actual performance. Staff will provide an overview of the 2023 Safety Performance Measures included in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

2:10 – 2:25

6. **Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology Round Two: Swyft**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: As part of the Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology (CERTT) Program, staff will introduce another applicant technology, Swyft. This technology follows the requirements established by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), as defined in Policy P22-02, including the utilization of the initial certification track or pilot corridor for eventual commercial service that fulfills a transportation need identified by the Mobility 2045 Update. Staff will outline next steps for this technology within the Certification Program and will request action to recommend the RTC advance this proposal to interested local

governments that may wish to submit locations for the technology provider to consider.

Background: In May 2022, the RTC adopted Policy P22-02 to develop a process for the Transportation Infrastructure Certification Program (now named CERTT). This program serves to guide a consensus-building path among the RTC, interested local governments, and transportation technology providers in bringing innovative transportation solutions to our region with the end goal of a commercial application serving a long-range transportation need. This transparent process ensures a level playing field for transportation technology providers wishing to prove their technology and for local governments wishing to attract unique and innovative transportation technologies to solve their transportation needs. Swyft is a gondola-like transportation developer based in California, focused on developing overhead transportation gondolas. Staff is continuing to review letters of interest from technology providers wishing to join this program and will update the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and RTC on the results of these applications as they advance through the process. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 6.1 and Policy P22-02 is provided as Electronic Item 6.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:25 – 2:35

7. **Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

Background: In December 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program regarding strategic capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have significant local or regional impacts. Electronic Item 7.1 is a copy of the amended Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) providing specific program details and application requirements for the \$2.275 billion program. Electronic Item 7.2 provides information regarding candidate projects (with applications to be authored/submitted by NCTCOG). Applications are due to the US DOT by February 28, 2023. For agencies in the region submitting projects, the www.grants.gov registration process must be completed, 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 of NCTCOG at nallen@nctcog.org by Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

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

2:35 – 2:45

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 (US) Congress and the 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

2:45 – 2:55

9. 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. Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition and Crossroads
2. I-20 Corridor Rail Project and High-Speed Rail from Fort Worth to Houston
3. Partnership Meeting with State of Tennessee Representatives
4. US 75 Technology Lane (Electronic Item 9.1)
5. 15 Most Congested Regions

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:55 – 3:05

10. Status of 2022 Transportation Conformity Determination – Received

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Jenny Narvaez and Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on work efforts to implement Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2022 Update including the recent Transportation Conformity determination by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Background: The Clean Air Act of 1990 requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations with a nonattainment designation to perform an air quality analysis when a new metropolitan transportation plan is developed to ensure the multi-modal transportation system complies with applicable Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB). On December 16, 2022, the US DOT granted a successful transportation conformity determination

for Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2022 Update (MTP) and the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for North Central Texas (TIP). Electronic Item 10.1 contains the US DOT conformity approval, which now allows new and modified projects in the MTP and TIP to proceed. On June 9, 2022, the Regional Transportation Council adopted Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2022 Update as the region’s long-range transportation plan, carried out through policies, programs, and projects. Electronic Item 10.2 contains minor changes made to the roadway and transit project recommendations tables due to the conformity review process. For more information, please see Electronic Item 10.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

3:05 – 3:15

11. **Roadway Safety Plan**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the Regional Roadway Safety Plan including analysis, High Injury Network, recommended countermeasures, and next steps.

Background: From 2016 to 2020 the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 12-county area experienced 3,752 fatalities and 19,405 serious injuries on the region’s roadways. The Regional Roadway Safety Plan is the first regionwide plan to eliminate all fatal crashes on our roadways by 2050 in accordance with safety positions adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and the Texas Transportation Commission. Staff will provide an overview of the Roadway Safety Plan, including goals, analysis, emphasis areas, and recommended safety countermeasures. The plan also includes 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. Staff will provide an overview of the Roadway Safety Plan provided in Electronic Item 11. A draft version of the Roadway Safety Plan can be reviewed on the [Transportation Safety web page](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

3:15 – 3:20

12. **Dallas Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study: Phase Two**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on coordination efforts with the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration to advance this project through the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Staff will introduce next steps in Phase 2, including conceptual and preliminary engineering of a high-speed rail corridor generally along Interstate Highway (IH) 30 to support environmental analysis and documentation for the NEPA process.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis of high-speed modes and corridors. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and a NEPA effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Following the substantial completion of Phase 1 activities, the Regional Transportation Council adopted Policy P22-01 (Policy Support to Advance High-Speed Rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study into Phase 2 National Environmental Policy Act Process) in February 2022, advancing the preferred mode, high-speed rail, along the preferred corridor, IH 30. Policy P22-01 is provided in Electronic Item 12.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

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. *Toni Stehling* - 2022 Surface Transportation Technical Committee and Regional Transportation Council Meeting Schedules (Electronic Item 13.1)
2. *Charles Marsh* – Submittal Deadline for Modification Requests to the TIP through the May 2023 Revision Cycle
3. *Martin Bate* – Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Policy Bundle (www.nctcog.org/policybundle)
4. *Jesse Brown* – Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 13.2)
5. *Jared Wright* - Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
6. *Jared Wright* – Comments on Texas Electric Vehicle Charging Plan Draft Grant Documents (Electronic Item 13.3)
7. *Jared Wright* – Dallas -Fort Worth Clean Cities Annual Survey Open (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/annualreport>)
8. *Savana Nance* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
9. *Savana Nance* – Local Government Energy Reporting Due March 3, 2023 (Electronic Item 13.4)
10. *Jared Wright* - Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 13.5)
11. *Connor Sadro* – ITS America 2023 Annual Conference & Expo in Grapevine (Electronic Item 13.6)
12. *Carli Baylor* – November Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 13.7)

13. *Carli Baylor* - December Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 13.8)
14. *Carli Baylor* - February Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 13.9)
15. *Taylor Benjamin* - Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.10)
16. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.11)

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 February 24, 2023.***