

AGENDA

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Friday, February 26, 2021
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda (Meeting Will be Held as a Videoconference)

1:30 – 1:35 1. **Approval of January 22, 2021, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
 Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair
 Item Summary: Approval of the January 22, 2021, meeting minutes contained
 in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.
 Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40 2. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes : 5

2.1. **FY2020 and FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program Modifications**

Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG
Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the FY2020 and FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to also administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications will also be sought.

Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2020 and FY2021 UPWP identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2021. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments have been posted on the North Central Texas Council of Governments website for public review and comment, and are also included as Electronic Item 2.1.1. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 2.1.2. Comments received as a result of the public outreach process, if any, will be provided.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Air Quality Calls for Projects Recommendations**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of funding recommendations for the Clean Fleets North Texas 2019 Call for Projects (CFP).

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) opened three different Calls for Projects, under three separate Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awards: North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 CFP, North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP, and Clean Fleets North Texas 2020 CFP. These CFPs award grant funds for diesel vehicle or equipment replacement projects and installation of EPA-verified electrified parking spaces and related infrastructure in North Central Texas. The most recent application deadline was January 8, 2021. Staff has completed review and emissions quantification and developed recommendations regarding projects to be funded. These CFPs were funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 3.1 provides an overview of the call for projects and staff recommendations. Electronic Item 3.2 and Electronic Item 3.3 provide detailed project listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:50 – 2:00

4. **COVID-19 Infrastructure Program (Round 3)/Transit Partnership Funding**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the COVID-19 Transit Partnership projects and programs will be requested.

Background: In the fall of 2020, the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and the RTC approved the third round of the COVID-19 Infrastructure Program, including a \$25 million placeholder for investments in transit. Since then, discussions have occurred about how this funding could be utilized across various transit initiatives to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on transit and to advance transit in the region. The details of the specific partnership programs and projects being proposed are provided in Electronic Item 4.1. Electronic Item 4.2 contains additional details about the partnership and programs/projects being requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit, Safety

2:00 – 2:05

5. **Status Report Related to Previous Action on Federal Transit Administration Funding Allocations in Response to COVID Relief 2.0 Funding Authorization**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a status report related to previous action on US Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding allocations in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is an information item because there is no proposed change to the current position.

Background: Staff will provide an update to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee following the Committee's approval on January 22, 2021 for allocations related to funding provided by the FTA through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA). The Committee asked staff to confirm eligibility and work with the transit authorities to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the funds. It is proposed that the current program proceed as presented in January, and assistance to Trinity Metro may occur through other methods.

Primary objective of the funding is to ensure public transit agencies receive sufficient funding, when combined with Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act apportionments, to equal at least 75 percent of UZAs' public transit operating costs based on 2018 expenses. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is the designated recipient for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (DFWA) Urbanized Area (UZA) and the Denton-Lewisville (DL) UZA.

The DFWA UZA will receive \$129,172,478 and the Denton-Lewisville UZA was allocated \$41,938. Congress did not fund any money to the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Urbanized Area for Trinity Metro. The DFWA UZA is receiving Urbanized Area Formula Program funding only because the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) falls below the 75 percent threshold.

If requested, staff will provide more details on the methodology utilized in making the recommendations for the Urbanized Area Formula Program funds under CRRSAA and for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds. Details can be found in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2:05 – 2:20

6. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current transportation items, including a summary on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

- Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 6.1) (www.nctcog.org/pm/covid-19)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Follow Up: Monitoring Project Success
- 2021 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Discretionary Grant Program (Electronic Item 6.2 and Electronic Item 6.3)
- Initiation of Conversation with the New US Secretary of Transportation

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:20 – 2:30

7. **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. Items to be addressed:

- Biden Administration Executive Orders
- State and Federal Transportation Committee Members
- Proposed Budgets for Transportation for the Texas Legislature
- Governor's Emergency Items

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States (US) Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 117th US Congress convened on January 3, 2021. The 87th Texas Legislature convened on January 12, 2021.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Requirements for Ozone Reclassifications**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Vivek Thimmavajjhala, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will summarize North Central Texas Council of Governments efforts that will support State requirements resulting from ozone standard reclassifications for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region.

Background: This past November concluded the 2020 ozone season for the DFW region. Unfortunately, preliminary data suggests both

the 2008 and 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards were not attained. This now triggers State revisions to the air quality plan that identifies how the region will reach future attainments. Staff has been coordinating and contracting with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on various elements to support these revisions. A summary of these efforts will be provided. For further information, see Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:40 – 3:00

9. **Discussion on Proposed Amendments to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 20

Presenters: Michael Morris and NCTCOG Staff

Item Summary: Staff will facilitate discussion on proposed amendments to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways. It is anticipated most of the discussion will come from Committee members wishing to highlight ideas they may have for the upcoming Manual.

Background: The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways is a document issued by the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation to specify the standards by which traffic signs, road surface markings, and signals are designed, installed, and used. This latest proposed update to the MUTCD would advance traffic operations and safety nationwide. As part of the process of updating the MUTCD, FHWA will consider feedback from State and local traffic engineers and other traffic control device stakeholders, and the public in general, submitted through the docket that is now open for public comment. FHWA recently extended the comment period for proposed revisions to the MUTCD to May 14, 2021.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

3:00 – 3:00

10. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. FY2022 and FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program Development (Electronic Item 10.1)
2. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
3. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
4. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Programs (Electronic Item 10.2)
5. Recipient of SolSmart Bronze Award (Electronic Item 10.3)

6. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Call for Interested Cities (Electronic Item 10.4)
7. January Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 10.5)
8. February Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 10.6)
9. March Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 10.7)
10. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.8)
11. Written Progress Report:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 10.9)
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 26, 2021.***