

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Public Works Council

Thursday, August 21, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (CST)

In-Person Meeting

NCTCOG Offices, William Pitstick Conference Room
616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint II
Arlington, TX 76011

Chair: Matt Leppla, Director of Public Works, City of Weatherford

Vice Chair: Glenn Barker, Director of Public Works, City of Corinth

Welcome and Introductions. The Public Works Council (PWC) Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Meeting Summary Approval.** The May 15, 2025 meeting summary is available for review. Approval will be sought at the meeting.

Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked for a motion to approve May 15, 2025, meeting summary. Larry Hoover (White Settlement) moved to approve the meeting summary and Justin Stoker (Waxahachie) seconded the motion. The meeting summary was approved as presented.

2. **Public Works Council Nominations.** The PWC will vote to approve the nominees for FY2026-2027, including Chair and Vice Chair. Upon approval, appointments will go to the NCTCOG Executive Board for approval in September. NCTCOG will also recognize representatives who are retiring from the PWC. (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) went over the process of nominations for appointments and reappointments, highlighting the FY26 nominees. Erin opened the room to questions and comments about the process and nominees that were presented. Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked for a motion to approve the slate of nominees. James Gaertner (Waxahachie) made the motion and Eric Robison (Richardson) seconded the motion.

Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) discussed changes with the Environment and Development department and a realignment of programs across teams to create a team focused on Water programs and a Sustainability team. Sue explained that Cassidy Campbell (NCTCOG) is the Program Manager for the Sustainability team that the Regional Public Works Program will be aligned under. Crysta Guzman (NCTCOG) is the Sr. Planner who will be taking over the program from Erin Blackman along with a new staff member soon to be announced. Prior to starting on the Regional Public Works Program, Crysta and Cassidy oversaw the Regional Stormwater Management Program for many years.

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) announced that Larry Hoover (White Settlement) will be stepping down after 5 years of service on the Council and presented him with a certificate recognizing his service. Certificates to recognize the service of additional members who were not present at the meeting will be mailed in the coming weeks.

3. **Regional Public Works FY2026 Work Program.** The PWC will vote to approve the FY2026 Work Program. NCTCOG will also seek approval for \$80,000 of the Public Works Program's budget to fund the Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) program. (Erin Blackman)

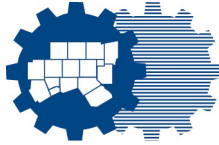
Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) shared that the draft FY2026 Work Program was sent out 30 days in advance of the meeting, with the updated Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) subcommittee tasks attached. Erin also explained that no changes were made to the tasks in the Public Works Council draft. As part of the FY26 Work Program and budget, NCTCOG is seeking official approval for \$80,000 of the Public Works Program budget to fund tasks in the iSWM program. While this funding for the iSWM program has been de facto for some time, NCTCOG is seeking official approval from the Council for purposes of record keeping as the source of funding for iSWM Program.

Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked for a motion to approve the FY26 Regional Public Works Program and budget. James Gaertner (Waxahachie) made a motion, and Gary Machado (Parker) seconded the motion. The motion was approved as presented.

4. **Repurpose Public Works Funds for the integrated Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) North Study Area.** At the November 2024 PWC meeting, the PWC approved \$75,000 of its deferred budget to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) work in TSI-North. Due to USACE's unforeseen issues with matching, NCTCOG is requesting these funds go toward a personal services agreement to assist with the work. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) discussed the Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) North Study Area funding efforts. Kate proposed that the previously allocated Regional Public Works funds (\$75,000) be repurposed. Kate stated that in November 2024, the Public Works Council (PWC) approved \$75,000 to fund U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) participation in the TSI North Study Area. Since the reallocation, USACE is now able to contribute \$150,000 without matching funds, to cover a portion of the work scope. Additionally, several USACE Senior Engineers and staff contacted NCTCOG informing them of their separation from the USACE but desire to continue involvement with the project separate from USACE. This includes the staff person responsible for a majority of the Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) work. With this update, NCTCOG is seeking reallocation of the \$75,000 to a former USACE staff member to perform similar duties through a personal services agreement. Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked what region the TSI North Study Area encompassed. Kate answered mainly portions of Wise County and Denton County. Reece Taylor (Braun Interterc) asked what the scope of the work includes. Kate answered that the work remained similar to what they were doing previously. Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) elaborated with details on the initial scope of work.

Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked for a motion to approve the reallocation of PWC funds. Larry Hoover (White Settlement) made a motion, and Keith Miertschin (Grapevine) seconded the motion. The motion was approved as presented.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

5. Process for Receiving and Reviewing Construction Standards/Drawings

Edits/Additions. As discussed at the May PWC meeting, NCTCOG regularly receives suggested edits/additions. It was recommended that any revision requests to NCTCOG include marked-up drawings/text to clarify the issues. These requests should then be sent to the Construction Standards Subcommittee for review and comment. NCTCOG is seeking feedback and action on this response. (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) explained that when NCTCOG receives a request for revisions to the Construction Standards and/or Drawings, the request should include marked up drawings to help provide clarity. After an initial review by NCTCOG staff, the comments and drawings are provided to the reviewers on the Construction Standards Subcommittee for consideration and comment. Previously, there was discussion on having a more formal review in place with submissions being reviewed as frequently as every 6-12 months. Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked the subcommittee if there are any issues with this review schedule. James Gaertner (Waxahachie) asked how many revisions are submitted each year. Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) answered that the NCTCOG receives around 3 revision requests per year, and posed a question to the group, of how to disseminate those changes. James asked how often the standards are then revised after reviewing the requests. Kate mentioned the standards are revised on a 5-year cycle, and the drawings on a 10-year cycle. James stated a review of revision requests should occur annually. Glenn asked the committee if annual reviews of revision requests are sufficient.

Erin asked the group how to go about revising the standards, as amending and publishing is an undertaking. Glenn asked if annual revisions are too frequent. Kate mentioned the need to outsource the drawings, as there are no NCTCOG staff members equipped to update or create the technical drawings. Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) mentioned that the cost of outsourcing may be a reasonable and possible use of the Public Works Program cost shares. Glenn asked what happens to the revisions once they are submitted to the NCTCOG. Erin explained that comments are compiled internally, and addressed during subcommittee meetings, during the 5-year revision cycle. Glenn mentioned that the subcommittee would need to meet either annually or biannually. Erin elaborated that the subcommittee would meet more frequently during the revision cycle. Kate stated that to update the drawings would require a couple meetings each month. Glenn asked, if the group submitted a revision, how long would the update take. Erin answered the revision would take multiple years. Glenn asked what the purpose of the subcommittee hosting review meetings is. Erin stated to maintain a running list of revisions, brainstorm additional revisions, and to perform follow-up. Glenn stated 10 revisions within a year is a practical reason to update. Erin explained the group may base the revision cycle on the number of submittals and recommendations. Sue stated that initially, the standards were a physical book. The last amendment was only electronic, and this avenue is easier to implement. Sue posed the question of what format should be utilized moving forward. Glenn stated electronic is his preference.

Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked for a motion to approve the electronic process for construction standards revisions with a scheduled annual review of submissions. James

Gaertner (Waxahachie) made a motion, and Aaron Russell (Lewisville) seconded the motion. The motion was approved as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. **North Texas Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Call for Projects.** NCTCOG has opened the North Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Call for Projects to select public sector properties within the 16-county NCTCOG region on which to build EV charging stations. Additional details on eligible projects, scoring criteria, and professional services available to assist potential applicants will be provided. (Jared Wright)

Jared Wright (NCTCOG) shared the call for projects for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and provided background information on award funding in this region. The focus of this award is to help bridge gaps in accessibility of EV infrastructure such as on multifamily properties and in urban and rural areas. Jared elaborated on project eligibility, charge requirements, and maintenance operations for proposals. The NCTCOG will procure vendors to maintain compliance. The focus areas of the project are multifamily properties, shared-use fleets/services, and multi-modal areas, with some implementation examples including city halls, community centers, and sports complexes. Funding for the program includes up to 80% federal share of the initial capital costs and 20% of operations and maintenance (O&M). Jared shared free professional services (through Kimley Horn) are available to support application development. There are Call for Projects Workshops scheduled to provide additional support, with recordings to be posted online. The deadline for the call for projects is October 31, 2025, with anticipation of final project approval in early 2026.

Jody Byerly (Carrollton) asked if they have considered solar. He mentioned that the city receives grid alerts, and they must shut down pumping. Carrollton is looking to reduce electric costs by utilizing solar energy. Jared mentioned that consideration is part of the application, and they are looking for projects that utilize solar energy.

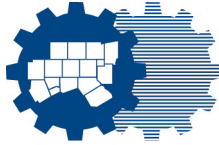
7. **Legislative Tracking.** NCTCOG will provide an overview of state and federal legislation that could impact city and county agencies. (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) updated the Council on the tracked legislation from the 89th Texas Legislative Session. The City of Fort Worth asked about HB 2559 and SB 1883. These two bills made it out of committee and are effective September 1, 2025. Erin mentioned there is a detailed legislative presentation scheduled for the Public Works Roundup. Other tracked bills were either left in committee or as pending.

Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked if the \$100,000 procurement bill passed. Erin stated SB 1173 passed and is effective September 1, 2025. She mentioned the TXShare Procurement Team will be present at the Public Works Roundup.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. **FY2025 Public Works Program Update.** The PWC will be updated on recent Public Works Program efforts and Subcommittee activities.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) stated that 64 communities have paid cost shares for FY25, resulting in 108% of budget received. She reminded members that cost share members are entitled to receive free tickets to the Public Works Roundup.

- a. **PWC Marketing.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the video to market the PWC. (Lai Hoang)

Lai Hoang (NCTCOG) recently visited the City of Frisco to film public works activities. He expressed interest in gathering more film through additional city visits, the New Inspectors Training, and the Public Works Roundup. Justin Stoker (Waxahachie) offered their municipality for filming purposes.

- b. **New Inspectors Training.** NCTCOG will provide an update on this training. (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) stated the New Inspectors Training was held on August 20, 2025, with assistance by the City of Grapevine, Olsson, and Pape-Dawson. The construction site visit was cancelled due to inclement weather. Erin mentioned around 25 inspectors from cost-sharing communities attended for free. A Council member asked if another training is scheduled. Erin answered hopefully closer to spring, dependent on municipalities volunteering to host either the classroom or construction site visit portion. She expressed adding this topic to the future meeting agenda in November. Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) requested any members to email NCTCOG if they have specific training needs, as NCTCOG can support technical training and educational needs. For example, the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association is willing to provide training related to paving, maintenance, and design. They work with communities on educational programs.

- c. **Public Works Roundup.** NCTCOG will give an update on planning for the Roundup scheduled for September 4, 2025 at the Hurst Conference Center. (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) increased the Public Works Roundup capacity to 300 participants, as the event was previously sold out. The registration platform should be updated, and the agenda is available on the website. A Council member asked about free tickets to the Roundup. Erin shared that cost share participants may attend for free, while non-participants must pay \$65 per ticket. A Council member asked how to redeem free tickets. Erin detailed how on the registration page, there is a drop-down option, or to email her for assistance. She mentioned if anyone needs a registration spot, to email her.

- d. **Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) Subcommittee.** NCTCOG will provide an update on subcommittee activities. (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) stated there are no updates on the SPROW Subcommittee at this time. There will be a re-evaluation of the committee and respective activities after Cassidy Campbell (NCTCOG) and Crysta Guzman (NCTCOG) fully transition to overseeing the Regional Public Works Program.

- e. Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee.** The Subcommittee Chair will provide an update of iSWM program activities. (Ranjan Muttiah)

Ranjan Muttiah (Fort Worth) thanked the Council for approving the funding allocation to iSWM program tasks. He mentioned that Halff supports the development and execution of program tasks. Ranjan continued that through their meeting, they identified the need to improve the usability and organization of the iSWM manual. The iSWM Subcommittee will continue to review the manual at their next meeting and invite Council members to attend.

Ranjan shared that the City of Lewisville has achieved silver designation. The subcommittee Vice Chair, Travis Attanasio, led the review process, which sparked interest in extending the 30-day review timeline to 60 days. Ranjan shared they would like to see more communities achieve designation. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. virtually. There will be a guest speaker from the EPA presenting on the Stormwater Management Model (SWMM) and discussions on manual improvements. Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked what the process for accreditation and review is and what was Lewisville's response. Ranjan detailed the accreditation review process.

- 9. Other Program Updates.** The PWC will be updated on other items of interest.
- a. Public Works Emergency Response Team (PWERT).** A representative will give an update on recent PWERT activities. (Justin Stoker)

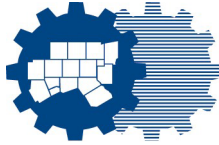
Justin Stoker (Waxahachie) updated the Council on the approval of all State Homeland Security Grant items, including four message boards, two light towers, and a trailer. The 2026 grant year begins in a few weeks, and a state representative provided feedback, prompting research into more trailers. Justin elaborated that PWERT was asked to inventory, assess condition, and update contacts for old assets.

There is a large-scale MetroX exercise scheduled for October 27 through 29. This exercise aims to create a stress test on disaster preparedness by compounding multiple disasters in anticipation of the FIFA World Cup event in 2026. The current PWERT Secretary, Travis, stepped down, and the team is looking for a replacement. Justin mentioned the current PWERT representation is heavy on emergency response, and they would like to see more representation from engineers or public works professionals. The next meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on October 9, 2025, and then meetings rotate between virtual and in person.

- b. Integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI).** NCTCOG will give an update on progress made on the TSI project. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) updated the Council on annual sub-area in-person meetings to provide TSI project updates. The meetings start at 10 a.m. with an overview of the scope and transition to breakout stations to learn more project details.

- c. Community Rating System Users Group.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the floodplain administrators/Community Rating System Users Group. (Erin Blackman)



North Central Texas Council of Governments

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) updated the Council that a L0278 CRS Course was held for 24 attendees on August 11th through 14th. FEMA may host two-day virtual trainings on similar content in the future. There is a Combined Floodplain Seminar for Elected Officials and Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for September 18, 2025, in-person at NCTCOG offices from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- d. Texas Chapter of American Public Works Association (TX-APWA).** A representative will give an update on upcoming APWA local events and meetings. (Gabby Proce)

Jody Byerly (Carrollton) provided an update on behalf of Gabby Proce (past North Central Branch President) and Cheryl Taylor (current North Central Branch President). He introduced the current officers for the 2025/2026 year. Jody shared various branch events with the Council, including the 27th Annual Golf Tournament, and a call for abstracts for the NCT-APWA One-Day Seminar in November. He also provided an overview on state and national affiliated events for the APWA.

- e. Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan.** NCTCOG will present an update on the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan: Comprehensive Action Plan, including the regional emissions inventory, emissions projections, and measure development. (Corinne Buckley)

Corinne Buckley (NCTCOG) provided an update on the drafted Air Quality Improvement Plan for the region and requested stakeholder feedback. She elaborated that the Comprehensive Action Plan includes measures to improve air quality through 2050. Currently, the NCTCOG are engaging stakeholders within COG committees and other groups, reviewing ozone and particulate considerations, and evaluating current measures in place. The plan requires projections, targets, and measures to implement long-term to reduce emissions, based on 2022 data integration into the Emissions Inventory. Corinne emphasized that there is a significant increase in the carbon dioxide equivalent for the 2030 and 2050 projections. Alyssa Knox (NCTCOG) specified differences in the Priority Action Plan and Comprehensive Action Plan, noting the EPA required certain sectors and sections in each plan. Corinne mentioned the NCTCOG was not awarded the Implementation Grant.

Corinne discussed the various water and wastewater measures, including possible projects and obstacles to achieving targets (such as funding). Corinne asked the group for feedback, specifically timeline targets for these measures, missing measures, or how the measures should be prioritized. A QR code was presented to the group to submit feedback. Ranjan Muttiah (Fort Worth) asked about the connection in measuring carbon dioxide. Alyssa said the connection is twofold, with more green infrastructure there will be less carbon dioxide emissions, and less water usage (as water conservation remains a high priority). Corinne discussed the various transportation measures, including possible projects and obstacles to achieving targets. She mentioned this sector is not increasing in emissions significantly, as much of the current NCTCOG programming is focused on transportation emissions management. Corinne asked the group for feedback, specifically how the measures should be prioritized.

Ranjan asked if NCTCOG is looking into existing modes of transportation including drone taxis. Corinne mentioned that the draft plan is being updated as technology upgrades and expands. She elaborated on some of the measures included in the draft plan but stated that target timelines are needed. Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked how does the NCTCOG address efficiency. Corinne acknowledged that as a good feedback point, and efficiency may be considered an implementation barrier or priority directive. She stated that while there isn't a separate submission form for feedback, to utilize the Water/Wastewater form to submit feedback. Corinne mentioned a stakeholder group is available if anyone is interested in submitting a letter of support.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

10. Future Agenda Items. PWC members and NCTCOG may suggest future agenda items.

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) requested input for future meeting agenda items. Glenn Barker (Corinth) mentioned that Southlake is partnering with Fort Worth on estimations. He requested someone to reach out to Southlake or Fort Worth to present at a future meeting. Glenn asked the group for any unique events going on.

11. Roundtable Topics/Other Business. PWC members and NCTCOG may share additional items as time allows.

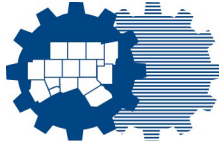
James Gaertner (Waxahachie) asked the Council how other cities are utilizing AI (artificial intelligence), beyond just using ChatGPT. Glenn Barker (Corinth) asked the Council if anyone has heard of RH Borden, a company proposing digital twin technology for wastewater systems. Glenn mentioned that the City of Houston utilizes this company for an analysis of their sewer system, and they may be open to presenting at future meetings. The Council agreed this would be a good presentation. Glenn stated satellite leak detection wasn't that costly. Aaron Russell (Lewisville) stated they are looking at a contract for about \$150,000 and are looking to piggyback off Flower Mound's contract. Larry Hoover (White Settlement) stated they received a Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) grant for \$650,000 for technology to study leaks. Aaron mentioned Voda AI provides predictive modeling to prevent utility line failure.

Eric Robison (Richardson) mentioned a lot of funding issues all around and expressed interest in something like a sales presentation to highlight different technologies and cost estimates. Glenn specified a city presentation would be preferred over a sales presentation and asked if anyone was willing to provide a presentation. Clay Riggs (Westwood) offered to provide a presentation.

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) mentioned the TxShare Procurement Summit on October 20, 2025, with \$30 waived for attending the emergency response session.

12. The Next PWC Meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (virtual).

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. virtually. Crysta Guzman (NCTCOG) introduced herself as the new planner for the Regional Public Works Program and shared that an additional staff person to work on the program is expected to be hired soon.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

13. Adjournment.

Glenn Barker adjourned the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Erin Blackman by phone at (817) 608-2360, or by email at eblackman@nctcog.org.

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Ashley Barnett at (817) 695-9231 or abarnett@nctcog.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.