

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, May 23, 2025

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 April 25, 2025, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Gus Khankarli, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the April 25, 2025, 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. Approval to Participate in Regional Energy Management Assistance Program Contract and Use Regional Transportation Council Local Funds as Match

Presenter: Joaquin Escalante, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to participate in ongoing efforts related to the State Energy Conservation Office's (SECO) Regional Energy Management Assistance Program and use RTC Local funds (\$75,000) to satisfy match requirements.

Background: Since 2018, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation and Environment and Development Departments have received Department of Energy (DOE) funding through SECO to support local governments in efforts related to improving energy efficiency and grid reliability, as well as meeting the annual reporting requirements for electricity consumption under the Texas Health and Safety Code 388.005(c). These efforts support the region in reaching attainment with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) by reducing emissions associated with energy generation. Additionally, this work is included in Appendix E of the most recently adopted Dallas-Fort Worth Severe Area Attainment Demonstration State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS. SECO will be opening a competitive request for proposals (RFP) in Summer 2025 to provide funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. Based on past awards, NCTCOG anticipates an

opportunity for two one-year extensions at similar funding levels. If awarded, the federal funding and match requirements will be split between the NCTCOG Transportation and Environment and Development departments. NCTCOG anticipates applying to this RFP with a request of approximately \$125,000 for the Transportation Department and if awarded, it will be required to provide 20 percent local match. Staff requests approximately \$25,000 RTC Local funds per fiscal year to cover the Transportation Department's share of match through the end of FY 2028. More information is available in Electronic Item 2.1.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Mobility 2050 and Conformity: Regional Transportation Council Adoption Process**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Amy Johnson and Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval will be requested of Mobility 2050: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas and associated Transportation Conformity at the June Regional Transportation Council meeting. Staff will recap the plan's recommendations and present a brief overview of the Transportation Conformity analysis results. Plan information will include:

- Public comments received
- Changes to plan documentation
- Draft document contents, including policies, programs, and projects

The draft Mobility 2050 document and the draft recommendations are identified graphically and in tabular format that are available at www.nctcoq.org/PlaninProgress. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.1 and public comments received during the planning process are available in Electronic Item 3.2.

Background: Mobility 2050 has been presented at the RTC and Surface Transportation Technical Committee meetings throughout 2024-2025. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years. In addition, the current schedule allows the plan forecast to maintain at least 20 years into the future. Mobility 2050: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas must demonstrate federal Transportation Conformity and be financially constrained. The updated plan includes a new financial plan, updated demographics and technical analysis, updated project recommendation listings,

and robust public involvement. The Clean Air Act requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations to perform an air quality analysis when a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan is developed to ensure the multimodal transportation system complies with applicable Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets established for the region.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Grant Application Partnership for the Cotton Belt Trail Next Phase (3a)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) for approval of a partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to submit a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) 2025 Transportation Alternatives Program call for projects application. The RTC will be requested to approve additional federal funds and Regional Toll Revenue funds to leverage the requested Transportation Alternatives Program funds for Phase 3a of the Cotton Belt Trail along the Silver Line rail corridor.

Background: Applications for the TxDOT 2025 Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects opened in January 2025 and detailed applications are due in June 2025. Similar to previous funding applications supporting the regional Cotton Belt Trail along the Silver Line rail corridor, staff will provide an overview of the partnership with DART and funding recommendations for a proposed large-scale project category application to construct sections of the Cotton Belt Trail primarily located within rail right-of-way in Addison, Carrollton, Coppell, and Dallas. If awarded funding, DART will procure a contractor and manage construction of the trail segments. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 4.

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

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Managed Lane Policy, High Occupancy Vehicle 2+/3+ Subsidy Funding, and High Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is requesting a committee recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a \$5.6 million funding increase for North Tarrant Express (NTE) High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Subsidy funding, reaffirm the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) policy for HOV 2+ users, and approval to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation

Improvement Program (STIP) and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project funding.

Background: When the RTC approved the Managed Lane Policy in 2006, members elected to retain the HOV incentive on managed lanes. This policy position has been maintained through multiple updates of the later renamed Tolloed Managed Lane Policy. In December 2012, the RTC adopted a policy to maintain the HOV incentive for vehicles with a minimum of two passengers with the understanding that future costs may drive the need to limit the incentive to vehicles with a minimum of three users. In 2014, RTC approved \$6.85 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for the NTE subsidy. The initial funding for the NTE facility subsidy is almost depleted, and in April 2025 the RTC approved \$1 million of Tarrant County RTR funds to extend subsidy funding six to twelve months. Staff is recommending adding \$5.6 million to fund the NTE HOV subsidy through the end of the current GoCarma contract in 2030. The Lyndon B Johnson Express facility has sufficient funding for the foreseeable future and no changes are recommended for that project at this time. Electronic Item 5.1 includes the Quarterly HOV Report. Electronic Item 5.2 includes additional information on this topic.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:10 – 2:20

6. **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. Federal Certification Review – Regional Transportation Council Meeting, June 5, 2025, at 10:00 am
2. Unified Transportation Program Funding
3. Transit 2.0 Implementation, Dallas Area Rapid Transit Legislation and Mediation via Regional Transportation Council
4. Surface Transportation Technical Committee New Officers in June

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An update on study progress will be provided. Updates include advancement of downtown Dallas western alignment concept, opportunities for connectivity between future developments, status of city-led economic studies, and leadership update for the Dallas-to-Houston corridor.

Background: Following August 2024 Regional Transportation Council direction, the project team has advanced conceptual engineering and stakeholder coordination on alignment concept west of downtown Dallas. Additionally, first-and-last-mile connections leveraging the proposed high-speed rail alignment along the entire corridor have been reviewed. In April 2020, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study with consultant assistance. The first phase, an alternatives analysis of high-speed modes and corridors, recommended high-speed rail generally following the Interstate Highway 30 corridor in 2021. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and an environmental analysis within the National Environmental Policy Act process, resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. A February 19, 2025, letter from Next Generation Action Network to the City of Dallas regarding the alignment in west Dallas and response from NCTCOG is provided for reference in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Federal and State Legislative Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jackie Nolasco, 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. Staff will provide an update on key legislative positions of the Regional Transportation Council. The 1st session of the 119th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2025. The 89th Texas Legislature convened on January 14, 2025.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Draft Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Unified Planning Work Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present a summary on the development of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Regional Transportation Planning.

Background: North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff, in cooperation with local governments and transportation agencies, is developing the draft FY2026 and FY2027 UPWP. This document identifies NCTCOG staff work activities to be performed between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2027. A summary of staff recommendations on local government and transportation agency project submittals received for consideration of inclusion in the UPWP is included as Electronic Item 9. The draft UPWP document will be submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for review on June 2, 2025, and the final document submitted by August 1, 2025. A copy of the draft FY2026 and FY2027 UPWP will be provided to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) concurrent with the submittal of the draft document to TxDOT. STTC action on the UPWP will be sought at the June meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:50 – 3:00

10. **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Electric Vehicle Charging Grant – Site Selection Criteria and Call for Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jared Wright, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on a proposed call for projects to select electric vehicle (EV) charging sites to be built using funds awarded under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI) Community Award.

Background: In 2024, the North Central Texas Council of Governments was awarded \$15 million through the CFI Community Program to deploy up to 100 EV charging ports on public-sector properties in the region and hire a consultant to streamline implementation. This project aims to fill gaps in the existing charging station network and achieve more equal access to charging stations for all people in the region. Staff will provide an overview of the program and the proposed call for projects and selection criteria.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:00 – 3:10

11. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy and Project Tracking Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a status report on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Project Tracking and Milestone Policy Round 2 projects.

Background: The Milestone Policy was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (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 coordinate 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 11.1. FY2025 Project Tracking status updates can be found in Electronic Item 11.2. A summary of the status reports can be found in Electronic Item 11.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

3:10 – 3:20

12. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Brief staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Camille Fountain* – 2025–2026 Regional Safety Advisory Committee Membership Appointment Deadline: June 27, 2025 (Electronic Item 12.1)
2. *Daniela Tower* – 2025 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 12.2)
3. *Daniela Tower* – Air Quality Update for Industries Meeting Tentative Date: June 10, 2025 (Electronic Item 12.3)
4. *Joaquin Escalante* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
5. *Joaquin Escalante* – Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 12.4)
 - April Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 12.5)
 - March – April Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 12.6)
 - June Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 12.7)

13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled at ***1:30 pm on June 27, 2025.***