

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, September 23, 2022 North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda

(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of August 26, 2022, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Ceason G. Clemens, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the August 26, 2022, 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. Transportation Improvement Program Modifications

Presenter: Rylea Rodrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background : November 2022 Revisions to the 2023-2026 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 2.1 for the Committee's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the Mobility Plan, the Air Quality Conformity Determination, and financial constraint of the TIP. Modifications for projects on US 75 to convert existing high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to technology lanes are included in this modification cycle in order to facilitate Federal Highway Administration approval.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:40 – 1:45

3. Access North Texas 2022 Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Gypsy Gavia, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will give an overview of developed regional goals and request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of the 2022 Access North Texas update. The draft 2022 Access North Texas final document, including appendices, is available at www.accessnorthtexas.org and additional details are available in Electronic Item 3.

Background: Access North Texas is the regional public transportation coordination plan for the North Central Texas region. Federal

guidelines require this region to update the plan every four years. The North Central Texas Council of Governments is the lead agency in developing this plan for the 16-county region and on March 8, 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted the previous version of the plan. The purpose of the Access North Texas plan is to identify the public transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income individuals, and others with transportation challenges. The plan also outlines goals and strategies to address identified transit needs, eliminate gaps in service, and avoid duplication of transit services. Additionally, regional projects funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program must align with strategies in this locally developed plan. Staff sought stakeholder and public comments on the plan during public meetings in August and September. The RTC is expected to take final action on the document in October 2022.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

1:45 – 1:55

4. **Management, Operations, Air Quality, and Safety Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the latest efforts to extend existing and fund new Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Management, Operations, Air Quality, and Safety projects and programs. A recommendation for RTC approval of the proposed projects and programs will be requested.

Background: Staff has reviewed the region's ongoing Management and Operations projects and programs that provide funding to improve the region's air quality and management and operation of the transportation system. A determination is needed regarding which projects should be continued and which new projects/programs should be considered. To this end, NCTCOG staff is recommending the extension of many of these programs into the Fiscal Year 2024-2026 timeframe and creation of several new ones. Staff will also provide details and recommend a regionwide safety funding program intended to address a variety of transportation safety issues. Electronic Item 4.1 includes additional information on the funding program. Electronic Item 4.2 contains the proposed list of projects and programs for the Management, Operations, Air Quality, and Safety program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

1:55 – 2:05

5. **Fiscal Year 2022 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee information on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCEP) and request endorsement to apply for a candidate project. Applications are due to US DOT by October 4, 2022.

Background: In July 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for FY22 RCEP funding. This \$573.3 million program includes certain funding amounts set-aside for the following purposes: (1) Planning - \$18 million; (2) Rural or Tribal Grade Crossing Improvement Projects - \$114.7 million; and (3) Urban Grade Crossing Improvement Projects - \$440.6 million. Applications for each funding category are due to US DOT by October 4, 2022, and eligible entities are limited to a maximum three applications per solicitation. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project (or group of projects) improving the safety/mobility of people and goods through: (1) grade separation or closure; (2) track relocation; (3) improvement/installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures, provided such activities are related to (1) or (2); and (4) innovative solutions via technology, education, and/or other means. Available at <https://railroads.dot.gov/grants-loans/competitive-discretionary-grant-programs/railroad-crossing-elimination-grant-program>, the FY22 RCEP NOFO describes the application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements, and available technical assistance during the grant solicitation period. Highlighted in Electronic Item 5, staff will provide details regarding collaboration with partners and the evaluation process undertaken to identify and select available candidate projects. The request for the Council's action is based on coordinated and strategic efforts among partners to optimize success for candidate projects both individually and collectively, as will be explained.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

2:05 – 2:15

6. **Fiscal Year 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee information on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP) and request action to apply for a candidate project. Applications are due to US DOT by October 13, 2022. Additional action will also be presented.

Background: In June 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for FY22 RCP funding. This

\$195 million program includes certain funding amounts set-aside for the following purposes: (1) Planning Grants - \$50 million, and (2) Capital Construction Grants - \$145 million. Applications for each funding category are due to US DOT by October 13, 2022, and eligible entities are limited to a maximum three applications per solicitation (as lead applicant) Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project that removes, retrofits, or mitigates transportation facilities which create mobility, accessibility, and/or economic development barriers to community connectivity and vitality. Available at https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-06/RCP_NOFO_FY22.pdf, the FY22 RCP NOFO describes the application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements, and available technical assistance during the grant solicitation period. Staff will provide details regarding collaboration with partners and the evaluation process undertaken to identify and select available candidate projects. The recommended projects:

- Klyde Warren Park; Phase 2 (RTC submittal, existing funding plus \$23.6M RCP Grant plus \$9M private sector)
- Southern Gateway Deck Park Phase 2 (City of Dallas)
- IH 30 City Park/Farmers Market (Engineering only – existing Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds \$2M). The request for the Committee’s action is based on coordinated and strategic efforts among partners to optimize success for candidate projects.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:15 – 2:25

7. 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. Follow up on High-Speed Rail
2. DART Board Approval - \$214 Million Distribution of Unallocated Funds To Service 13 Area Cities
3. New District Engineers
4. Traffic Signal Program
5. Getting Projects Through The Process
6. Cancellation of Weatherford Downtown Bypass Loop Project (\$21 Million)
7. Need for Second Financial Revolver
8. Fast Facts

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:25 – 2:35

8. **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Briefing and Need for Local Match**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a briefing on the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program and request funds for local match to support successful applicants from the region.

Background: The SMART Program; (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART>) is a \$500 million grant program (\$100 million/year) established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The program is designed to support demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety. A SMART grant may be used to carry out a project that has at least one of the following elements: (i) Coordinated Automation; (ii) Connected Vehicles; (iii) Intelligent, Sensor-Based Infrastructure; (iv) Systems Integration; (v) Commerce Delivery and Logistics; (vi) Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology; (vii) Smart Grid; and (viii) Smart Technology Traffic Signals. The legislation allocates SMART funding as follows: Large Communities (40 percent); Mid-sized Communities (30 percent); Rural Communities and Regional Partnerships (30 percent). Electronic Item 8.1 is USDOT's SMART Fact Sheet. USDOT expects to issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity in September with applications due in November. The grants in this first year are expected to be limited to planning grants up to \$2 million each. SMART grants in later years will fund implementation of projects delivered by planning grant awardees. Staff will brief the Committee on the SMART program. Electronic Item 8.2 is staff's summary, including background on regional outreach efforts to date.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:35 – 2:45

9. **Environmental Protection Agency Reclassification Dallas-Fort Worth Nonattainment Area**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas VanHaasen, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on ozone standard reclassifications for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) nonattainment area.

Background: Based on monitored ozone data between 2018-2020, the region failed to reach attainment for both the 2008 and 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards by the 2021 deadline. As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to reclassify the area for each of these standards. On September 15, 2022, the EPA signed the final

action for reclassification and 30 days after this action, the reclassification will become effective. Staff continues to coordinate with staff from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the EPA on impacts this action will have to the region and next steps towards reaching attainment of both ozone standards.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:45 – 2:45

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. East/West Equity Update (Electronic Item 10.1)
 2. North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies Project Tracking (Electronic Item (10.2)
 3. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
 4. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
 5. 2022 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 10.3)
 6. National Drive Electric Week (Electronic Item 10.4)
 7. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 10.5)
 8. Car Care Awareness Community Partnerships (Electronic Item 10.6)
 9. August Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 10.7)
 10. October Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 10.8)
 11. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.9)
 12. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.10)
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 October 28, 2022.**