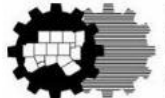# COVID-19 #00X INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP (ROUND 2)

Regional Transportation Council

April 13, 2023
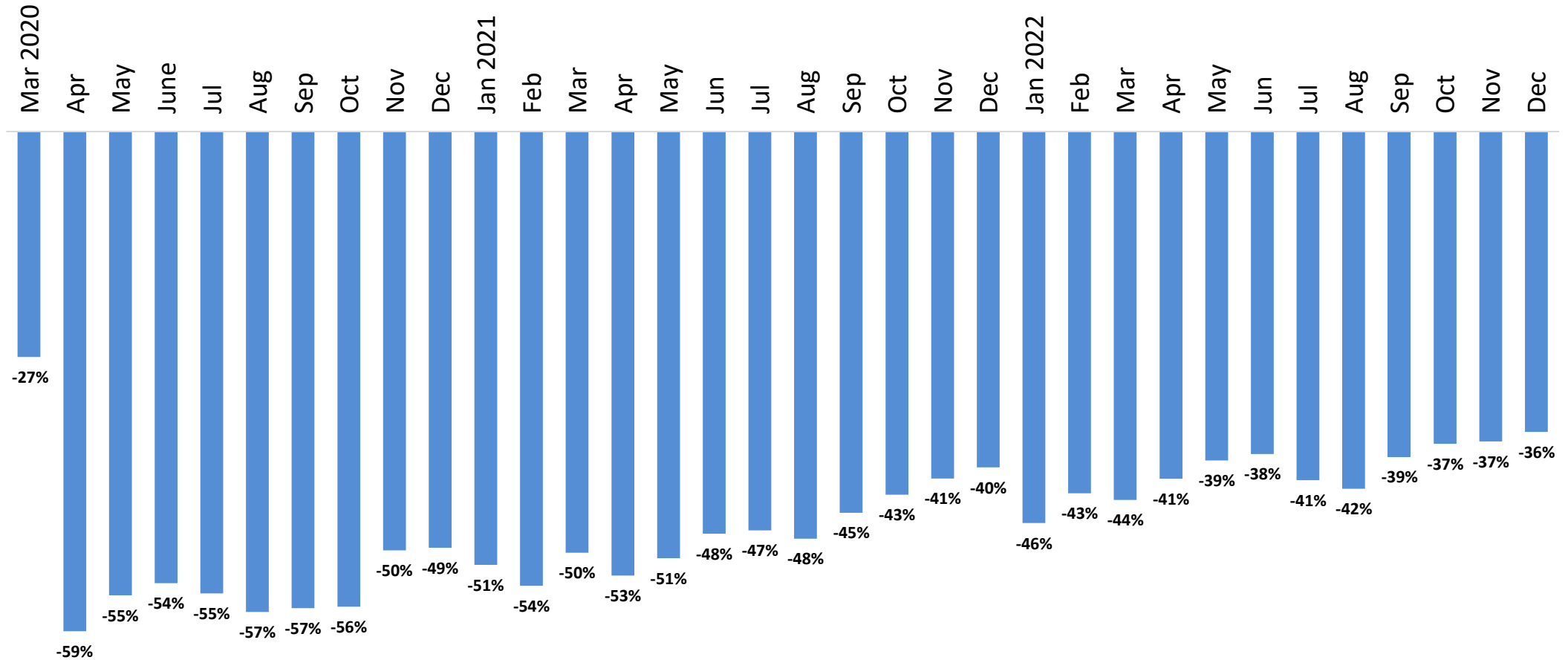
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Transportation Department

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

- In response to a decline in transit ridership due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved a $25 million placeholder of funds for transit investments in the COVID-19 #00X Round 3 Infrastructure Program in November 2020.

- In March 2021, the RTC awarded $14 million to several projects, including:

  - Regional Transit Education Campaign

  - Insurance for Passenger Rail Integration

  - Regional Railroad Design Review

  - Regional Bus Stop Improvements

- In October 2021, the RTC awarded an additional $620,000 for a first/last mile connection between the Trinity Railway Express Centreport Station and DFW Airport.

- Additional projects are being proposed to utilize the remaining funding and complete this initiative.

TRANSIT IMPACTS (WEEKDAY RIDERSHIP)

Decrease vs Baseline

REGIONAL BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS

- Many bus stops leave transit riders waiting in the grass and dirt
- The proposed projects would provide funding for concrete foundations, overhead shelters, lighting, seating, real-time schedule information, etc.
  - $2,780,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for bus stops in the Trinity Metro service area
  - $2,100,000 of STBG funds for bus stops in the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) service area
  - $1,000,000 of STBG funds for bus stops in the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) service area
  - The above funding would be matched with regional Transportation Development Credits (TDC)

DCTA A-TRAIN EXPANDED SERVICE

- There are instances when the DCTA A-Train service connection does not align with the larger DART system during major events in downtown Dallas, especially for a return trip.

- The proposed project would fill this gap by extending service for ~130 annual events.

- $3,000,000 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds proposed (to be matched with Regional TDCs)

- This funding can only be spent for the first three years of the expanded service.

- DCTA would be responsible for funding this service once the RTC's funds are exhausted.

NCTCOG-IMPLEMENTED TRANSIT PROGRAMS

- Regional Transit Coordination Program
  - Would fund NCTCOG staff time for regional coordination of transit services with a focus on increasing economies of scale, technical assistance, mobility on demand, and mobility as a service.
  - $1,000,000 of STBG funds proposed (to be matched with Regional TDCs)
- Transit Driver Workforce Development and Training Program
  - Would address the shortage of transit drivers (especially for small transit providers) by providing Commercial Drivers License tuition reimbursement
  - Program would be coordinated with the regional and county workforce development agencies
  - $500,000 of STBG funds proposed as 100 percent federal per federal legislation for workforce development programs/projects

PROPOSED FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

- In Round 1 of the Transit Partnership, more projects were funded in the West than in the East
- Most projects in Round 2 will be funded in the East in order to bring the COVID-19 # 00X program in closer alignment with the RTC approved East/West funding split of 69 percent East and 31 percent West.

Subregion	Round 1 Funding Split for COVID-19 # 00X Transit Program	Resulting Funding Split for COVID-19 # 00X Transit Program
East	65%	69%
West	35%	31%

APPROVAL TIMELINE

Meeting/Task	Date
RTC Director's Report	March 9, 2023
Public Meeting	March 2023
STTC Action	March 24, 2023
RTC Action	**April 13, 2023**

PROPOSED ACTION

- RTC approval of:
  - Proposed COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program Transit Partnership (Round 2)
  - Amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and updating any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project funding

CONTACT INFORMATION

Christie J. Gotti

Senior Program Manager

Transportation Project Programming

817-608-2338

cgotti@nctcog.org

Shannon Stevenson

Senior Program Manager

Transit Management and Planning

817-608-2304

sstevenson@nctcog.org

Brian Dell

Principal Transportation Planner

Transportation Project Programming

817-704-5694

bdell@nctcog.org

Cody Derrick

Senior Transportation Planner

Transportation Project Programming

817-608-2391

cderrick@nctcog.org

Gypsy Gavia

Principal Transportation Planner

Transit Management and Planning

817-695-9134

ggavia@nctcog.org