

AGENDA

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Friday, March 22, 2024
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 February 23, 2024, Minutes
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the February 23, 2024, 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. Endorsement of the Modification to the Critical Regional Infrastructure Land Banking Program
Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff is requesting an endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC)'s approval of a reallocation of funding between parcel acquisition and site/maintenance cost associated with the Critical Regional Infrastructure Land Banking Program.
Background: On March 10, 2022, the RTC approved \$2,700,000 in RTC Local funds for the Critical Regional Infrastructure Land Banking Program. The funding was allocated as \$2,600,000 for parcel acquisition and \$100,000 for site improvements/maintenance. On March 24, 2022, the Executive Board authorized North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to enter into an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of White Settlement to support Land Banking for Critical Regional Infrastructure. Efforts on the first of two site acquisitions was completed in June of 2022. Staff is requesting reallocation of the funding to \$2,400,000 in parcel acquisition and \$300,000 in site improvements/maintenance. The total amount of funding of \$2,700,000 is proposed to remain the same. This reallocation of funds will be used to accommodate acquisition of the second remaining parcel through a land exchange. This property is located at the south end of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth runway within the Accident "Clear Zone." Additional supplemental materials are included in Electronic Item 2.1.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Safety

2.2. Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to 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 FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP was approved by the Regional Transportation Council and NCTCOG Executive Board in July 2023 and identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates, and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments are provided in Electronic Item 2.2.1 and are posted on the NCTCOG website for public review and comment as part of the March 2024 public outreach opportunity. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 2.2.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

1:40 – 1:50

3. Safe Streets for All Grants Submission

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will be requesting action on a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a regional planning project submittal and local match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program.

Background: The United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the solicitation of applications for FY24 SS4A funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new SS4A discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next five years. A maximum of one grant application of any type may be submitted per agency. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed regional planning grant that will be submitted by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). Total project cost is \$6.25 million. Staff will be submitting for \$5 million in federal funds and is requesting \$1.25 million of Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for the required 20 percent local match. An overview of the proposed project is contained in Electronic Item 3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. **2024 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Lorena Carillo, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action on a proposed regional submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration has released the Fiscal Year 2024 Low or No Emissions and Bus/Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which is expected to award approximately \$1.5 billion for modernizing aging transit fleets with low- and no-emission buses, renovate and construct bus facilities, and support workforce development. Eligible projects include the purchasing or leasing of low- or no-emission buses, related equipment (e.g., electric vehicle charging stations), and workforce development and training. Applications are due by April 25, 2024. In response to the NOFO, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff requests recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action to submit a proposal to include in the application a proposal to procure electric vehicles and infrastructure to be purchased for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup events which will later be transitioned to public transit agencies throughout the region to replace buses near or at the end of their useful life with electric vehicles. The grant application will also propose to procure electric vehicles on behalf of Trinity Metro. The total grant budget will not exceed \$55,472,890 including \$2,840,916 in local match provided by Trinity Metro and 5,906,168 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of local match for the 2026 FIFA World Cup buses and needed charging stations. Please see Electronic Item 4 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Broadband as a Transportation Service: Four Proposed Elements**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Connor Sadro, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will be requesting action on a recommendation for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to approve program criteria related to the Four Proposed Elements of Broadband Activities brought as an information item at the previous STTC meeting.

Background: On December 4, 2023, NCTCOG hosted the Municipal Stakeholder Broadband Roundtable to discuss the state of municipal involvement in broadband and digital equity in

local communities. Several members of the 16-county region attended, and together with NCTCOG staff, compiled the following suggested action steps to be taken to increase the presence of broadband in the region: The NCTCOG Transportation Department shall:

1. Assist the region with the coordination of data collection and analysis for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates.
2. Create a policy committee consisting of elected officials in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office.
3. Leverage this policy committee to form a legislative program that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs.
4. Continue with outreach to broadband practitioners in the region and encourage municipalities to appoint broadband technical leads. Additionally, the NCTCOG Transportation Department will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents.

Staff would like to request action to approve the plan to execute the Four Proposed Elements. This plan includes structures of technical and policy committees, as well as steps to achieve a regional broadband deployment strategy and legislative program. Electronic Item 5 provides more details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Goods Movement

2:10 – 2:20

6. **North Central Texas Council of Governments Grant Management and Regional Transportation Council Initiative Fund**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request action on a recommendation for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to approve the development of a Grant Management and Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Initiative Fund.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been aggressively applying for and awarded numerous federal grants for the Dallas-Fort Worth region over the last few years. Staff will request a fund be created to support application development, grant management, compliance, and oversight. The fund would also be used to facilitate other RTC initiatives implemented on behalf of the Council that are not budgeted through authorized projects. An overview is provided as Electronic Item 6.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:20 – 2:30

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. University of Texas at Arlington 2024 Star Partner – Public Award (Dan Kessler)
2. North Central Texas Council of Governments Awarded 2024 Transit System of the Year by Federal Transit Administration Region VI (Shannon Stevenson)
3. 2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week – April 15-19, 2024
4. Recent Federal Approvals from National Competitions; Reconnecting Communities
5. Transit 2.0 Implementation (Electronic Item 7)
6. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program Application
7. Look Out Texans Video Local Distribution (www.lookouttexans.org/videos)
8. Fiscal Year 2022-2024 Congestion Relief Grant Program – Due April 22, 2024 (grants.gov/search-results-detail/352531)
9. Fiscal Year 2022 – 2024 Congestion Relief Grant Program

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail: Status Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on parallel efforts with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to qualify and promote this project for future private and public funding opportunities. Additionally, the status of the FTA-led National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and latest coordination with project stakeholders in Dallas will be shared with the Council.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases. The first phase, an alternatives analysis of high-speed modes and corridors, recommended high-speed rail generally following the Interstate Highway 30 corridor. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and a NEPA effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. On December 8, 2023, FRA announced the selection of NCTCOG's application, Fort Worth to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor, for the Corridor Identification and Development Program. On March 4, 2024, NCTCOG received

the NEPA Class of Action Determination letter from FTA for the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Passenger Service, provided as Electronic Item 8.1. FTA has determined that an Environmental Assessment is the appropriate class of action for this NEPA process. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 8.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:40 – 2:50

9. **North Central Texas Council of Governments Spatial Data Cooperative Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present information on the Spatial Data Cooperative Program (SDCP), an annual North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) program through which local governments and other entities can cooperatively purchase aerial photography and related data products at cost-effective prices. Planning is underway for the 2025 cycle, and the program is seeking early commitments from interested partners by Friday, April 12, 2024.

Background: SDCP is administered by NCTCOG's Research and Information Services (RIS) Department. For over 20 years, SDCP has facilitated the acquisition of aerial photography, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data, and related data products for participating entities. These data products are actively used by program participants to support a variety of initiatives, including, but not limited to, asset management, engineering, hydrological analyses, and transportation planning. As the number of participants in the program increases, the cost per square mile for these data products decreases for all participants due to SDCP's cooperative model and economies of scale. Many entities represented on the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) are active participants in the program. NCTCOG's Transportation Department and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Dallas and Fort Worth districts typically partner to participate in SDCP in odd-numbered years, resulting in substantially lower costs per square mile as much of the region is covered. An overview is provided in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:50 – 3:00

10. **Air Quality Status Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Daniela Tower, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding the region's 2024 ozone season and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) change of the Annual Particulate Matter 2.5 Design Value.

Background: The 2024 ozone season began on March 1 for the North Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas and runs

through the end of November. Concurrently, the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. Daily ozone information, including current conditions and forecasts, is provided at: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/ozone>. On February 7, 2024, the EPA revised the level of the primary (health based) annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS from 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) to a level of 9.0 µg/m³. This change leads to the potential for Dallas and Tarrant Counties to be in nonattainment when the final designations are made in 2026. More details can be found in Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:00 – 3:10

11. **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* – Spring 2024 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement, May 2, 2024 (Electronic Item 11.1)
2. *Jesse Brown* – Auto Occupancy/High Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 11.2)
3. *Valerie Alvarado* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 11.3)
4. *Juliana Vandenberg* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
5. *Juliana Vandenberg* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. *Jackie Castillo* – February Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 11.4)
7. *Jackie Castillo* – April Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 11.5)
8. *Jackie Castillo* – Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 11.6)
9. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 11.7)

12. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

13. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on April 26, 2024**.