

PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on May 12, 2022.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Saturday, Aug. 20, through Monday, Sept. 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email, online and in person at the monthly RTC meeting.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms, via email and in-person. Comments related to the Denton County Transit Study were in the majority.

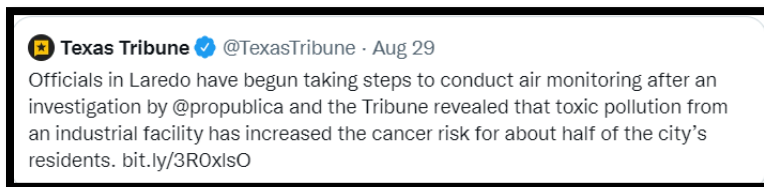
In addition, comments can be submitted through Map Your Experience, the Transportation Department's online mapping tool. The tool allows users to drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. This month, there were 3 roadway condition comments and one transit comment. To read them, visit:

<http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

Air Quality

Twitter –

1. Who monitors our air in Fort Worth? – Harrison Mantas 🌻 (@HarrisonMantas)



I would have said @NCTCOGtrans <https://nctcog.org/trans/quality/air> but apparently also @CityOfFortWorth – Bud Kennedy / #ReadLocal (@BudKennedy)



Email –

1. Tangelia Waldrup

I'm Tangelia Waldrup, & I purchased my current vehicle through your program in 2007 now it is smoking and should be replaced. Hello, I reside in Houston and want to know if & or when the AirCheck Replace Program back.

Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Hello, Ms. Waldrup,

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department. In 2017, during the 85th Legislative Session, funding for the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program was vetoed. As of this time, no additional funding has been secured; thus, program operations have closed. However, additional funding assistance may be available at <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources>.

Additionally, since you now reside in the Houston area, you should contact the Houston-Galveston Area Council to see if they can further assist you with any programs they may have: <https://www.h-gac.com/Home>.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

Facebook –

1. Is this still on track for end of 2023? Will it be 100% paved, no gravel? I'm not seeing any construction at some end points that are supposed to link up.

<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/bikeped/veloweb/fort-worth-to-dallas-regional-trail>. – John Fisher



Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Thank you for your message. We anticipate completion of the entire trail by late 2023 or early 2024. It will be 100% paved.

Reply by John Fisher:

Glad it's on track! I hope you are keeping the expansion cracks as small as possible and full of butyl rubber. It sure helps trail skaters of all varieties. Some

of the newer trails have big gaps and are very harsh on smaller (non bicycle) wheels. I look forward to some epic city to city journeys!

Email –

1. Tim Noble (Commenting on April 2022 Public Meeting)

I was looking for an update, on the Fort Worth to Dallas Trail. I have a map that was showing sections to be completed, June 30, 2022, but when I went to check it out in June I saw no completion. Is there any new maps, or updated completion times, available?

My wife and I have been making weekend riding trips to the metroplex for years, and to see it's connection while we are still able to ride. I appreciate the efforts, and any updates, that you may pass along.

Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Tim,

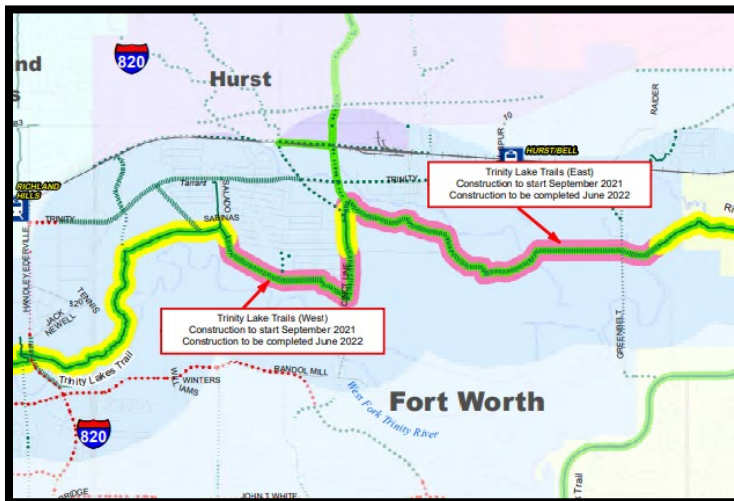
When we last reached out to the City of Fort Worth for updates, they noted the following:

- Trinity Lake Trails (West) expected construction completion Spring 2023
- Trinity Lakes Trail (East) construction completed June 2022

Obviously, June 2022 has passed and construction is not complete. We update the map generally about once a year by coordinating with the local governments. You are also welcome to contact the Program Manager for the project in advance of our yearly update. Here's the contact info:

Joel McElhany
Capital Program Manager
Joel.mcelhany@fortworthtexas.gov

Thanks.



Public Meeting and Forums

Facebook –

1. We're bringing you updates and information on a number of transportation projects we're working on at our September Public Meeting TODAY at noon! For more information, please visit www.nctcog.org/input – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Hello! I'd like to watch the meeting. I have followed the link and don't see anything happening yet. Any suggestions? Thanks. – Rebecca Murry

Thank you for reaching out. I believe the meeting started a few minutes past noon. I believe you received the information you needed to watch the meeting, but please feel free to contact us with any other questions in the future. –
NCTCOG Transportation Department

Email –

1. Trish Donaghey (Commenting on September 2022 Public Meeting)

Please look into installing a traffic light at the intersection of FM 982 and FM 546 by Branch Fire Dept. in Collin Co., 6 miles south of Princeton.

With new developments going in, the eastbound lane turning south or north sometimes gets VERY long! In the long run, please look into widening the bridges across Lake Lavon also.

Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Ms. Donaghey,

Thank you for commenting on the traffic you have encountered in the Princeton area. TxDOT has informed us that their Collin Co Area Office is gearing up to add turn lanes to both FM roads. They anticipate that those improvements will have a dramatic impact on the traffic flow.

We will forward your request that widening the bridges across Lake Lavon be considered.

Safety

Twitter –

1. #MondaySafetyTip: Be aware — put away your phone and remove earbuds, headphones or other listening devices. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WatchForWalkers – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



2. TTI researchers have recently teamed up with @TxDOT to create a list of pedestrian safety tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe. Check out our page every Monday, Wednesday and Friday this month to learn how you can stay safe while walking. @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



3. #FridaySafetyTip: Cross at an intersection or marked crosswalk. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WalkSmart #WalkSafe – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



4. #PedestrianSafetyTip: Obey directions given by crossing signals. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WalkSmart #WalkSafe – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



5. #FridayTip: Wear bright colored clothing or reflective material at night to be more visible. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WalkSmart #WalkSafe – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



6. #MondayTip: Don't dart out in front of vehicles. Look left, right and then left again before crossing. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WalkSmart #WalkSafe – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



7. #SafetyTip: Don't attempt to cross the street in front of a bus. Vehicles approaching from the bus's blind side might not see you. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WalkSmart #WalkSafe – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)

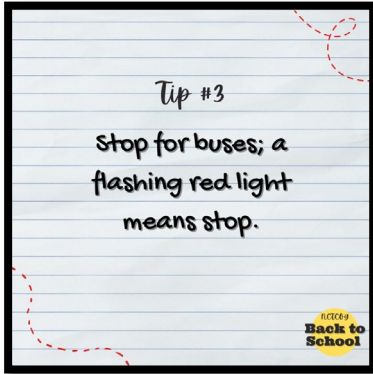


8. #FridayTip: Buses have blind spots and the driver might not see you. Make eye contact with the driver when possible, even if it's only in a mirror. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans @WalkBikeSafeTX #WalkSmart #WalkSafe – Texas A&M Transportation Institute (@TTITAMU)



Facebook–

1. School is back in session! Keep our kids safe by stopping for buses when their lights are flashing red. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



If people really need these tips they need to turn in their driver's license. – Phil Neil

Transit

Twitter –

1. What are your needs for public transportation? Let @NCTCOGtrans know by attending Thursday night's in-person meeting or submitting an online survey. More info: <https://publicinput.com/S4680> – Bike Denton (@bikedenton)

Note: This study is not from DCTA. The study is from the council of governments for the DFW region: NCTCOG. They are studying DCTA as well as DART, Trinity Metro, Arlington Via, etc. – Bike Denton (@bikedenton)

Is the survey page breaking for you, or is it just me? 😞 – Brandi Alycia McDow (@alycia_mcdow)

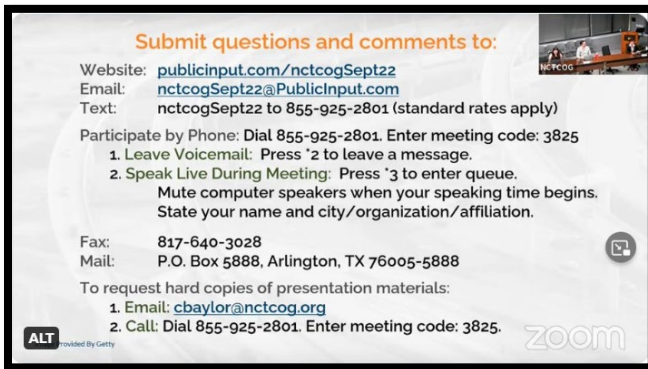
There wasn't a "submit" button, but I confirmed with survey staff that there isn't one. Is it working otherwise? – Suzi (@LocomotiveLib)

The page will load the survey and then break the survey so it disappears? But I'm assuming this is a personal issue of mine – Brandi Alycia McDow (@alycia_mcdow)

2. Hope to see you there! This study is focusing on areas not included in the existing transit authority service area. If you travel in Denton County, come out to learn about the study and share your transit needs. There's also a survey you can take on the project website – Rachel Jenkins, AICP (@raqueljenkins)



3. alright, imma make the first hour or two of the current @NCTCOGtrans meeting. These are the same folks who did the meeting at the Denton Transit Center a few days ago. – Denton Transit Posting (@dTXTransitPosts)



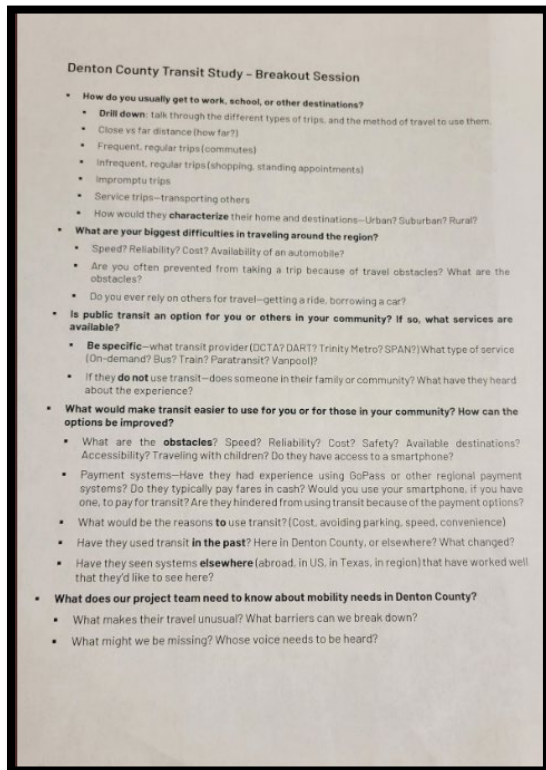
4. Decided to live-tweet this meeting bc why not lol – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)



So apparently this meeting is about how things happen outside DCTA's boundary. An organization called @NCTCOGtrans is trying to hear feedback on how to bring people outside the county can get into the county. People are understandably irritated. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

One gentleman in a wheelchair is making it clear that he's not happy with Go Zone. When he mentioned that he wants to get a driver "with an accent he can understand" a wave of agreement went around the move. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

We're moving into the breakout sessions now. This is the agenda for these sessions. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)



The main leader of the event is struggling to get things on track and I feel for him lol. I don't envy his position. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Welp I thought we were gonna start but they're really struggling. One lady at the table I'm at said "why do they want to spread things out if they can't figure it out here?" which YES honestly lol – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

@NCTCOGtrans rep takes the stand with a firm but polite voice. The DCTA rep is relieved that she's taking the floor. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Alison Maguire is introducing herself as well, with one of her kiddos in her arm. She's inviting people to come to her with DCTA-specific issues. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Ok, breakout time. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Seems that since most people came here thinking this was a DCTA-specific meeting, these breakout sessions were doomed from the start. The table I'm at started with the first question and quickly detailed into person-specific gripes (still useful and cathartic lol) – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

From what I'm hearing, people are saying things that are really just common sense – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

I said my piece about what issues I ran into with my old job lol – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

One person asked a @NCTCOGtrans rep if they're required to ride public transit occasionally for their job. The rep said that his boss probably rides it a couple times a month but he says that he personally does not. In his defense, they're from Arlington which has no pub transit – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Another dude in a suit, I think from @NCTCOGtrans, is answering one lady's question about why Go Zone doesn't go to the Airport Road area. His answer is the "van pool program," which let's a bunch of people rent a fucking van and use it like the Mystery Machine lmao – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

FWIW My thoughts on vanpools below

DCTA ran an on-demand service to airport road for about a year but abandoned it when - get this - the flight academy students failed to ride. It never was about getting people to work – Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe 🌻 (@phwolfw940)



Lol amazing. Seems like it really has been "try everything except expand the buses" for a while now, huh? – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Things are about to wrap up I think. They're running a raffle for some gift cards, which would be nice to walk out with but I never win anything so we'll see.

~~manifesting~~ – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

We're finishing with going table by table and having summaries of what people said. The first person to speak is someone with a mohawk in a killer denim vest with cool patches. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Denim Vest is saying what his table was talking about but honestly I think they're covering literally every complaint and topic that anyone would have to say lol. Well done. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

Ah, suit guy is the interim CEO for @RideDCTA. Wonder how many times he's taken a Go Zone. – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

I did not win 😞 – Pod-asster (@TallLeftist)

5. @NCTCOGtrans needs feedback for their Denton County transit study! The study is focused on areas not served by @RideDCTA, but anyone can provide input to help improve transit in Denton County <https://publicinput.com/S4680> – Alison Maguire - Denton City Council District 4 (@AlisonforDenton)

Email –

1. Brian Woods

I have Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis which is the fourth stage of Multiple Sclerosis. A sales representative from the medical supply store came to my house and evaluated me for a Quantum iLevel powerchair which recline, seat raise/lower, legs raise/lower, and tilt. My question is powerchair and Mobility Scooter laws I will be driving the powerchair on the sidewalk and indoors at home. I read on the internet that I can't be on the street unless 1. Crossing the street, 2. no sidewalks available in the area to use.. I sent email to the Fort Worth police department and heard nothing about this as well as the Texas Department of Transportation. The top speed is 4.5mph there are times when I have to go in the street when the van service use ramp at the back of the vehicle. Another question is how can we make the community aware of people who have a disability and use a powerchair/mobility scooter. The color I picked is Green Machine bright green for safety purposes so people will see me when I am outside. Sincerely, Brian Woods

Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Thank you for your email. I am sorry you have not received responses from the other agencies you contacted, so I hope we can help point you in the right direction.

If you are not already using public transportation for your van service, you may qualify for Trinity Metro's ACCESS paratransit services. This service provides trained drivers who can assist passengers with boarding. Information is available online at ACCESS Paratransit - Trinity Metro. However, if you are already using Trinity Metro and are still having issues with boarding, please reach out to their ADA Compliance Officer to make a reasonable modification request or file a complaint.

- **Email:** compliance@ridetm.org
- **Phone:** 817-215-8700

It also sounds like there may be an issue with a lack of sidewalks. In that case, you may wish to report the issue to the City of Fort Worth's Transportation and Public Works Department or ADA Coordinator.

- **Public Works Department:** 817-392-1234
- **ADA Coordinator:** Alfred.Henderson@fortworthtexas.gov

These agencies should be well-equipped to address your questions about safely and legally navigating in your powerchair.

Other

Facebook –

1. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month! We want to thank the many in the Hispanic community who work every day to run and improve transportation across the country. Stay tuned throughout #HispanicHeritageMonth as we feature some notable Hispanic Americans who have had lasting impacts in the transportation industry. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



– Jere Tucker