

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 November 8, 2018.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Wednesday, January 20, through Friday, February 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

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

In addition, comments were accepted through a new, online map tool. Users can drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. The tool was in test mode and was open to the public through August 2020. This month, there were 11 Bicycle and Pedestrian comment, four Transit comments and two Roadway comments. To read them, visit:

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

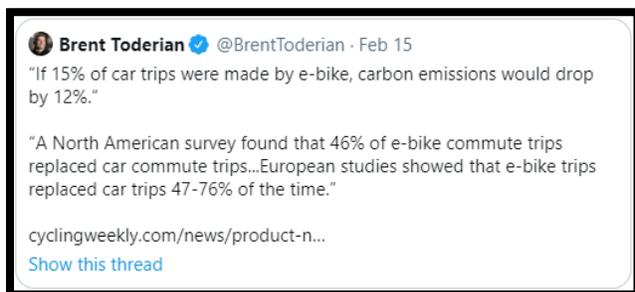
Electric Vehicles

Twitter –

1. @NCTCOGtrans know of any residential EV charger installation incentives? – Otto Mayo (@Otto_Mayo)

Hi, Otto! To retrofit your home with a charging station, you can find info on a tax credit here <https://nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle> under “Other Air Quality Improvement Strategies.” If you’d like to stay in the loop on EV topics, sign up for our EV NTX email list: <https://nctcog.org/stay-informed?ext=>. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

2. Would be awesome to see @NCTCOGtrans promote and incentivize e-bike adoption like they have for EVs – Loren S. (@txbornviking)



High-Speed Transportation

Online –

1. **Andrew Armstrong**

I am an eager supporter of a high speed transportation connection between downtown Dallas and Fort Worth. I travel between the two multiple times each year and would do so more often if the journey was quicker. Even if I didn't travel it I would support my tax dollars supporting projects like this as it is the future.

Also, as exciting as Hyperloop technology is I strongly support high speed rail as it is a proven technology and already operational. I think total unique annual trips need to be taken into account when weighing whether a single mid-point stop should be placed near the stadiums or near UTA. Whichever has the largest total annual unique trips should get the station.

Email –

1. **Allen Bussell**

Agree with your preferred alignments and modes. I recommend using maglev or hyperloop over conventional “bullet” type because of reduced ROW and noise. Also, the scale of the vehicles - would assume time to speed for the larger “bullet” would restrict it from reaching its potential while making a stop at the Arlington sports venues. The “bullet” seems more appropriate for longer stretches like between DFW and Houston / Austin

Thank you for the excellent presentation and the amount of work being done.

Q: What rails are planned from surrounding communities to connect to the Dallas and Fort Worth hubs where one will then catch the high speed to Arlington (for instance)? We live north of Frisco, near US380 and I've not seen the entire rail / mass transit plan that connects the region.

Again, thank you!

2. **Beth Knight**

After hearing the different options for high-speed trains, I am opposed to hyper-loop transit due to:

the lack of safety backups (no, I don't trust Elon Musk),

the lack of accommodation for wheelchairs or strollers, and

the relatively unproven technology.

Thanks for taking my comments!

Project Planning

Online –

1. Michael McDonald

Please construct more Managed Lanes. Constructing Managed Lanes helps to create a robust network and offers drivers more choices. All new construction in the DFW metropolitan area should include Managed Lanes.

Email –

1. Elaine Laisure

I/20 Weatherford TX to Fort Worth is heavily congested.

When I/20 has traffic accidents, the only way around the accident is driving at least 1 hour on Farm Market Roads.

I/20 needs to be widened to three lanes from East of Weatherford to the Brock Exit. This is a bottle neck with numerous accidents

Yet, I see not plans to fix these immediate needs.

Please address the above issues.

Public Meetings & Forums

Twitter –

1. There are two virtual public meetings on high-speed transportation in the region. This study will review high-speed options in the Dallas to Fort Worth corridor. Join in and let your voice be heard! For more information and to sign up, visit: <http://bit.ly/3cjZeIV>. @NCTCOGtrans - Green Dallas (@GreenDallas)



2. NCTCOG Transportation Department is holding two virtual public meetings this week on high speed transportation at noon on Wednesday and 6 p.m. Thursday. Visit <http://bit.ly/3cjZelV> for details on how to participate. – North Richland Hills (@CityofNRH)



3. Enjoying our (virtual) Infrastructure Forum Agency updates! Thank you to our first round of participants! @dartmedia @TxDOTFortWorth @TxDOTDallas @USACE_SWD @USACE_FortWorth @DallasCountyTx @CityOfDallas @NCTCOGtrans @NCTCOG_Official @mavengineering – Dallas SAME (@Dallas_SAME)

Facebook –

1. The North Central Texas Council of Governments is asking North Texans for their input on regional transportation initiatives, including innovative technologies being considered that could link region to other parts of Texas. – City of Rowlett



To cut traffic in Rowlett get Rockwall to vote in Dart. – Sam Ward

Sam Ward they know better. – John Roberts

2. Yesterday's meeting was great and we're back again for second round! Tonight at 6 pm, we'll be answering all your questions related to the high-speed transportation study for our region. Join us! <https://www.nctcog.org/.../dfw-high-speed-transportation....> – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Great meeting yesterday with excellent and informative presentations, as well as a great Q&A session, too! – Paul McManus

Glad you were able to participate! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Safety

Online –

1. Alison Harris

I would like an online, app or text ability to report unsafe and dangerous drivers. Too many times on North Texas roads we all see dangerous drivers who pose a threat to public safety with no consequence. When able to do so safely, drivers could report vehicle description and license plate information via an online platform. This is similar to the smoking vehicle report and littering app supported by the Don't Mess With Texas program. I realize there is some subjectivity to such reports, but my earnest feeling is that if a driver has had enough reports of unsafe driving, this should show up if they are pulled over by law enforcement or trying to renew their vehicle registrations. It's clear that no city or county police department is capable of stopping all unsafe drivers, and too many time there is no police presence around. But, citizens could assist law enforcement greatly by providing this information to create some type of punitive or at least notification process to unsafe drivers. I think many of us feel that unsafe driving is all around us, and empowering citizens to feel that they can help in the process would be an innovative and necessary step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

Twitter –

1. An absolute tragedy and a preventable one at that. Too bad it's working as designed by @NCTCOGtrans and @TxDOT. #EndTheStreakTX – Andrew Wallace (@agwallace92)



Sustainability

Email –

1. Becca Jones

Hello and greetings from Ms. Jones' Class!

Hope you are well and safe. My name is Becca and I am an online teacher for an alternative learning program for kids. As you can imagine, with the current state of things in the world, we have been getting a lot of new sign-ups for our online program. I am currently discussing sustainability and other environmental issues with the kids and we came across your website <https://www.airnorthtexas.org/links> while looking for resources. We wanted to say thank you!

One of my students, Jason, did some research and he sent in this article with a lot of really great information on eco-friendly cars:

<https://www.carcovers.com/resources/the-importance-of-eco-friendly-cars/>

I suggested that he share this with you because it had such great information we thought it could be useful to you and your other visitors. Would you please add a link to it to your web page for them, even if it is just for a little while? I want to show the increasingly large group of students that they can accomplish things if they aren't afraid to come out of their shells and simply ask, especially while being in so much isolation these days! Please let me know if you'd be willing to help so I can share the exciting news with them!

Thank you in advance!

Response from NCTCOG staff

Thank you so much for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department and sharing your student's story with us.

Kimberlin To on our staff manages the Air North Texas program, and I know she'll be happy to hear the website is being used to help engage students in a virtual learning environment.

Additionally, I'm copying Lori Clark and Bethany Ross on our air quality team, as they work on all of our alternative fuel and electric vehicle initiatives. I'm sure they'll enjoy reading the article Jason found and might be able to find some great opportunities to share it with our target audiences.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you ever need additional assistance or have a question about anything related to air quality and transportation.

Transit

Online –

1. ReNona Lemmons

I am not interested and would not like a public transportation system in DeSoto.

Email –

1. Patricia Ajene

Cedar Hill residents have at least 3 cars per household. Which means just about every adult has a car and a job. Public transportation would just bring more crime into our Community with people coming in looking to commit offenses in the neighborhood, it would also bring down out property values and bring in “Walkers” who don’t work!

2. James Vaughn

WE DO NOT NEED NOR WANT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM!

3. Crystal Tyler

No Public Transportation Please!

4. Brandi Johnson

Hello.

We are not interested in providing public transportation in Desoto, Texas. Please do not conduct such project. Public transportation will kill the morale of the city, will cheapen the value of our property and will increase crime rate. We are not prepared to handle such things.

5. Debra Echols

I do not want public transportation in Desoto.

6. Sandra Jones

NO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN DESOTO TEXAS

7. Natasha Price

We are against it bec it will increase crime in our community. Not having a transit system here has made it harder for people to randomly pop up.

8. Arthur McKnight

As a taxpaying citizen in the City of DeSoto,

I do not want public transportation in our city. We cannot afford even higher taxes in our city and our primary focus should be on our struggling education system. Thank you.

9. Patricia Ajene

“NO” I don’t want public transportation inside Cedar Hill because I have lived almost 30 years with PT in a neighborhood that completely went from good, to bad, to worst; because white people took flight to further cities out. We watched as the buses came and people started walking everywhere. Theft became rampant in a neighborhood that didn’t have home security,

but all neighbors worked! It is no fun to watch your neighborhood go down further and further because streets were not large enough to traffic buses. But they were able to provide ways for those that wanted to hurt the neighborhood to move more freely between our area and other areas that were even more run down with crime! I don't see them proposing Public Transportation to North Dallas neighborhoods where the jobs are already established. Also, we should not take away from Cedar Hill all the beauty of trees and forestry that is a part of the Cedar Hill environment for other mammals that need to have their habitation preserved. Public Transportation will not make Cedar Hill better. Food for thought:: Cedar Hill needs a new high school, not just the one that was built in the 1950s and is so overrun with kids that teachers are having a hard time just monitoring who is in class or online! Think about how far down the ladder our grading system is for our kids to other districts. Let's put the money where it is needed, in exceptional schools for our kids so they can learn and better teachers so we can keep them!

10. Josefina Chavira

Yes, I am for public transportation for DeSoto TX

I am a resident of DeSoto and I currently have to drive to, or be dropped off at, Glenn Heights P&R to take the Express Bus to Downtown Dallas.

I truly hope DeSoto will have public transportation. It will not bring the value down; it will enhance our community. It would finally connect us with the metroplex. Traffic is horrific when driving, especially within the city where many prefer not to drive the speed limit. I have used public transportation whenever possible and I have found that I am able to relax and take care of other things without the stress of driving. Many of the naysayers mention "riff-raff" or persons who want to cause problems in our community, however, I don't see any "riff-raff" on the buses or trains that I ride. I believe that all depends on the community and each of us individually to keep the transit safe.

#DeSoto4PublicTransit

11. Kay Moore Jackson

No public transportation in Desoto Texas or any surrounding towns (I e Cedar Hill Glenn Heights) We have a Dart Park n Ride that meets the needs of residents for transportation.

12. Sonya Battle

We do not want or need buses in our small area.

Buses create more traffic.

Buses bring crime.

Over 90% of our residents own cars. Who exactly will be riding a huge bus?

We are experiencing a global pandemic. It's more imperative than ever for us to be socially distanced.

The elderly do not feel safe riding public public transportation. My elderly mother doesn't even consider a bus as an option to get to the places she needs to go. Additionally, if she were unable to drive, my brother and I would make transportation arrangements for her.

We've been in DeSoto for 27 years and this issue keeps coming up.

STOP!!!

Don't run our neighborhood with buses. There is zero benefit for us.

13. Ayub Jomanday

There should better public transport trams,buses,metros,trains in regions like california los angeles, florida miami,atlanta,texas,lousiana and new orleans and other regions that is still flat. We want more regions to be just like new york with better public transportation and more businesses and african american ownership in transportation.

14. Julie Ledford

Please confirm receipt of my comments. The main concern currently is the proposal for the bus rapid transit. I live in Historic Handley, and have attempted to voice opposition about the direct line that is proposed for our area to service near downtown Fort Worth. This depot is right near the homeless area. Currently buses run from that area all over town, but there is no direct line. During the presentation, the city leaders and Trinity Metro claimed that people needed to get to Handley to "work" and "shop" for groceries. This is completely inaccurate. Handley has only a handful of privately owned small businesses. There is no employment for people from other areas, because the shops on Historic Handley are upscale wedding venues, event planners, and a photography shop. The art gallery doesn't need help.

In addition, Walmart shut down their neighborhood market years ago following ongoing issues with theft and robbery. There is no grocery store nearby for shoppers.

This reasoning for installation of a direct line calls to question the motivation behind the proposal. It seems the only purpose of the line is to move the homeless population away from

downtown during the day and have them return to the shelter at night. During the pandemic, Trinity Metro gave all riders free bus passes unlimited (in order to limit contact with the bus drivers as a precaution). Before anyone knew what was happening, our neighborhood suffered a spike in petty crime, home break-ins, and car theft. We had never experienced this type of surge before the free passes. Occasional crime yes, but not continuous. This weekend the art gallery was broken into for the first time. It is irresponsible for the city to circumvent public approval and install a direct line that is unwarranted and not supported by statistical data for ridership. The current buses are frequently empty. If people don't pay to ride on a regular basis, then installing a direct line will not change the traffic.

We want more information about how to effectively oppose this project and be heard. People were silenced during the public meeting in the fall. City leaders (who promised to follow up with information after the meeting) never called or explained. The public opinion was not heard and now it is funded for \$500 million feasibility study. It seems the city skipped part of the process-establishing an actual need based on facts. I appreciate your consideration. Thanks in advance for your response.

15. Enid Gibbens

There is no public or private transportation in far North Tarrant Co. (Haslet) that is affordable for many with no transportation of their own. New senior apartment complex and a four year old mixed income with many disabled and elderly as well. Extremely hard to get to doctors or anywhere else.

Twitter –

1. When you visit Fort Worth but dress for Vermont...at TEXRail we don't mind as long as your mask is on.

#bernietransitmeme #fortworth #tarrantcounty #berniesandersmemes #transit @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans @startelegram @DTFortWorth @VisitFortWorth @FWTXmag – Trinity Metro (@TrinityMetro)



#CozyBernie has been *train*ed to prepare for all sorts of temperatures! – Fort Worth Magazine (@FWTXmag)

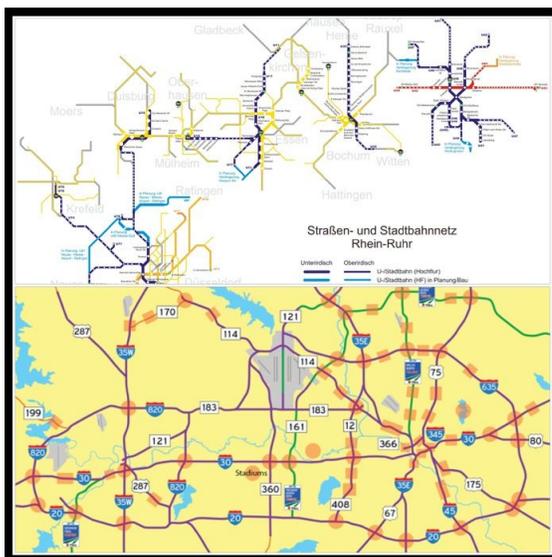
2. AirplaneTrainMotor scooter Connect Dallas, the Dallas’s Strategic Mobility Plan, is entering its final development stage and they’re looking for your feedback on the draft plan! The deadline to submit feedback is Feb. 5.

Personal computer Review the draft plan and take the survey here:
<http://bit.ly/connectdallas2021>. – NCTCOG Transportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



Interconnected regional transit networks throughout DFW.

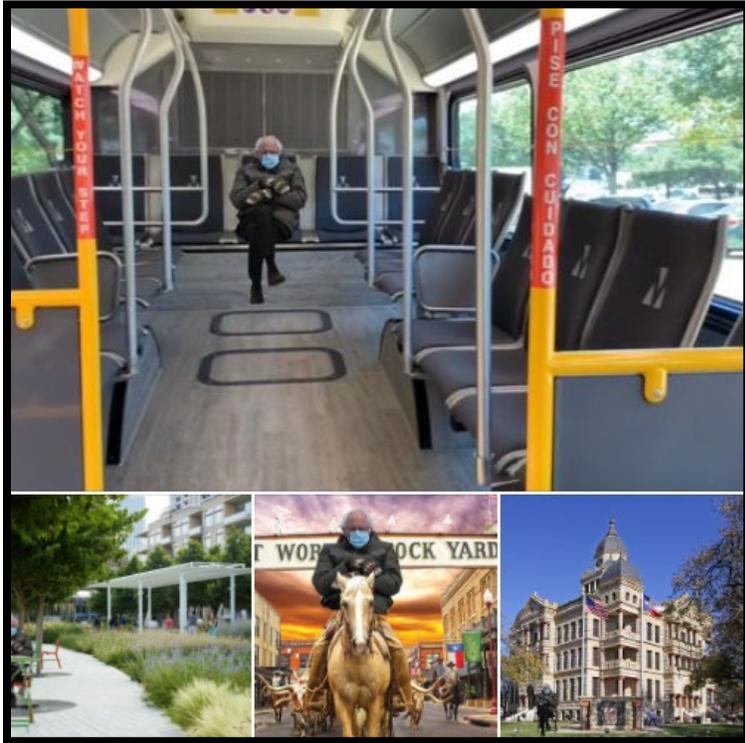
The Rhine-Ruhr region of German has a similar population and geographic size to DFW. It can be done. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)



3. @TrinityMetro to offer free rides to COVID-19 vaccination sites in @TarrantCountyTX. @CityofFortWorth @TCPHTweets @NCTCOGtrans @NTxCommission @FTWChamber @fwcc @FWMBCC – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)

Facebook –

1. A tale in four parts:



A variety of ticket options are offered by DART, Trinity Metro and DCTA to customers through the GoPass app to travel in the Dallas/Fort Worth and Denton service areas. The fares include:

- Standard passes
- Reduced passes
- Peak/off-peak passes

Take a safe trip around the region! <https://www.gopass.org/customer-service/questions-answers>. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Great to see Bernie taking public transit, lol. – Archie Nettles Jr.

Archie Nettles Jr., right?! We love to see it. 😄 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

YASSS SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER! I SEE YOU! – Christina Peace

Too funny! – Tarrant Transit Alliance

Other

Email –

1. **Phil Waigand**

I have repeated this input often to NCTCOG.

Just saying FW and Dallas doing a simple joint activity together is long overdue. I sent an example to Ernest Huffman as an example of this idea.

Truly, FW and Dallas are two great anchor cities and that needs to be shown in ways never done before.