

2.2. **Air Quality Funding Recommendations Related to the Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program**

Presenter: Huong Duong, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of funding recommendations for the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects will be requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments opened the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects (CFP) through an Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program award. The CFP award grants funds for replacements of on road diesel vehicles and engines, nonroad diesel equipment, diesel transport refrigeration unit trailers, diesel drayage trucks, locomotive engines, and locomotive shore power installation in North Central Texas. The most recent application deadline was January 14, 2022. From the applications received, staff completed review, quantified emissions, and developed project funding recommendations. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 2.2.1 provides an overview of the call for projects and staff recommendations. Electronic Item 2.2.2 provides detailed project listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Call for Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff proposes to open a call for projects to fund electric vehicle charging stations in the ozone nonattainment area. The call for projects was approved by the Regional Transportation Council on February 10, 2022. Staff will present proposed eligibility, requirements, scoring criteria, and a schedule for Committee endorsement.

Background: While there are hundreds of publicly available electric vehicle charging stations regionwide, these stations are not evenly dispersed across the region. Large gaps in availability of electric vehicle charging exist across the region. In addition, many public sector fleets have indicated interest in electrifying and cite lack of infrastructure as a key barrier to adoption of electric vehicles in public fleets. Approximately \$1 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds is available to fund implementation of technology improvements in the ozone nonattainment area and can be used to deploy electric vehicle charging. This initiative can help advance adoption of electric vehicles, both among public

sector fleets and the general public, and reduce tailpipe emissions of ozone precursors. Expansion of electric vehicle adoption is incorporated as part of the Weight of Evidence in the latest approved Dallas-Fort Worth State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 3 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Transportation Development Credits Annual Report – Including Updated Allocations**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of proposed changes to the Transportation Development Credit (TDC) program will be requested, and the Committee will be briefed on the TDC Annual Report.

Background: Since 2012, the RTC has received 994,351,658 TDCs from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to be utilized in lieu of the local match on projects and programs with federal funding. Once TDCs are received by the region, they are allocated into several categories with various goals. NCTCOG staff proposes to make allocation adjustments to several of those categories. Details on the proposed changes can be found in Electronic Item 4.1. The TDC Annual Report, which must be submitted annually to TxDOT, is included as Electronic Item 4.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Mobility 2045 Update: Draft Plan and Public Meeting Schedule**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Work continues on the region's next long-range transportation plan, Mobility 2045-2022 Update. Staff will present a brief overview of the progress to date and will ask the Committee to recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action to begin the official public comment period on April 1, 2022. In addition, staff will present information regarding:

- Draft roadway project recommendations
- Draft transit project recommendations
- Project recommendations identification tables
- Draft financial plan
- Public comment period overview
- Schedule for completion

Draft roadway and transit recommendations identified graphically and in tabular format are available at www.nctcog.org/PlanInProgress.

Background: Mobility 2045 was adopted by the RTC on June 14, 2018. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every

four years. Development of the Mobility 2045-2022 Update is currently underway, which will include a new financial plan and necessary refinements to projects in the current Mobility 2045-2022 Plan. Development will be completed by April 1, 2022. The Mobility 2045-2022 Update will reassess existing recommendations and include new demographics, financial forecasts, and planning initiatives. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff will seek Committee action to recommend RTC action permitting staff to open the official public comment period as outlined in the NCTCOG Public Participation Plan. STTC is expected to take final action on the Mobility 2045-2022 Update in May 2022. The RTC is expected to take final action on the Mobility 2045-2022 Update in June 2022. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 5.1 and Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Automated Vehicles Program 2: Round 2 Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Clint Hail, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff seeks approval of a second round of projects recommended for funding under the consolidated Automated Vehicles Program 2.0, or “AV2.0”. There may or may not be refinements from last month’s presentations.

Background: In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Automated Vehicle Program 2.0, which included \$10 million for assisting local partners in hosting automated vehicle deployments (AV2.2) and \$20 million for AV deployments to explore use cases that further regional priorities (AV2.3). As part of this approval, RTC adopted three policy initiatives aimed at: 1) increasing innovation within the region, 2) giving equal access to this innovation to all local partners, and 3) addressing equity gaps in the deployment of these innovations. In keeping with these policy initiatives, in July 2021, the RTC approved the first round of projects. The remaining funds were consolidated to form “Round 2”, and from August until mid-November 2021, staff provided technical assistance to local partners considering applications for this second round of proposals. Projects recommended for advancement include telemedicine solutions using automated vehicle platforms in McKinney and South Dallas, expanding a current on-demand shuttle service in Arlington, an automated parking/curb management test bed at DFW Airport; and a three-part technology initiative in south and southeast Fort Worth. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 6.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:20 – 2:25

7. **Cancellation of Trade Fair with Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Rio Grande Valley MPO**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) cancellation of the Trade Fair with the Lubbock and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that was approved by the RTC in May 2021. The Texas Department of Transportation has determined that no funding allocation is needed from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

Background: In May 2021, the RTC approved the trade of a total of \$21,000,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds with the Lubbock MPO in FY2023 and FY2025, to be repaid to NCTCOG over three years beginning in FY2028. The intent of the trade was for NCTCOG to provide the funding necessary to expedite the construction of two regionally important projects in the Lubbock MPO. The RTC also approved the trade of \$14,578,845 of STBG funds to the Rio Grande Valley MPO in FY2022 to be repaid in FY2026. Funding was to be utilized to expand the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates. Since that time, TxDOT has coordinated with the Lubbock and Rio Grande Valley MPOs and developed a funding plan that does not require borrowing the funding allocation from NCTCOG. Staff recommends cancelling the agreements with Lubbock MPO and Rio Grande Valley MPO. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

2:25 – 2:30

8. **Regional Parking Database**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Travis Liska, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the upcoming Regional Parking Database project, including a request for local governments to help identify and recruit commercial property owners and managers to volunteer to participate in a study of parking counts.

Background: Parking policies in the North Texas region will benefit from increased data on observed parking utilization. A 2018 study of parking utilization near Dallas Area Rapid Transit stations by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) found parking was oversupplied in most cases. Current formulas and assumptions behind parking demand estimates may be outdated. The rapidly growing North Texas region needs local parking utilization data to develop more efficiently. The Regional Parking Database will be a sample of parking counts at local commercial properties of various land uses and transportation contexts throughout the Metropolitan Planning

Area. Additionally, those who have independently conducted parking studies are encouraged to share their findings with NCTCOG. A report and resource on utilization trends will be created to better inform municipal parking codes and development opportunities. Staff will request the assistance of local governments in spreading awareness of this effort with relevant property representatives and commercial real estate contacts. Communicating this need for participation is crucial to developing an appropriate sample of parking data.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Roadway

2:30 – 2:40

9. **Fiscal Year 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program, dedicated for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Staff will provide details highlighting grant requirements, evaluation of potential project candidacy elements, and identify potential multimodal projects for submittal consideration. Additionally, staff will discuss a proposal to generate a collaborative and comprehensive regional “conveyor belt” process and strategic evaluation matrix to optimize the targeting of various future projects considered for the multiple discretionary grant opportunities set to occur via the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Background: In January 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program regarding strategic capital investments in surface transportation projects that will have significant local or regional impacts. Electronic Item 9.1 is a copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) providing specific program details and application requirements for the \$1.5 billion program. Applications are due to the US DOT by April 14, 2022. For agencies in the region planning to submit projects, please note that the registration process must be completed at www.grants.gov, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the Regional Transportation Council should be submitted to Kyle Roy of NCTCOG by Friday, March 25, 2022, at kroy@nctcoq.org. In addition to increased formula funding, the IIJA includes many new competitive discretionary grant programs in addition to RAISE, significantly more than any previous surface transportation authorization. While some programs are devoted to specific

purposes and project types, other programs may have compatibility where certain projects could be effective candidates in multiple instances. To maximize the region's competitiveness, improve collective responsiveness to increased opportunities, and further streamline delivery of needed projects among all types, staff will outline a conceptual framework for a comprehensive strategic evaluation matrix encompassing characteristics of all existing and pending IIJA discretionary grant programs. With feedback and collaboration from the Committee and other partners, the objective for this tool will be a more informative, effective, efficient, and proactive process for screening and selecting projects in advance of each IIJA competitive opportunity, enabling enhanced chances for future funding to be awarded to the region. Upcoming efforts for the FY2022 RAISE Grant will help lay initial groundwork for this proposed process. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 9.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Goods Movement

2:40 – 2:50

10. **2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Development**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process and provide a draft listing of current Regional Transportation Council commitments.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort among the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Texas Department of Transportation, local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. Electronic Item 10 contains an overview of the TIP development process, focus areas, and schedule. By the meeting date, the financially constrained draft project listings for the 2023-2026 TIP will be available at the following weblink: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/funds/tip/transportation-improvement-program/2023-2026tip>. Local agency comments on the draft listings must be provided by March 31, 2022, in order to be included in the final listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:50 – 2:50

11. **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. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
2. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
3. Status Report on Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding (Electronic Item 11.1)
4. March Public Meeting Notice
5. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 11.2)
6. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (<https://nctcog.org/trans/about/publications/locmo/local-motion-february-2022>)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 11.3)

12. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group. Michael Morris may highlight up-to-date information to assist the Committee.

13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on March 25, 2022.**