

MINUTES

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE May 26, 2023

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) met on Friday, May 26, 2023, at 1:30 pm, in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following STTC members or representatives were present: Joe Atwood, Ceason Clemens, John Cordary, Jr., Jackie Culton, Clarence Daugherty, Arturo Del Castillo, Caryl DeVries, Rebecca Diviney, Savannah Doshier (representing Melissa Baker), Phil Dupler, Chad Edwards, Claud Elsom, Barry Evans (representing William Janney), Eric Fladager, Chris Flanigan, Michael Flores (representing Pritam Deshmukh), Chris Funches (representing Daniel Burnham), Eric Gallt, Tom Hammons, Barry Heard, John D. Hudspeth, Jeremy Hutt, Thuan Huynh, Ricardo Gonzalez, Joseph Jackson, Joel James, Major L. Jones, Gus Khankarli, Clay Lipscomb, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Chad Marbut, Alberto Mares, Ernie Martinez (representing Tanya Brooks), Brian Moen, Mark Nelson, Jim O'Connor, Kevin Overton, Tim Palermo, Thomas Peppers (representing Matthew Hotelling), Martin Phillips, John Polster, Kelly Porter, Tim Porter, Brian Shewski, Walter Shumac III, Cheryl Taylor, Jennifer VanderLaan, Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize, Daniel Vedral, Caroline Waggoner, Jana Wentzel, Kakenbo Wilson (representing Shannon Hicks), and Robert Woodbury.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Nick Allen, Tom Bamonte, Martin Bate, Taylor Benjamin, Natalie Bettger, Jackie Castillo, Lori Clark, Jason Crawford, John Godwin, Rebekah Gongora, Christie Gotti, Amy Hodges, Chris Hoff, Amy Johnson, Dan Kessler, Chris Klaus, Minh Le, James McLane, Collin Moffett, Michael Morris, Vickie Morris, Savana Nance, Jeff Neal, Donald Parker, Minesha Reese, Connor Sadro, Toni Stehling, Nicholas Vanhaasen, Brendon Wheeler, Mandy Wiggins, Amanda Wilson, Karla Windsor, and Jared Wright.

1. **Approval of April 28, 2023, Minutes:** The minutes of the April 28, 2023, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 1. Daniel Vedral (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Consent Agenda:** There were no items on the Consent Agenda.
3. **Juneteenth Museum Funding Request:** Christie Gotti requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of proposed investments at the future National Juneteenth Museum. A national museum commemorating Juneteenth is proposed to be located in Fort Worth along East Rosedale Street east of Interstate Highway 35W. The community has requested assistance with infrastructure improvements at the future museum site, with emphasis on five areas: roadway, sustainable development/parking/land use, transit, technology, and optimal use of green space (i.e., public park). Staff reviewed construction elements related to transportation items for transit access, vehicular circulation, and landscaping/streetscaping. Financial participation would involve traditional funding grants with the City of Fort Worth and/or Trinity Metro administering the funding. The development context in the area was discussed: City of Fort Worth Evans and Rosedale redevelopment (project #1) - City providing \$9 million public partnership with \$70 million from a private developer, with at least 370 housing units (20 percent of them affordable), retail space, and a grocery tenant parking garage, surface lots, 400+ spaces; Mt. Zion Baptist Church Parking, (project #2) - 11 lots, estimated 127 parking spaces, Southside Community Center (project #3) - 102 parking spaces, City reviewing options for future of the center.; Evans Plaza Park, (project #4) \$1.225 million from the City committed to design and

construction; National Juneteenth Museum – (project #5) up to \$15 million approved by the City (pending private funding commitment for the Museum). The proposed improvements were covered: roadway with \$750,000 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Sustainable Development/ Parking/Land Use with \$1,250,000 Regional Toll Revenue (RTR), transit with \$500,000 STBG, technology with \$250,000 STBG, and green space with \$250,000 RTR totaling \$3,000,000 in RTC funding. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 3.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of proposed investments at the future Juneteenth Museum (contingent upon the museum coming to fruition) and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project funding. Kelly Porter (M); Chad Edwards (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Five Mile Creek/Revolver Trade:** Christie Gotti requested recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a proposed federal/local partnership with the City of Dallas and the distribution of these funds and prior Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) partnership funds between the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Revolver and RTC Local funds. The action is contingent upon approval from the City of Dallas. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) needs a source of local funds to pay expenses for federal projects/programs prior to federal reimbursement. With the award of multiple federal discretionary grants to the region, the payment sizes have become significantly larger. NCTCOG would also like to expand the pool of RTC Local funds available to implement projects outside of the restrictive federal process. The RTC does not have taxing authority to generate revenue to pay these invoices and fund these projects, so a source of local dollars is needed. The “MPO Revolver Fund” and RTC Local funds are typically used for these purposes, but those funds are already committed, leading to the need for more local dollars. In July 2022, the RTC directed staff to pursue a funding partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) or the City of Dallas to expand the Revolver Fund to cash flow federal grant projects and replenish the RTC Local funding pool. Two federal/local partnerships with DART and the City of Dallas are being finalized to accomplish these goals: allocation of MPO Revolver and RTC Local funds from the partnership with DART (partnership approved December 2022) and Five Mile Creek Partnership with City of Dallas (pending). A third partnership with DART and the City of Dallas was approved in December 2022 to facilitate the construction of two parking garages. In return for \$15.4 million of federal funding for the project, the City would send \$10 million of local funds to the RTC. \$1 million of the funding would be for engineering, and \$14.4 million for construction. The funding would be matched with regional Transportation Development Credits. Sections 1, 2, and 4 of the trails would be designed and constructed with this funding, contingent upon final action by the City. The partnership may involve a subsequent trade with DART, City of Dallas, and the RTC to access these local funds. Between this partnership and the DART partnership approved in December 2022, a total of \$50 million of local funds would be available to the RTC for use for the Revolver fund and RTC Local pool. The following distribution between the two is proposed: add \$5 million to the Permanent Revolver fund for a total of \$15 million (that fund already has \$10 million); add a Temporary Revolver with \$10 million that would serve as a capital fund and “emergency relief valve” for the Permanent Revolver, if needed; and add the remaining \$35 million to the RTC Local account. Action on the proposed partnership is scheduled for June 8, 2023, by the RTC, and June 22, 2023, by the NCTCOG Executive Board. Electronic Item 4 contained additional details on the partnership.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of the proposed Five Mile Creek Trail partnership, proposed distribution of local funding into the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Revolver fund and RTC local pool, contingent upon approval by the City of Dallas, and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project funding. Gus Khankarli (M); Walter Shumac, III (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Work Zone Data Exchange: Support for Local Partners:** Tom Bamonte requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to access a variety of services that improves the identification, monitoring, and reporting of work zones and to deploy these services to assist local partners. Based on Texas Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administrative data, more than 25,000 traffic crashes occurred in work zones in Texas in 2022, resulting in 205 deaths, approximately one-fifth of the United States' total, and another 788 serious injuries. The Work Zone Data Exchange ([WZDx](#)) was inspired by the General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS). The WZDx specification enables highway operators and contractors to make harmonized work zone data available for third parties – including OEMs and travel navigation services. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG's) [TXSHARE](#) program undertook a cooperative purchase of three categories of WZDx services: (1) conversion of raw work zone data into WZDx format; (2) establishment of WZDx-compliant reporting systems; and (3) general WZDx-related services. Staff recommends that Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) position itself as a technology and safety leader by utilizing these WZDx services to improve the identification and monitoring of work zones and the reporting of work zone data. Local partners will be able to access better information about work zones on their roadways. Staff requested Committee support for the following recommendations for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval: (1) Direct staff to initiate a call for proposals and assistance from local partners on how to utilize the WZDx-related services most effectively under NCTCOG contract to improve the identification, monitoring, and reporting of work zones on DFW roadways; and (2) assign existing funds to meet needs identified through this regional process. Utilizing existing NCTCOG contracts to provide WZDx-related services for the region will be more efficient than requiring each local partner to make arrangements with one or more of the WZDx providers under contract. Electronic Item 5 includes a presentation summarizing the project.

A motion was made to direct staff to issue a Call for Proposals and assistance from regional partners; based on regional input, order WZDx services from North Central Texas Council of Government's existing contracts; implement WZDx services with local partners to identify, monitor, and report; and assign existing funding to meet needs. Daniel Vedral (M); Brian Moen (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Regional Grant Application:** Karla Windsor requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a regional planning project submittal and local matching funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program and a partnership for the City of Dallas submittal of the implementation project of last year's Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Cedar Crest Blvd. in Dallas developed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The SS4A grant program was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the purpose of preventing deaths and serious injuries on area roadways and to focus on comprehensive safety action planning and implementing projects/strategies identified in safety action plans. The SS4A is a \$5 billion discretionary grant program with \$1

billion per year over five years and is inclusive of all types of roadway safety interventions across the Safe Systems approach. Only one application submission is allowed per agency. The total planning project cost for the NCTCOG Regional Safe Streets Planning/Demonstration Grant Application is \$6.25 million, with staff submitting \$5 million in federal funds and is requesting \$1.25 million of Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for the required 20 percent local match. The anticipated total cost for the infrastructure project lead by Dallas for the project is \$27.25 million with an anticipated federal request of \$21.8 million. The local match will be covered by the City of Dallas and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). The City of Dallas Safe Streets implementation grant project at Martin Luther King Blvd and Cedar Crest Blvd. implements safety countermeasures to address the safety of all modes of transportation including motor vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian: complete street (context-sensitive) retrofit, DART bus stops/smart shelters upgrades, technology upgrades. It was submitted by NCTCOG as the lead in 2022 for implementation; will be resubmitted by City of Dallas with NCTCOG/DART partnership. An overview of the proposed project was contained in Electronic Item 6.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) planning/demonstration project grant application for the FY2023 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program, the use of \$1,250,000 in Regional Toll Revenue funds for non-federal match should the project be selected for funding, direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes, and endorsement of the partnership for the City of Dallas application submittal of the MLK Jr Blvd/Cedar Crest Blvd Implementation grant. Kelly Porter (M); Gus Khankarli (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items:** Michael Morris briefly highlighted several items for the Committee. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) chair appointed a Nominating Subcommittee to recommend a slate of officers for the 2023-2024 term. The RTC will elect officers at its June 8 meeting. He highlighted the success of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) America Conference. He noted that the lighting is being reviewed on the US 75 Technology Lanes. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and local government lighting agreements implementation will be moving forward for safety reasons. Michael briefed the Committee on the City of Dallas/Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Rail mediation has been completed. He also noted that progress is being made on mediations with Burlington Northern Santa Fe and transit authorities regarding the Trinity Railway Express and advancement of the BUILD grant. Michael and State Representative Yvonne Davis will testify before the Special Bonds Committee regarding Category 12 funding and the RTC's partnership with TxDOT.
8. **Federal and State Legislative Update:** Nick Allen provided an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. Debt Ceiling - House of Representatives set to leave Washington DC for the Memorial Day weekend without a debt limit compromise, failing to raise the debt limit by June 1, will result in a first-ever default. Nick noted key dates of Interest for the Texas Legislature, including May 29, 2023, final day of the 88th Regular Session, and June 18, 2023, the last day the Governor can sign or veto bills. State's budget plan for House Bill (HB) 1 House approved \$302.6 billion budget on April 6, 2023. Senate appointed conference committee members Huffman (Chair), Nichols, Kolkhorst, Creighton,

and Schwertner. HB 1 Senate approved \$308 billion budget on April 17, 2023. House appointed conference committee members Bonnen (Chair), Gonzalez of El Paso, Jetton, VanDeaver and Walle. Nick noted conference committee report filed May 24 and provided information on Bills of interest regarding transportation funding: SB 505 proposes an additional \$400 registration fee on most new electric vehicles and \$200 registration renewal fee for all existing electric vehicles (signed by Governor and effective September 1, 2023). Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 2 would extend proposition 7 by 10 years (sent to Governor on May 22, 2023). HB 2230 would eliminate the expiration date of Proposition 1, making the revenue stream permanent (sent to Governor on May 22, 2023). Bills of interest on the topic of safety include HB 898 which proposes harsher penalties for the Move Over, Slow Down Law (sent to Governor on May 22, 2023). HB 1885 would grant the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) authority to establish a variable speed limit program (sent to Governor on May 24, 2023). Bills of Interest on the topic of temporary tags include HB 718, the issuance of metal plates (passed House Committee and referred to Senate on May 24, 2023). HB 914 would create temporary tag tampering penalties (signed by Governor, effective September 1, 2023). HB 2195 would increase penalties for fictitious and altered plates (sent to Governor on May 22, 2023). Bills of interest on the topic of local government include HB 2127, State preemption of municipal and county regulations (sent to Governor on May 24, 2023), SB 784, State preemption of local greenhouse gas regulations (signed by the Governor, effective September 1, 2023). Bills of interest on the topic of air quality include SB 1397, continuation of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (House and Senate concurred on amendments May 23, 2023)., SB 1732, Creates standards for electric vehicle charging stations (signed by Governor; effective on September 1, 2023). Bill of interest on the topic of Miscellaneous. Transportation that may still pass the legislature include HB 2265, awards compensatory damages caused by delays in government construction projects (Placed on Senate Intent Calendar May 24, 2023), In regard to unmanned aircraft, SB 1308 would prohibit drones over airports and military installations (Placed on Senate Items Eligible calendar on May 24, 2023) and Safety, HB 3297 would eliminate vehicle safety inspections for noncommercial vehicles (House refused to concur; Conferees selected).

- 9. Fiscal Year 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program:** Jeff Neal provided information to the Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG). While the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected for release later in "Spring 2023", according to United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), information was presented to obtain feedback on candidate projects in the interests of advanced project "slotting". The \$2.85 billion program, based on last year's NOFO, solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural). A combined overview of solicited projects; INFRA with \$1.55 billion of available funds with up to 80 percent federal, with no maximum on award size, obligation deadline September 30, 2026, and construction deadline March 30, 2028. MEGA with \$1 billion of available funds with up to 80 percent federal, and US DOT seeks projects that will begin construction before September 30, 2026. Rural with \$300 million of available funds with up to 100 percent federal cost/match, no maximum on award size, obligation deadline of September 30, 2026, and construction deadline March 30, 2028. As negotiations continue with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as many as nine submittals can be submitted, with three each for INFRA, MEGA, and RURAL. The projects/lead applicants that are planned for NCTCOG submittal and/or resubmittal include Dallas County Inland Port (DCIP) Multimodal Connectivity Project to rebuild Belt Line Rd

and Sunrise Rd. to four lane arterials with side paths for better mobility with total cost of \$82,525,000; United States Highway (US) 80 Corridor/Interstate Highway (IH) 635 Junction Reconstruction Project to rebuild US 80 plus IH 635 interchange to address multimodal mobility, safety, and access needs with a total cost of \$482,760,151; Alliance Smart Port Deployment and State Highway (SH) 170 connections deliver comprehensive infrastructure assets with a total cost of \$241,430,000; US 81/287 North Tarrant County Reconstruction project to reconstruct for six general purposes lanes, continuous one-way frontage roads, and new grade separations with a total cost of \$344,400,000; and, US 377 at SH144 reconstruction project in Granbury to rebuild US 377 to a 6-lane limited access roadway with SH 144 upgrades to address safety, mobility, drainage, and multimodal access needs with a total cost of \$90,000,000. Additionally, NCTCOG is considering resubmittal as a co-applicant to TxDOT of the IH 30 Downtown Dallas Canyon project to rebuild IH 30 to address design, safety, and mobility deficiencies; restore the Central Business District (CBD) street grid for multimodal connections and surplus ROW re-use; and add deck foundations with a total cost of \$542,000,000. The schedule for the FY23 MPDG program will be presented for action at the June 23, 2023, Surface Transportation Technical Committee and July 13, 2023, Regional Transportation Council meetings. The deadline for an RTC letter of support is July 20, 2023., The FY2023 MPDG application deadline (Grants.gov) is in August of 2023. The schedule is subject to change based on the program's actual NOFO release date. Remaining details provided in Electronic Item 9.

- 10. Draft FY2024 and FY2025 United Planning Work Program:** Vickie Alexander provided a summary on development of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Regional Transportation Planning. Development of the document is a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and its transportation partners. The UPWP identifies NCTCOG staff work activities to be performed between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025. A draft will be provided to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for review in early June, with a copy provided concurrently to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC). The final document is due to TxDOT on July 31, 2023. The UPWP is required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), summarizes annual Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funding, addresses regional and local issues, inventories planning and programming activities, and allocates available funds to specific tasks. Included in the document are five major tasks under which NCTCOG's work activities will be carried out: Task 1 – Administration and Management, Task 2 – Transportation Data Development and Maintenance, Task 3 – Short-Range Planning, Programming, and Operations, Task 4 – Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Task 5 – Special Studies. Vickie noted that 31 project submittals had been received from the local governments and transportation providers in response to NCTCOG's request in February for regional transportation and/or transportation-related air quality project ideas or technical assistance needs for consideration of inclusion in the UPWP. Planning projects that those entities would be carrying out during FY2024 and FY2025 were also requested for inclusion in an inventory in the document. A summary of NCTCOG staff's recommendations regarding the inclusion of the project submittals was provided to STTC members in Electronic Item 10. Vickie also provided a funding summary of the federal formula Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) for FY2024 and FY2025. Available funds are estimated to be about \$33.2 million, and expected expenditures for the two years is estimated at about \$28.5 million, leaving an approximate \$4.7 million to carry over to FY2026. In addition to Transportation Planning Funds, the UPWP also contains funding from numerous other grants and agencies. She noted that these estimates were early estimates and could change as the agency and department budgets are refined. A schedule outlining elements of the document development process

was also provided. STTC action on the recommended FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program will be requested at its meeting in June.

11. **Automated Transportation System Development Study:** Martin Bate updated the Committee on the Automated Transportation System (ATS) Development Study, including technology assessments and project evaluations. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG's) review of emerging technology innovations focuses on future proofing infrastructure, providing users with demand-responsive transportation, reducing long-term risks of obsolescence of infrastructure and utilizing solutions that do not require custom guideways to operate. Other areas of focus include achieving economies of scale by using modular infrastructure and independent-running ATS vehicles and considering both people and cargo and goods movement. As part of the Regional Automated Transportation System initiative, the Regional Transportation Council approved a study to assess the state of the ATS market, including vehicles for moving people and cargo/goods, innovative lightweight modular materials for guideways, and wireless electric charging. The study also evaluated the application of its findings toward two pilot projects and two modernization concepts. Martin presented summaries of the study's results as well as information on ATS pilot projects provided in Electronic Item 11.

12. **Fast Facts:** The following fast facts were provided by NCTCOG staff:

Amy Johnson noted the Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 Policy Bundle's early deadline was March 31, 2023, and the final deadline is May 31, 2023. More information provided at: www.nctcog.org/policybundle.

Jeff Neal highlighted the Federal Performance Measures Condition Targets for National Highway System Pavement/Bridge Access.

Connor Sadro mentioned the creation of a task force under the Regional Broadband Program. More details provided in Electronic Item 12.1 with the link for registration.

Chris Klaus provided an update on the 2023 Ozone Season. With five exceedances, the most up-to-date information was provided in Electronic Item 12.2.

Jared Wright highlighted the Local Clean Air Project Spotlight on the replacement project for Cedar Hill Independent School District. The Cedar Hill Independent School District was awarded two propane powered school buses, implemented in October 2022, awarded \$190,000 with a total project cost of \$257,648. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 12.3.

Savana Nance provided information on the Status Reports on Climate Pollution Reduction Grants created by Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and other harmful air pollutants. More detailed information can be provided in Electronic Item 12.4 and at: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>. The upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities events are available at <https://www.dfwcleancities.org/evets>.

Jackie Castillo mentioned that a public meeting was hosted on April 10. Details provided in Electronic Item 12.5. Presentations were provided on the Federal Railroad Administration grant program, local partnerships between Dallas Area Rapid Transit and the City of Dallas, and legislative update. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will be

hosting a public meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023. Details provided in Electronic Item 12.6.

Taylor Benjamin noted that the Public Comments Report, which contained general public comments received from March 20, 2023, through April 19, 2023, was provided in Electronic Item 12.7.

Partner Progress Reports were provided in Electronic Item 12.8.

13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: There was no discussion on this item.
14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for 1:30 pm on June 23, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.