

MINUTES

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
August 25, 2023**

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) met on Friday, August 25, 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: Melissa Baker, David Boski, Shon Brooks, Daniel Burnham, Travis Campbell, Lane Cline, John Cordary, Jr., Jackie Culton, Chad Davis, Arturo Del Castillo, Pritam Deshmukh, Caryl DeVries, Duane Hengst (representing Greg Dickens), Rebecca Diviney, Phil Dupler, Chad Edwards, Eric Fladager, Chris Flanigan, Ricardo Gonzalez, Gary Graham, Tom Hammons, Barry Heard, Wilson KaKembo (representing Shannon Hicks), Matthew Hotelling, John D. Hudspeth, Thuan Huynh, Joseph Jackson, Joel James, William Janney, Major L. Jones, Gus Khankarli, Alonzo Liñán, Eron Linn, Alison Smith (representing Clay Lipscomb), Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Chad Marbut, Alberto Mares, Wes McClure, Brian Moen, Daniel Herrig (representing Mark Nelson), Jim O'Connor, Kevin Overton, Tim Palermo, Dipak Patel, John Polster, Kelly Porter, Tim Porter, Lauren Prieur, Elizabeth Reynolds, Jahor Roy, Greg Royster, Jeff Kelly (representing David Salmon), James Ryan Sartor, Brian Shewski, Walter Shumac, III, Randy Skinner, Cheryl Taylor, Jennifer VanderLaan, Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize, Daniel Vedral, and Jana Wentzel.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Nathan Bendits, Taylor Benjamin, Aaron Billings, Chris Bosco, Jason Brown, Jackie Castillo, Aaron Cedor, David Dryden, Amber Ellis, Rebekah Gongora, Lyneil Harris, Alan Hendrix, Duane Hengst, Irlenia Hermosillo, Amy Hodges, Brian Jahn, Amy Johnson, Zachary Joseph, Dan Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Dan Lamers, Sonya Landrum, James Malone, Angela Mathew, Michael Misantonis, Vickie Morris, Savana Nance, Jeff Neal, Anthony Padilla, Donald Parker, Parth Patel, Ezra Pratt, Maggie Quinn, Toni Stehling, Shannon Stevenson, Nick Van Haasen, Brendon Wheeler, Brian Wilson, Karla Windsor, and Susan Young.

1. **Approval of July 28, 2023, Minutes:** The minutes of the July 28, 2023, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 1. Kelly Porter (M); Jim O'Connor (S). The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda:
 - 2.1. **Endorsement of Local Match for Traffic Signals:** An endorsement was requested for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to utilize RTC local funds to support the local match requirements for the Regional Traffic Signal Enhancement Program. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project 11616 supports traffic signal initiatives and is funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds. State and local funds fulfill the match requirement. Local governments have provided some local match to support location-specific signal projects. The North Central Texas Council of Governments' staff requested use of RTC Local funds in the amount of \$200,000 to support additional local match needs, including support for the region-wide traffic signal equipment inventory, and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents as needed. Some of this funding will be used to cover costs previously incurred.

2.2 **Transportation Paid Education Campaigns for Fiscal Year 2024:** North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff requested the Committee's support for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) recommendation to the NCTCOG Executive Board for the approval of funding up to \$1,540,750 for Transportation Paid Education Campaigns that will initiate in Fiscal Year 2024.

2.3 **Application to the Environmental Protection Agency Diesel Emissions Reduction Act 2024 Program:** An approval to open a Call for Partners to public agencies, private fleets, and pursue funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program with intent to develop a public-private partnership proposal to EPA. The EPA is authorized under DERA to offer funding assistance to accelerate the upgrade, retrofit, and turnover of the legacy diesel fleet. This program will offer funding up to \$3 million per application, with applications due to EPA by December 1, 2023.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of Items 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 on the Consent Agenda. Kelly Porter (M); Gus Khankarli (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Policy Bundle Round 5:** Amy Johnson requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC's) approval of Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to successful participants in the fifth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle. The MTP is a blueprint for the region's transportation system that responds to the region's goals, guides expenditure of federal and state funds to recommend programs, policies, projects, and rewards qualifying entities with Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). Another round will be coming up in a few years in the 2025 timeframe. Amy mentioned the policy bundle process is agencies approve the policies, agencies apply online, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) certifies applications, and agencies use TDCs to offset local match funds. Resources and information are available at www.nctcog.org/policybundle. There were seventeen applicants, with sixteen proposed awardees that totaled 26 million TDCs during Round 5. The remaining schedule: action requested at the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) meeting on August 25, 2023; the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting on September 14, 2023, and the formal notification of awards in the September/October months. Additional details and the scoring matrix were provided in Electronic Item 3.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of staff recommendation for distributing 26,000,000 Transportation Development Credits to successful Policy Bundle applicants. Melissa Baker (M); Gus Khankarli (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Fiscal Year 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program:** Karla Windsor requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC's) approval to apply for candidate projects. Applications are due to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) by September 28, 2023. For FY23 the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) is combining the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) grant programs. The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has combined these two programs into a single NOFO to provide a more efficient application process. They remain separate programs for the purposes of an award, the programs share many common characteristics, including aiming to improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education,

healthcare, food, and recreation while fostering equitable development and restoration. There are three grant types under one combined NOFO; grant 1 – Capital Construction Grants for \$2.718 billion funds for reconnecting-focused projects, grant 2 – Community Planning Grants for \$185 million funds for planning activities to support future construction projects, and grant 3 – Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants (NAE) for \$450 million with only three to five applicants awarded funds for projects to encourage regional collaboration and innovation among partners to address regional challenges (vs. one facility). The candidate projects for NAE include Klyde Warren Park (Phase 2), Southern Gateway (Phase 2), Interstate Highway 30: Farmers Market/Three Fingers, and McKinney State Highway 5. Advancing a Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Grant, there's no minimums or maximum amounts. Forty percent of the funds for the NAE program must be spent within disadvantaged/underserved communities, and a minimum twenty percent local match unless within a disadvantaged community, with a strong focus on projects/transportation facilities that address barriers to community connectivity. McKinney SH5 - \$15M in funds will be requested from the program. \$1.6 million (STBG) is already committed by RTC to begin design, \$550,000 City local funds for utilities, and \$12.85 million STBG to be requested of RTC. Klyde Warren 2.0 - \$20M in funds will be requested from the program. \$36.8 million (STBG) is committed by RTC, \$7.9 million of city funds existing plus \$5 million in future funds totaling \$12.9 million, \$1.3 million in funds from Dallas County, and \$8.8 in private funds are available. Southern Gateway 2.0 - \$35M in funds will be requested from the program. \$5 million from Senator West budget riders/TxDOT federal funds, \$15 million in funds from the City of Dallas (2024 bond funds) exist on the project, \$5 million Regional Toll Revenue to be requested of RTC, and \$7 million (STBG) committed by RTC, to be confirmed. I-30 (Farmers Market/Three Bridges) - \$25M in funds to be requested from the program. \$2 million (STBG) is committed by RTC for design, \$27 million from the City of Dallas, and \$6 million new Category 2 funds (NCTCOG) to be requested by RTC. The Grant ask is forty one percent of the total costs and federal funds make up seventy-two percent of the projects. The schedule is to bring RCN for action at the August 25, 2023, STTC meeting and the September 14, 2023, RTC meeting, RCN Grant applications submittal deadline and endorsement from the Executive Board is September 28, 2023. Electronic Item 4 contained additional details.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of submittal of the bundle of four pedestrian cap projects for funding consideration through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program, allocation of \$19.85 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, \$5 million Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) and \$6 million of Category 2 funds to advance the projects, administratively amend Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) and Statewide TIP, as well as other planning, and administrative documents to include the proposed project(s) if selected for an RCN Grant award. Gus Khankarli (M); Gary Graham (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items:** Michael Morris briefly highlighted several items for the Committee. He presented the insights to the Changing Mobility quarterly report (Electronic Item 5.1) for the performance measures on the transportation system post COVID, and the induced roadway demand by returning to pre-COVID congestion levels. He mentioned there is information for the Denton County Transit Study Recommendations provided at: ([North Central Texas Council of Governments - Denton County Transit Study \(nctcog.org\)](https://www.nctcog.org)). Michael briefed the Committee on the latest Regional Transportation Council comments on the Unified Transportation Program for the two projects on US 380 and SPUR 199 as the values were reduced resulting in constrained business relationships between Texas Department of Transportation Headquarters and

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) (Electronic Item 5.2). We received correspondence from the Federal Communications Commission's Waiver request regarding reserved capacity for safety and transportation technologies (Electronic Item 5.3). Michael announced High Speed Rail is advancing with the request being submitted to the Federal Transit Administration from Dallas to Fort Worth, with a stop in Arlington, hopefully starting in September (Electronic Item 5.4). There have been many conversations regarding Amtrak's service between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City with considering extending service to Kansas City, and East Texas to Atlanta. Amtrak had a press release to Japan to implement the high-speed rail between Houston and Dallas. Michael reminded everybody that with all of our projects being looked at, to focus on getting projects completed.

6. **2022 Transportation Safety Performance Report:** Michael Misantonis provided an update on items included in the 2022 Safety Program Performance Measures Report. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Safety Program Performance Measures Report provides an annual report on the performance of various safety programs, projects, and statistics such as regional crashes and fatality data, county-level crash rates, top ten contributing factors for regional crashes, attendance statistics for Traffic Incident Management and Photogrammetry Training courses, Roadside assistance programs. The safety performance targets presented for 2022 and 2023 for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) include a new 50 percent reduction by 2035 targets for fatalities and fatality rate only. Crash statistics from 2022 show six counties had a reduction in crashes with a total of 51 percent overall reduction in crashes throughout the twelve counties. Nine counties saw a reduction in fatality statistics by 6.19 percent. The contributing factors such as speeding, driver related, and impaired driving, from 2022 haven't changed much. The 2022 overall crash rate for the region decreased from 2021 to 69.33. Michael briefly went over the attendance for the Traffic Incident Management First Responders training attendees that is provided six times a year and the Executive Level training is provided twice a year. First Responder struck-by fatality stats: 47 nationwide, 6 statewide, and 1 regionwide. There has been a decrease in hazmat incidents from 2021 to 2022, from 15 to 9. There were 144,371 overall regional roadside assistance patrols in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Regional Roadway Safety plan was approved in March of 2023 with goals to eliminate fatal crashes from all modes of travel by 2050 and prioritize safety in roadway project selection, provide guidance on countermeasure development to partner agencies, fund and implement safety projects and policies equitably to ensure safe transportation access for all road users, work with partners to foster a culture of safety that utilizes the safe systems approach; and develop behavioral and educational countermeasures to address dangerous driving behaviors, implement a proactive approach to roadway safety to identify problems before they occur, and work with police to effectively enforce traffic rules and traffic management professionals to improve quick clearance strategies. The safety plan's emphasis areas include speeding; distracted driving; impaired driving; intersection safety; bicyclist and pedestrian safety; roadway and lane departures; occupant protection; and motorcycles; and additional areas of concern - wrong way driving; crashes occurring at night; younger drivers; and older road users (65+). Plan available at: www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/safety/transportation-safety/roadway-safety-plan. Statewide TxDOT and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) safety task force with TxDOT committed \$50,000 to each MPO across the state to support safety efforts, the Friends of the Safety Committee will continue to carry the initiative forward as the task force wraps up, the table presented identifies performance measures that TxDOT and MPOs will report on annually.

7. **Texas Electric Vehicle Registration Update:** Savana Nance updated the Committee on the number of registered electric vehicles (EV) in Texas and North Texas and on upcoming EV-related programs and events. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC) receives EV registration data from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles for all vehicles, including battery-electric (BEV) and plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV) vehicles. Data is quality controlled and made available using visual analytic software (Microsoft Power BI) to identify regional needs, inform, educate local governments, utilities, and stakeholders, and support EV Infrastructure planning efforts. Texas EV registration data is available at: www.dfwcleancities.org/evsintexas and North Texas EV registration data is available at: www.dfwcleancities.org/evsinnorthtexas. There has been a 51 percent increase in EVs registered in Texas from August of 2022 to August 2023. Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) has seen the most growth with a 57 percent increase. North Texas has about 80,000 EVs registered with 80 percent of EVs being battery electric and 20 percent are plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Two-thirds of all EVs are Teslas. Collin, Dallas, and Tarrant counties have the highest number of EVs registered, but the Collin, Denton, and Kaufman counties have seen the most growth over the past year. Each county within the region has at least one charging station for EVs. There is an expectancy for more infrastructure due to federal investments. The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula funding will provide the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to administer \$408 million over five years to deploy EV charging through Texas via the [Texas EV Charging Plan](#). Phase 1 of the plan is to install DC fast charging in recommended study areas along designated corridors within one mile of designated EV corridor exit, objective is to have one qualifying station every 50 miles, and for each station to include at least four Combined Charging System (CCS) and North American Charging Standard (NACS) DC fast charge connectors with a minimum of 150kW power output. Phase 1 grant program is now open for applications. Phase 2 has two parallel approaches to build infrastructure, building a station in each county seat to ensure access in rural counties and working with Metropolitan Planning Organizations to build infrastructure in Urbanized Areas. TxDOT has an interactive map online where the public can nominate locations for an EV station. To help support all of the electrification efforts, Savana highlighted one of the programs by Oncor. Oncor's Evolution program is to ensure adequate infrastructure planning for fleets to maximize efficiency and profitability with no cost to participate, fleet managers and program partners can enroll at [EVOLUTION \(oncor.com\)](http://EVOLUTION(oncor.com)). Evolution participants are eligible to participate in Oncor's EV charging study participants which provides up to \$25,000 for commercial fleets to work with Oncor on peak demand shifting and other energy efficiency objectives. Participants must have 5 EV chargers or at least 2 medium-heavy duty EVs and attend monthly meetings. Anyone interested in the charging study can contact Joshua.Emeter@oncor.com for more information. Finally, the 2023 Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) event is coming soon. NDEW is a national celebration to raise awareness of the benefits of EVs and will feature exhibitors, electric vehicle display, ride and drives, food, games, and more. DFW National Drive Electric Week is Sunday, October 1, 2023, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Tanger Outlets, 15853 North Fwy, Fort Worth, TX 76177. To register and learn more at: <https://www.dfwcleancities.org/ndew>.

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

Nick Allen highlighted the completion of the Summary of Approved Transportation and Air Quality Legislation – 88th Texas Legislature report provided in Electronic Item 8.1.

Brian Wilson mentioned that the most recent Mobility Matters was handed out for each Committee member. He highlighted this issue with focus on the progress of the DFW

discovery trail and Commissioner Duncan Webb as the spotlight. Mobility Matters is online at: www.nctcog.org/mobilitymatters.

Ezra Pratt announced the Eastern Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties Regional Transit Study's Public Meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at the Mesquite Art Center.

Karla Windsor presented for Catherine Richardson on the five year window of data for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Maps for the DFW Region at: (<https://nctcog.org/transplan/bikeped/bicycle-and-pedestrian-crash-information>).

Nicholas Van Hassen provided an update on the 2023 Ozone Season by mentioning we are underneath two ozone standards with 34 exceedances with five being red and 81 parts per billion. The most up-to-date information was provided in Electronic Item 8.2.

Joslyn Billings provided information on the Texas Volks Wagon Environmental Mitigation Program is accepting applications until August 31, 2025, or until funds are expended for replacement or repower of eligible heavy-duty diesel vehicles or equipment or installation of refueling infrastructure. The Department of Energy is accepting applications to the energy future grants program that will provide a total of \$37 million in funding to support innovative clean energy planning that supports disadvantaged communities. The Energy Future Grants program is accepting applications until September 30, 2023. For more information regarding Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding. Joslyn also provided an update for the Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Working Group will host the meeting in person at the North Central Texas Council of Governments offices on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. More information for upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities events available at: <https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>.

Jackie Castillo mentioned that an online public input opportunity was held on Monday, June 10, 2023, to Tuesday, August 8, 2023, on the Regional 10-year plan. Details provided in Electronic Item 8.3. Jackie Castillo also announced a Public Meeting Notice is scheduled for September 16, 2023, at 12:00 pm. Details provided in Electronic Item 8.4.

Taylor Benjamin noted that the Public Comments Report, which contained general public comments received from June 20, 2023, through July 19, 2023, was provided in Electronic Item 8.5.

Written Progress Reports were provided in Electronic Item 8.6.

9. **Other Business (Old or New)**: There was no discussion on this item.
10. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for 1:30 pm on September 22, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:21 PM.