

AGENDA

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Friday, October 28, 2022
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

1:30 – 1:35 1. Approval of September 23, 2022, Minutes
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Ceason G. Clemens, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the September 23, 2022, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.
Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40 2. Consent Agenda
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

2.1. Modifications to the FY2022 and FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the FY2022 and FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to also administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications will also be sought.

Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2022 and FY2023 UPWP was approved by the Regional Transportation Council and NCTCOG Executive Board in July 2021 and identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2023. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates, funding adjustments, and updated Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration Planning Emphasis Areas. The proposed amendments have been posted on the NCTCOG website for public review and comment as part of the October public outreach opportunity and are also included as Electronic Item 2.1.1. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 2.1.2. Comments received as a result of the public outreach process, if any, will be provided.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2.2. Endorsement of Texas and Gulf Coast Hydrogen Hub

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) approval for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to participate in the Texas and Gulf Coast Hydrogen Consortium. This Consortium will establish a regional clean hydrogen hub centered in the Houston area.

Background: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) authorizes the Department of Energy to invest \$8 billion to establish at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs nationwide. Hubs are to reflect diversity in geographic location, the feedstock from which hydrogen is produced, and the end use of the hydrogen produced. At least one hub should demonstrate end-use of hydrogen in the transportation sector. The Center for Houston's Future has coordinated stakeholder engagement on the topic of regional hydrogen hub development since the BIL was passed. Information is available at:

<https://www.centerforhoustonsfuture.org/energy>. In

conjunction with development of the Interstate 45 Corridor Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, NCTCOG staff has taken part in these regional hydrogen hub conversations and developed a network of connections related to this industry. NCTCOG has been invited to participate in a Texas and Gulf Coast Hydrogen Consortium, which would be led by GTI Energy. Electronic Item 2.2 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Goods Movement

2.3. Argonne National Lab Cooperation Approval

Presenter: Arash Mirzaei, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to sign an agreement with Argonne National Lab of the Department of Energy will be requested. The goal of the agreement is to prepare a simulation-based travel model for planning purposes in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). In this 3-year cooperation, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) provides data and practical planning expertise to Argonne researchers as in-kind match. The Department of Energy will provide \$1.5 million in funding for Argonne.

Background: NCTCOG's main tool for transportation planning is the regional travel model. The model is continuously updated with the latest technology and data. This project is an effort toward improvement of planning analytical

tools within the regional travel model using Argonne National Lab research products.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Resolution Supporting a Regional Model for Complete Streets (Context Sensitive Design)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will introduce a draft resolution and request action supporting a regional model for complete streets (context sensitive design) which outlines the importance of planning and constructing complete streets and is intended to serve as the framework for encouraging local policies and projects across the region.

Background: The National Complete Streets Coalition defines 'Complete Streets' as an approach to planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining streets that enable safe access for all people who need to use them including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit users of all ages and abilities. The needs of roadway users are different in rural, suburban, and urban communities, and thus streets should be designed to fit the distinct context, circumstances, and local characteristics. The proposed resolution will: 1) direct staff to collaborate with local governments and transportation providers to develop a checklist and/or guide for projects with complete streets/context sensitive design elements to be used for regional transportation planning and project implementation; 2) encourage the adoption and implementation of local government policies/resolutions related to complete streets/context sensitive design; 3) encourage consideration of complete streets (context sensitive design) elements in future updates to local plans, manuals, ordinances, codes, and associated rules and regulations; 4) encourage local collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation to implement transportation projects that apply context sensitive solutions consistent with local community characteristics; and 5) direct staff to provide technical support for the development of local policies, resolutions, and methodologies/applications for performance management. The draft resolution is provided in Electronic Item 3.1 and additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.2.

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

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the regional

application for the 2022 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovative (ATTAIN) Program.

Background: In September 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an announcement for the ATTAIN program proposals that deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. During this first year of the five-year program, USDOT will provide funding of up to \$12 million per grant. A 20 percent local match is required. Electronic Item 4.1 is a copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the \$60 million grant program for Fiscal Year 2022, as well as the application requirements. Applications are due to USDOT by November 18, 2022. Electronic Item 4.2 includes staff's summary and an overview of the proposed Transportation System Management and Operations Data Engine: Foundation for Success, the regional implementation project by the North Central Texas Council of Governments to advance mobility, the environment and quality of life through integrated data use for regional operations.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program: Approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments Applications**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of NCTCOG's submission of Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program applications.

Background: At last month's meeting, staff briefed the Committee on the Notice of Funding Opportunity under the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Program (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART>). Electronic Item 5.1 contains USDOT's SMART program fact sheet. Electronic Item 5.2 contains additional information. The grants in the first year of the SMART Program are planning grants up to \$2 million. SMART grants in later years will fund implementation of projects developed by planning grant awardees. Planning grant applications are due on November 18, 2022. No local match is required. Staff is preparing three SMART planning grant applications:

- Advanced Aerial Mobility: Optimization of low altitude weather detection and reporting to support safe deployment of advanced aerial vehicles such as last mile drone delivery services and Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) vehicles.

- Flooded Roads Information: Use of advanced sensor and big data tools to improve the prediction, identification, and reporting out of flooded roadways.
- Traffic Signal Upgrades: Leverage tools made available by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and information generated from NCTCOG's recent survey of traffic signal equipment to identify, research, and leverage technologies and data to optimize traffic signals in the region.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:10 – 2:20

6. Draft Updated Rules for Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for approval by the Regional Transportation Council of Rules for Public Comments at RTC meetings.

Background: Since 2019, public comments have been accepted at Regional Transportation Council meetings per HB 2840 (86th Texas Legislature). In March 2020, the RTC approved Rules for Public Comments at RTC meetings. The rules are part of the Public Participation Plan as an appendix. Several updates are being proposed at this time to the original rules, including general audience and speaker decorum standards, overall time limit for a public comment period and a clarification of when public comments would be accepted in-person or virtually at RTC meetings. A draft of the updated rules have been developed for the Regional Transportation Council and contained in Electronic Item 6.1, that will be presented at this meeting. Once approved, the rules will be updated in the Appendix to the Public Participation Plan. Electronic Item 6.2 is a presentation that provides more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:20 – 2:35

7. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of current transportation items will be provided.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

1. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) assistance on \$214 million distribution
2. Scenario Planning Outside of Transportation (Electronic Item 7.1)
3. Preston Road and Intersections Study – Dallas Through to Plano

4. East/West Equity Update (Electronic Item 7.2)

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:35 – 2:45

8. **Automated Vehicles 2.1: Regional Planning Exercise for Local Partners**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Clint Hail, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Automated Vehicles 2.1 planning exercise was recently completed. Staff will brief the Committee on the key deliverables and findings of the project. Staff will also invite Committee members to host in-depth briefings with staff and colleagues from their respective agencies. Materials, reports, and findings can be found online at: www.connectntxfutures.org.

Background: In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council approved the three-part Automated Vehicles Program 2.0, which includes the AV2.1 project. AV2.1 is a planning exercise designed to help the region prepare for higher levels of automation in the transportation sector—e.g., automated vehicles. In 2021, through a procurement, a team headed by Kittelson & Associates, was selected to assist staff in the planning process. At that time, Committee members were invited to participate as part of the Project Advisory Committee. In September 2022, the contract completed its 18-month term. Electronic Item 8.1 contains additional information. Electronic Item 8.2 provides an executive summary and key takeaways.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

2:45 – 2:50

9. **Fiscal Year 2022 Project Tracking Wrap-Up/Fiscal Year 2023 Kickoff**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee with a final report on the FY2022 Project Tracking Initiative created to reduce the region's carryover funding balances and introduce the FY2023 Project Tracking Initiative.

Background: Almost every year Regional Transportation Council (RTC)-selected projects being implemented by local governments experience delays. While a one-year delay is of less consequence, projects tend to be delayed year after year, until it has been 3-4 years since the originally committed start date. These repeated delays led to the need to implement a project tracking initiative which highlights project schedule commitments to the Committee and the RTC on a regular basis and reports local agency progress toward the committed project development schedules. A list of projects that were scheduled to begin in FY2022 and their current status can be found in Electronic Item 9.1. A list of projects that are scheduled to begin in FY2023 and their current status can be

found in Electronic Item 9.2. Additional details can be found in Electronic Item 9.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:50 – 3:05

10. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Item Summary: Staff presentations will be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Charles Marsh* – Transportation Improvement Program Modifications deadline for February 2023 Cycle
 2. *Martin Bate* – Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology Program Update (Electronic Item 10.1)
 3. *Cody Derrick* - Local Government Texas Department of Transportation Training (Electronic Item (10.2)
 4. *Nicholas Allen* – Draft Regional Transportation Council Legislative Program (Electronic Item 10.3)
 5. *Camille Fountain* - Fall 2022 Traffic Incident Management (Off-site) Executive Level Course Announcement (Electronic Item 10.4)
 6. *Camille Fountain* - 2022 Texas Department of Transportation Highway System Safety Improvement (HSIP) Call for Projects
 7. *Jesse Brown* – High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Report (Electronic Item 10.5)
 8. *Jared Wright* - Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
 9. *Savana Nance* - Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events: (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
 10. *Lori Clark* - National Drive Electric Week Success
 11. *Jared Wright* - Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 10.6)
 12. *Jenny Narvaez* – Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Performance Measure Proposed Rule Comments (Electronic Item 10.7)
 13. *Jenny Narvaez* – Dallas-Fort Worth Ozone Nonattainment Reclassifications Published in Federal Register
 14. *Jackie Castillo* - September Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 10.8)
 15. *Jackie Castillo* - November Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 10.9)
 16. *Taylor Benjamin* - Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.10)
 17. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.11)
11. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on December 2, 2022.**