

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, August 25, 2023 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 July 28, 2023, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the July 28, 2023, 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. Endorsement of Local Match for Traffic Signals

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Surface Transportation Technical Committee endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action to utilize RTC local funds to support the local match requirements for the Regional Traffic Signal Enhancement Program is being requested.

Background: 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 is requesting 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. Electronic Item 2.1 contains the proposed action.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

2.2. Transportation Paid Education Campaigns for Fiscal Year 2024

Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will seek the Committee's support for the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) recommendation to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board for the approval of funding

Background: up to \$1,540,750 for Transportation Paid Education Campaigns that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale advertising purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. The education campaigns are for Public Involvement for multiple projects including the Congestion Management Program, Drive Aware North Texas, Look Out Texans, the Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP), Car Care Awareness, Local Air Quality Projects, the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) 2+ Incentive Program (GoCarma), Air North Texas, and Clean Cities/National Drive Electric Week (NDEW). Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications is for possible unanticipated costs that may arise, such as a specialized public meeting series that may need notifications posted. Efforts will be funded in a combination of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds, Transportation Planning Funds (TPF), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds, Federal Transit Administration funds, Environmental Protection Agency funds, RTC Local funds, and RTC Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of cash match. Education campaigns will be in multiple languages and may be presented through out-of-home advertising, print, screen, online, audio, and social media mediums. Electronic Item 2.2 provides more detail.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

2.3. Application to the Environmental Protection Agency Diesel Emissions Reduction Act 2024 Program

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to open a Call for Partners to public and private fleets and pursue funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program.

Background: To address medium/heavy-duty diesel vehicle emissions and protect public health, EPA is authorized under DERA to offer funding assistance to accelerate the upgrade, retrofit, and turnover of the legacy diesel fleet. Eligible activities include the retrofit or replacement of existing diesel engines, vehicles, and equipment with EPA and California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified engine configurations and verified retrofit and idle-reduction technologies. This program will offer funding up to \$3 million per application. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will apply on behalf of public

agencies and private fleets in the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment region. For the past several years, NCTCOG has successfully applied for and been awarded funding for replacing and updating diesel vehicles and equipment like school buses, fire trucks, refuse trucks, terminal tractors, and airport support equipment to cleaner diesel and alternative fuel vehicles and equipment. Upon approval of RTC, staff will open a Call for Partners for private sector and public agency fleets with the intent to develop a public-private partnership proposal to EPA. The application packet is due to EPA by December 1, 2023. If NCTCOG is awarded the funding, recipients will be funded through a rebate reimbursement. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 2.3 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Policy Bundle Round 5**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to successful participants in the fifth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle will be requested.

Background: The MTP Policy Bundle Program was created to encourage entities such as local governments, school districts, and transportation agencies to voluntarily adopt at least a minimum of 50 percent of the list of policies identified in the Mobility 2045 Update. By voluntarily adopting these policies, participating entities will receive TDCs to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. Recommendations in the Mobility 2045 Update consist of policies, programs, and projects reflecting the region's priorities and support Mobility 2045 goals. As construction of infrastructure projects alone cannot achieve the goals of the plan, a voluntary list of policies available for adoption by local agencies was designed to encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions. By voluntarily adopting fifty percent of these policies, participating agencies receive TDCs to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. MTP Policy Bundle applications have been reviewed, and staff will request action for distributing TDCs to successful entities. Electronic Item 3 includes a draft recommendation for TDC distribution for successful policy bundle participants.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Fiscal Year 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Karla Windsor and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee with information on the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program and request the Committee's recommendation for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to apply for candidate projects. Applications are due to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) by September 28, 2023.

Background: On July 5, 2023, USDOT announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for RCN funding. This \$3.353 billion program combines Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program funds through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) with Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program funds through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Funding amounts are set aside for the following purposes: (1) Community Planning Grants - \$188 million, (2) Capital Construction Grants - \$2.718 billion, and (3) Regional Partnership Challenge Grants - \$450 million. Eligible entities (as lead applicant) may submit no more than three applications for Community Planning Grants, two for Capital Construction Grants, and one for Regional Partnership Challenge Grants. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project that removes, retrofits, or mitigates transportation facilities which create mobility, accessibility, and/or economic development barriers to community connectivity and vitality. Available at <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/rcnprogram>, the RCN NOFO describes the application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements. Staff will present a proposal to pursue funding for four pedestrian caps: Klyde Warren Park (Phase 2)/Southern Gateway (Phase 2)/Interstate Highway 30 Farmers Market: Three Fingers/and McKinney State Highway 5. The request for the Committee's action is based on coordinated and strategic efforts among partners to optimize success for the candidate projects. Assuming the projected timing for application development, requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC, by agencies submitting their own applications, should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Thursday, September 14, 2023, at nallen@nctcoq.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:00 – 2:15

5. **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. Changing Mobility (Electronic Item 5.1)
2. Denton County Transit Study Recommendations ([North Central Texas Council of Governments - Denton County Transit Study \(nctcog.org\)](#))
3. Latest Regional Transportation Comments on Unified Transportation Program (Electronic Item 5.2)
4. Federal Communications Commission Waiver Request Letter (Electronic Item 5.3)
5. High Speed Rail in Texas: Recent News (Electronic Item 5.4)
6. Amtrak Service Between Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta
7. Getting Projects to Letting

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:15 – 2:25

6. **2022 Transportation Safety Performance Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Misantonis, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on items included in the 2022 Safety Program Performance Measures Report.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Safety Program Performance Measures Report provides an annual report on the performance of various NCTCOG safety programs, projects, and statistics such as regional crash and fatality data, top 10 contributing factors for regional crashes, county-level crash rates, attendance statistics for Traffic Incident Management and Photogrammetry Training courses, Roadside Assistance Program statistics, an update on the Regional Roadway Safety Plan development, as well as updates on the Texas Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organization Task Force, and Friends of the Safety Committee. Also included in the performance report are updates on requirements to develop Safety Performance Targets. Staff will give a presentation at the Surface Transportation Technical Committee meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

2:25 – 2:35

7. **Texas Electric Vehicle Registration Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Savana Nance, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will give an update on the number of registered electric vehicles (EV) in Texas and North Texas and provide updates on upcoming EV-related programs and events.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments has been the host organization for Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC), a United States Department of Energy (DOE) initiative to reduce total energy impacts in the transportation sector since 1994. As part of this effort, DFWCC purchases electric vehicle registration data from the Department of Motor Vehicles and makes this information available online for stakeholders at www.dfwcleancities.org/evsintexas. This data is essential to the region's ability to prepare for vehicle electrification and associated infrastructure. Additionally, staff will give an update on upcoming programs and events, including the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, Oncor's EVolution, and National Drive Electric Week (NDEW). NDEW is a nationwide celebration to highlight the benefits of EVs, including the important role they play in improving the region's air quality. DFWCC has hosted the Dallas-Fort Worth NDEW event since 2011. Electronic Item 7 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:35 – 2:45

8. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

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

1. *Nick Allen* – Summary of Approved Transportation and Air Quality Legislation – 88th Texas Legislature (Electronic Item 8.1)
 2. *Brian Wilson* – Mobility Matters (Handout)
 3. *Ezra Pratt* – Eastern Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties Regional Transit Study Public Meeting
 4. *Catherine Richardson* – Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Maps for the DFW Region (<https://nctcog.org/trans/plan/bikeped/bicycle-and-pedestrian-crash-information>)
 5. *Nicholas Van Hassen* – 2023 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 8.2)
 6. *Joslyn Billings* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
 7. *Joslyn Billings* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
 8. *Jackie Castillo* – July Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 8.3)
 9. *Jackie Castillo* – September Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 8.4)
 10. *Taylor Benjamin* – Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 8.5)
 11. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 8.6)
9. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
10. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on September 22, 2023**.