

## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

### Public Works Council

Thursday, February 16, 2023

9:30 AM, In-Person Meeting

NCTCOG Offices, William Pitstick Conference Room

616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011

Chair: Michael Owen, City of Fort Worth

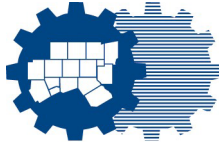
Vice Chair: Carrie Jones, City of Plano

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The Public Works Council (PWC) Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting.  
Michael Owen (City of Fort Worth) introduced himself and Carrie Jones (City of Plano). Other attendees then introduced themselves.

### ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary is available for review. Approval will be sought at the meeting.  
A motion was brought forward by Andrew Figueroa (City of Celina) and seconded by Bart VanAmburgh (City of Mansfield) to vote on approval of the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary. All voted for approval, none opposed.
3. **Standard Drawings Amendments.** The PWC will vote to approve the amendments to the Fifth Edition Construction Standards Guidebook.  
Chris Cha (Pacheco Koch) described the several years of work spent updating the drawings after specifications were updated. He went on to explain that divisions 1000 and 3000 are finished, and there are a couple drawings remaining in Division 4000. Divisions 2000, 5000, and 6000 have been posted for review for a month. Chris added that there were comments received from Jim Lockart (City of Waxahachie). Edith Marvin (NCTCOG) recognized and thanked volunteers, saying it took 10 years to update the specifications. The effort to work on the standard drawings began in 2018 and took a total of 38 meetings. Robert Woodbury (City of Cedar Hill) brought forward a motion to approve Divisions 2000, 5000, and 6000. The motion was seconded by Larry Hoover (City of White Settlement) and approved by the PWC.
4. **Approval of iSWM Consultant Selection.** The iSWM Subcommittee is seeking approval of their consultant selection of Halff Associates.  
Casey Cannon (NCTCOG) gave an overview of the iSWM program explaining that it is a cooperative initiative that helps cities and counties with water quality, erosion, and construction obligations. He explained that iSWM has utilized a consultant funded through the PWC and the current consultant election yielded Halff Associates. Halff Associates

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was the previous consultant, and that contract concluded on April 30, 2022. Casey explained that NCTCOG issued a request for qualifications in October 2022 and Half Associates was the only qualified consultant that replied. The iSWM subcommittee confirmed the selection in January 2023.

Bart VanAmburgh asked why there was only one respondent. Casey said he was unsure, but that NCTCOG followed all the standard procurement processes. Edith Marvin stated that in 2016, only two consultants submitted proposals. Michael Owen stated that there is a lot of work available to consultants and people do not want to work on a proposal if they think an existing consultant is likely to resubmit. Edith mentioned that the contract is typically worth \$80,000 per year.

Jim Lockart asked Casey to highlight services offered in the contract, and Casey responded by listing these tasks: revising the manual, trainings on best management practices, and webinars. Carolyn Horner (NCTCOG) added that Half Associates has also helped with technical meetings with cities and counties and assisted with drawings. Ranjan Muttiah (City of Fort Worth) said that the subcommittee reaches out to cities for project implementation and prioritizes tasks for the consultant.

Keith Marvin (City of Lewisville) asked how the contract will look from a budget standpoint in the future -- will there be sufficient money going out to 2028 because this is a five-year contract? Edith answered that there are provisions in the contract that if funding is not available via the PWC for future years, there will be no work that year. Keith clarified and expressed concern that there would not be enough money for future years. Ranjan stated that there is a yearly renewal and the subcommittee can request a bigger budget from the PWC at that time.

A motion to approve the iSWM contract was brought forward by Keith and seconded by Jim. All votes to approve, none opposed.

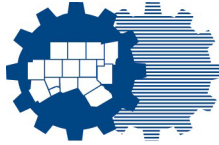
## DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. **Pavement Analysis RFP Evaluation.** NCTCOG staff will ask for volunteers to evaluate the responses to the TXShare Pavement Analysis RFP.

Jason Heflin (NCTCOG) stated that NCTCOG is seeking volunteers to evaluate the upcoming TXShare Pavement Analysis contract. He went on to say that proposals are due February 24th and he would facilitate the process for the volunteers. Jason explained that each volunteer would evaluate the proposals individually and then meet as a group before the March 31st deadline. NCTCOG is seeking a minimum of five volunteers for this effort. Jason then displayed the evaluation criteria and the pricing proposal for the PWC to view.

Edith Marvin stated that a group of volunteers contributed items to the original contract in 2016 and that vendors suggested an additional list of items that were presented to the

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PWC, which voted to expand to the 45 items. She added that a group of volunteers also reviewed items and units before the RFP was issued. Edith stated that “lane miles” vs. “each” were discussed, and edits were made based on those discussions.

Keith Marvin said past volunteers might be the best to volunteer to review. Edith suggested anyone from streets departments, even if not in the PWC. The following volunteered to participate:

- Keith volunteered Ron Carson, City of Lewisville, PW Manager
- Caroline Waggoner (City of North Richland Hills) - said her city used the program
- Clayton Riggs (Town of Flower Mound)
- Jim Lockart
- Michael Owen said he would reach out to city pavement management folks
- Josh Cohron or Jody Byerly (City of Carrollton)
- Derek White (City of Dallas)

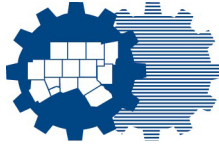
6. **Situational Awareness Applications.** NCTCOG's Transportation Department is considering a pilot project to assess regional interest in situational awareness apps. These apps use vehicle dashcams to provide data on roadway conditions, including stop signs and lighting. NCTCOG is issuing a survey to identify local governments that would like to participate.

Thomas Bamonte (NCTCOG) gave a brief presentation on situational awareness applications to the PWC and took some polling information from the group to gauge interest in various data collection options that would be offered. He explained that a situational awareness application can take video from built-in cameras or dash cams. Some of the data collection offerings include: reflectivity or pavement striping, cross walk quality, pavement condition, street light condition, signs, impact attenuators and before-and-after analysis. The applications can also integrate with existing management systems. Thomas stated that he was seeking input on possible public works processes. He then said that he will let the PWC know if NCTCOG's Transportation Department chooses to proceed with this technology.

Robert Woodbury asked about use-case samples. Thomas replied that he brought a vendor in to test the technology and had 60 people use the program and meet with the vendor. The use-case samples were a list of “detections” that app can perform. Robert suggested right-of-way permits to check if people are out there doing something they're not supposed to be doing. Robert then asked how data will be transmitted. Thomas answered that it is like Waze but the vehicle uses its video to do the reporting. The artificial intelligence processes the video to generate the output and can be updated as frequently as you want. Thomas explained that the largest cost is the video pull.

Michael Owen asked if this is open data. Thomas answered that it is through dash cams, so mom and pops, Uber and Lyft drivers participate. He explained that currently 500,000

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people a day are driving with dashcams. Thomas said he hopes to have this information on the Transportation Department website soon.

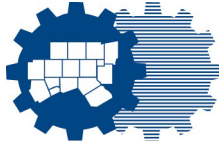
7. **Commercial Driver License (CDL).** Jason English with the City of Frisco will discuss how the city's Public Works employees have become CDL certified. Jason English (City of Frisco) said that five years ago employees had failed part of the commercial driver license test. This process requires staff and equipment resources to take this part of the test. Jason said he sought a solution and found a company called CDL Connection. The cost for this service used to be \$750 per person for three hours of training and the city had good success. Jason explained that other departments started using them as well. Recent federal government changes require more hours of training, so the price has gone up to \$1800 per person. But they include three days of total training and provide 15 hours of videos that is required by the government. Jason explained the process: as a new employee begins, Jason emails administration for CDL Connection, the employee takes the written test, and once they pass the test, the city notifies administrators that they are ready to move on to the videos. Then the employee does more training at the Dallas Department of Public Safety office. Finally, Jason said that the third day is the driving test, and the employee uses CDL Connection trucks and trailers which have automatic and manual transmissions. Jason said that they have been able to schedule appointments more easily with assistance of CDL Connection than if you tried to schedule yourself online. He then explained that if someone fails, a retest is free but there is a fee for extra training.

Keith Marvin asked if CDL Connection provides the vehicle, and Jason said yes. Keith said Lewisville has a similar process. Jason said that the City of Frisco is looking for long-term solutions but have people they are hiring now who need to get a license. They are using CDL Connection now as human resources looks for a longer-term solution such as in-house trainers/vehicles, but there are downsides (e.g, they would be short a vehicle if needed for the test and what would an in-house trainer do when they are not training).

Juan Cadena (City of Fort Worth) asked if an employee leaves, can you require payback of training fees? Jason answered that legally, the cost to try to recollect the \$1800 from the paycheck would be so low it would be below federal requirements, so they found they cannot do it. Juan says Fort Worth has a payback plan and if that does not work it goes to a collection agency. Keith said that the City of Lewisville has a similar program, which is like a tuition reimbursement program, but then the legal department said they could not require payback.

8. **Organic Waste Gap Analysis.** Risa Weinberger with Risa Weinberger and Associates, Inc., will present information on the Organic Waste Gap Analysis which is a technical study of the existing organic waste in the region, how it is currently being managed, and what the potential is for diverting that waste toward things like composting. A participant in the project advisory group is being sought as well.

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Risa Weinberger (Risa Weinberger and Associates) explained that NCTCOG is funding a regional program that she is leading as the consultant to assess organics resources available and processing capability, and to identify the gaps between the two. She said that she is also looking at markets for processed organics, yard waste/resources, brush/wood waste, food residuals, and biosolids. She said she wants to quantify where these resources are generated geographically; look at composting and anerobic digestion, and other processing opportunities; and create beneficial reuse or marketing as products. She asked the PWC if they have any way to quantify these resources, to raise their hand. Edith Marvin said this group would be familiar with the term sludge. Several people raised their hand showing that they have information or know who in their organization does. Risa then asked members to raise their hand if they have a way to quantify pre-treatment program generators (likely food and beverage processors) and no one raised a hand. Risa then gave out business cards to raised hands, saying she wanted to hear from them to get information on opportunities for additional processing.

Keith Marvin asked if there is an NCTCOG group gathering that information. Edith answered that the Resource Conservation Commission (RCC) received a grant from the EPA to evaluate anerobic digestion opportunities. She explained that the RCC set aside funds to do this Phase 2 work with Risa. Keith said that in Lewisville a hauler takes sludge to the landfill, and the hauler would have that information. Ranjan Muttiah said a lot of methane is generated at the landfill. The City of Fort Worth flares it off, and he is trying to think of how it could be reused instead. Keith said the City of Lewisville is making a liquid natural gas (LNG) facility to reuse methane.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

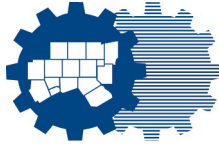
9. **FY2023 Public Works Work Program Update.** The Council will be updated on recent Public Works efforts and Subcommittee activities.

Jason Helfin provided an update on FY23 cost shares. We have received 93% of the Public Works Program budget from 61 different communities.

- **Public Works Roundup.** NCTCOG staff will give the Council an update on planning for the upcoming Roundup and will seek input on presentation topics of interest (to be ranked later).

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) identified the date of the 24th Annual Public Works Roundup as Friday, September 29 at the Grapevine Convention Center. This was briefly discussed at the last PWC meeting and no one identified a Friday as a problem. Erin researched conflicts to try to avoid but put the call out one last time if there were any glaring conflicts that she overlooked. Keith Marvin mentioned Fridays will not work for Lewisville as they work a modified schedule with a half day on Fridays. Before the meeting adjourned, Erin asked the PWC to let her know if Fridays are difficult for any other community (no one followed up).

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Erin then requested feedback on the topics of interest. Once a list of topics is developed, that list will be sent out to the PWC to identify their top 10. This top 10 list is referenced when the call for presentations goes out. A large list was presented from prior years, but Erin indicated that she would like to come up with a fresh list. The following topics were identified:

- Technology for field crews (e.g., drones)
- Integrating technology with vehicles (e.g., situational awareness applications, etc.)
- Public Works workforce needs, retention, and recruitment
- Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (this was presented on in 2022)
- Preparation and response (e.g., how cities prepare for winter weather)
- Regional detention program
- Disaster debris management
- Organic Waste Gap Analysis update (Risa Weinberger mentioned she could do this and would likely be finished in time for the Roundup)

Robert Woodbury asked if there will be a large morning session with afternoon breakout sessions. Erin said yes there would likely be breakout sessions and the topic would depend on the presentation proposals received (maybe SPROW or other). Erin requested that the PWC continue to think on topics of interest and to email her with other ideas.

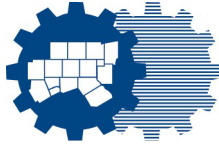
- **Asphalt Inspection Training.** NCTCOG staff will present an online survey to the Council to determine interest in this training.

Erin Blackman mentioned that interest in this training was identified at the last PWC meeting, and per the recommendation, Erin researched what Texas Asphalt Pavement Association has to offer. Erin explained that this group will offer free training at our offices for up to four hours on a variety of topics. Erin presented an online survey to the PWC to solidify interest in this training and the preferred topics. Topic options include Communication Part One, The Pre-Paving Meeting; Communication Part Two, The Quality Control Plan; Joint Construction; Mix Type Selection; Pavement Evaluation; and Thermal Segregation. This survey will remain open for a few more weeks and a link will be included in meeting follow up so that it can be forwarded to others as needed.

- **New Inspectors Workshop.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on a training for entry level construction inspectors that focuses on sharing best practices as well as useful knowledge and experience.

Interest in this training was also identified at the last PWC meeting, and NCTCOG staff put a call out for a willing senior-level inspector to assist. Erin Blackman mentioned that no one has come forward to volunteer, and NCTCOG is unable to move forward in planning for this training. Erin explained that ideally this training would occur in the classroom and the field, so the instructor would need access to a construction site. The last training was held in 2018 and according to an agenda, it covered topics such as: contracts vs. development, contract book, plan review, and utility.

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Several PWC members indicated that they may be able to help identify someone (e.g., Mansfield). Bart VanAmburgh asked if the content is provided by NCTCOG. Erin responded that she could look into the materials available from the 2018 training, but we would ultimately rely on the trainer to identify the information to share. Clayton Riggs said they would be willing to share whatever information was presented by the inspector from Flower Mound in 2018. Edith responded that that training was phenomenal, but it did not generate a lot of materials as it relied on his knowledge and expertise. Erin indicated one piece of the training was based on problematic plans that participants brought with them for feedback. Erin again asked the PWC to consider identifying an inspector within their communities to assist with this training. Some members indicated that they would check internally and will follow up.

- **Public Works Workforce Initiative.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on the creation of a Public Works Workforce resource.

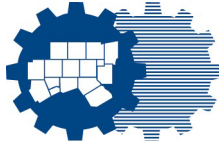
Erin Blackman mentioned that she discussed this initiative in detail at the last PWC meeting and that we have continued to research ideas and opportunities. For example, NCTCOG staff met with representatives from Associated General Contractors (AGC). They have an interest in promoting the construction industry and there may be opportunities for coordination. The gist of this meeting was 1) we need to continue conversations about this topic, 2) there is no silver bullet to solve the issue, and 3) AGC would be willing to contribute some funds to an advertising effort if we go that route.

Erin also explained an initiative that the aviation group in NCTCOG's Transportation Department is working on. Their efforts are focused on continued development of the North Texas Aviation Education Initiative, which includes strengthening education opportunities/connections and information sharing. They have developed a speakers bureau – a list that identifies qualified contacts willing to engage youth in aviation. There is also information on their website that helps connect students with aviation programs and schools, and they attend many job fairs to promote the aviation field.

Erin proposed a few ideas to the PWC, such as developing a speakers bureau, resources/tools to be used by speakers, toolbox to be used for career fairs, regional list of opportunities, and materials for school counselors. Many seemed to like the idea of a speakers bureau (e.g., Keith Marvin) and a toolbox for career day events at schools (e.g., Jim Lockart). Keith asked how aviation speakers are requested and Erin mentioned there is a form online to do so. The following information/ideas was/were also shared:

- Put female faces in front of students. Keith would volunteer speakers.
- Consider a competition among high schoolers to promote the public works industry. Jim recently learned that a construction-related competition took place in local high schools. Derek White suggested partnering with professional societies on this.
- Attend job fairs/career days. There was discussion on others' experience. Michael Owen has been to a few job fairs and had some positive outcomes; however, there

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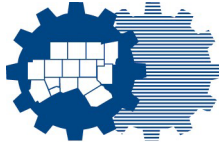
ends up being competition among the various departments. Juan Cadena mentioned there is a citywide job fair in April in partnership with Tarrant County College. Clayton has been working with the Workforce Commission and Goodwill has a job-related program.

- Strengthen internship opportunities. Ranjan Muttiah said they are looking for interns during the summer. Clayton Riggs said they have engineering internships, but interns have not been hired on as graduate engineers as most are not local.
- Reach out to Independent School Districts directly to be put on a speaker list.
- **Standard Drawings Subcommittee.** The Subcommittee Chair will brief the Council on steps moving forward after the vote to approve the amendments.  
Chris Cha stated that the Subcommittee will have Division 4000 to review for next meeting.
- **SPROW Subcommittee.** The Subcommittee Chair will update the Council on the activities of the SPROW Subcommittee.  
Caroline Waggoner said that she attended her first SPROW meeting in December and that the next meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for February 21st at 9:30 a.m. The subcommittee will continue to discuss Complete Streets.
- **iSWM Activities.** The Subcommittee Chair will provide an update of iSWM program activities.  
Ranjan Muttiah said that the next iSWM meeting will be April 12th and will be virtual. He also said that the iSWM manual is a Half Associates task as result of past activities, and the meeting agenda will be posted.

### 10. Other Program Activities.

- **Cooperative Technical Partnership Program and the Community Rating System Users Group.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on FEMA's Cooperative Technical Partner (CTP) Program activities and the Floodplain Administrators/Community Rating System Users Group.  
Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) said that there was a CTP Discovery meeting in Bridgeport for the Upper West Fork Trinity River and about nine people came, representing local cities/counties and state/federal agencies. She said that all participants were enthusiastic about the efforts. Erin Blackman mentioned that the next CRS meeting is February 24th in person at NCTCOG offices.
- **Public Works Emergency Response Team (PWERT).** A PWERT representative will give an update on recent PWERT activities.  
Barry Fulfer (PWERT) gave an overview of recent activities. He said they have not had many deployments recently. They did deploy light towers for the airplane crash at Dallas Air Show at Dallas Executive Airport. He added that in the last month PWERT applied for a Homeland Security grant for this year for two projects. One was for security to block off roads and keep vehicles out without police or Public Works staff having to be on-site. He said that they are fast deployable systems that will stop vehicles that weigh up to 10,000 pounds. Barry then displayed the jurisdictions that

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have signed the agreement. He said that the systems can work with PWERT members and nonmembers. He then discussed the projects that PWERT is applying for (Vehicle Interdiction Trailer, Dynamic Message Board, and Portable Light Tower) and showed a table with prices. He indicated that the projects are scalable – they can accept a smaller awarded amount.

- **Texas Chapter of American Public Works Association (TX-APWA).** A TX-APWA representative will update the Council on upcoming TPWA local events and meetings. Jay VonAhsen was not in attendance.

### OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

11. **Future Agenda Items.** PWC Members and NCTCOG staff may suggest future agenda items.  
None provided.

12. **Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** Council members and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.  
Edith Marvin reminded everyone to sign in since this is an in-person meeting.

Lyndon Cox (Terracon) proposed use of Type 1L cement, he said that he received an email about reducing environmental impacts by cement providers, and that Type 1L cement will be produced in lieu of other kinds of cements. He explained that it is a blended hydraulic cement that uses limestone at about 10%. He will forward the email to NCTCOG to consider for update of standard specs.

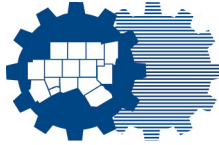
Conner VanSteenberg (Associated General Contractors of Texas) said that TxDOT is having a career fair and he will share this information with NCTCOG. He also said that AGC is partnering with them, and the job fair will be held at Gilley's in Dallas.

13. **The Next PWC Meeting** is scheduled virtually for May 18 at 9:30 a.m.
14. **Adjournment.**

### Attendance

Andrew Figueroa (Northwest Subregion)  
Barry Fulfer (PWERT)  
Bart VanAmburgh (South Tarrant Subregion)  
Brian Avirett (Shield Engineering Group)  
Carrie Jones (City of Plano)  
Caroline Waggoner (Mid-Cities Subregion)  
Carolyn Horner (NCTCOG)  
Casey Cannon (NCTCOG)

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Cecelia Rutherford (Dallas County)  
Chris Cha (Council of Engineering Companies)  
Christopher Funches (City of Arlington)  
Clayton Riggs (DFW North Subregion)  
Connor VanSteenberg (Associated General Contractors)  
Derek White (City of Dallas)  
Edith Marvin (NCTCOG)  
Erin Blackman (NCTCOG)  
Jason English (City of Frisco)  
Jason Heflin (NCTCOG)  
Jeremy Hutt (Southwest Subregion)  
Jim Lockart (Southeast Subregion)  
Jody Byerly (City of Carrollton)  
John Ho (Council of Engineering Companies)  
Joshua Cohron (City of Carrollton)  
Juan Cadena (City of Fort Worth)  
Kate Zielke (NCTCOG)  
Keith Marvin (City of Lewisville)  
Kelly Dillard (Walter P Moore)  
Larry Hoover (Northwest Tarrant Subregion)  
Lyndon Cox (Texas Council of Engineering Labs/Geoprofessionals Serving Texas)  
Mac Aransen (Shield Engineering Group)  
Matt Leppla (West Subregion)  
Michael Owen (City of Fort Worth)  
Michael Rozelle (City of Garland, filling in for Michael Polocek)  
Ranjan Muttiah (iSWM)  
Risa Weinberger (Risa Weinberger and Associates)  
Robert Woodbury (Southwest Dallas Subregion)  
Scott Williams (City of Red Oak)  
Stephen Belknap (Denton County)  
Ted Sugg (Cobb Fendley)  
Tuan Ngo (City of North Richland Hills)  
Walter Thomas (City of Irving)

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