

## AGENDA

### **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, September 22, 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 August 25, 2023, Minutes**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5  
Presenter: Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the August 25, 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. November 2023 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**

Presenter: Charlie Marsh, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: November 2023 revisions to the 2023-2026 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 2.1 for the Committee's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

**2.2. Transit Strategic Partnerships Program: Selected Projects from the May 2023 Cycle**

Presenter: Julie Anderson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval to provide funding for projects selected through the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program May 2023 Cycle.

Background: As part of the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program, staff is recommending projects for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding under two programs: Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program and Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula's Job Access/Reverse Commute Program. From the May 2023 Cycle of applicants, three projects have been selected for

funding: 1) Dynamic Direct Route pilot in the City of Arlington; 2) Mobility Management in/to Collin County by the Denton County Transportation Authority; and 3) Transit On-Demand Service provided by Trinity Metro in the City of Forest Hill. These selected projects all align with regional goals set forth in Mobility 2045, Access North Texas, and completed transit studies in Collin and Tarrant counties. Staff will request STTC approval to utilize existing Transit Strategic Partnerships Program funding in an amount not to exceed \$2,093,693 for the three selected projects. Please see Electronic Item 2.2 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Partnerships for Regional Events**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of funds to support planning and infrastructure for upcoming regional events will be requested.

Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth area has national and international events coming to the region. In 2024, the Texas Rangers will host the Major League Baseball All-Star Game. The region has also been selected to participate in the North American FIFA World Cup in 2026. Both events will be held in the Arlington Entertainment District. There are also regionally significant partners in need of assistance in preparing for an event that will affect transportation systems in an area with constrained access. The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) in Fort Worth will be hosting the “Wings Over Cowtown” Air Show featuring the Blue Angels in April 2024 and is expecting 150,000–180,000 spectators daily to access their facility off State Highway (SH) 183. All events will bring significant economic development to various parts of the region but also present transportation challenges. Staff met with event representatives and stakeholders to determine a list of needs. For events occurring within the Arlington Entertainment District, projects were identified in the categories of operations, transit, and streetscape/safety. The total amount of funds requested is \$17 million. Due to the timing of needed infrastructure, the City of Arlington has agreed to “swap” \$17 million in local funds currently allocated for improvements to Randol Mill Road for \$17 million in federal funds to construct the project. Those local funds can go towards improvements identified by the City and Event/Entertainment District Stakeholders. Staff will request an allocation of \$17 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds, matched with Regional Transportation Development Credits be programmed to the City of Arlington in exchange for an equal amount of City local funds be allocated for the projects identified. Additionally, \$3.8 million in Regional Toll Revue funds will be requested for interim

improvements to Randol Mill Road, including overlay and sidewalk repairs/modifications in specific portions of the corridor. Likewise, through conversations with NAS JRB representatives, needs have been identified to assist with parking, traffic analysis, and increased transit support. Staff will request a total of \$150,000 RTC Local funds to assist with transportation needs for the event. An overview of the proposed funding request is contained in Electronic Item 3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Strengthening Mobility and Revolving Transportation Grant Endorsement**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minute s: 10

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG's) submission of Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program applications.

Background: In October 2022, staff briefed the Council on the Notice of Funding Opportunity under the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Program (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART>). The grants in this second year of the SMART Program are planning grants of 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 October 10, 2023. A local match is not required. Staff is preparing a SMART planning grant application for Unmanned Traffic Management. This will allow for the deployment of Unmanned Traffic Management Infrastructure to enable advanced unmanned aircraft operations. This will also work as a funding mechanism for Phase Two of the North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot recently presented. More information is available in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:00 – 2:10

5. **2023 Transportation Conformity and Mobility 2050**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of efforts on the 2023 Transportation Conformity analysis, including the reason for the analysis and the timeline. Staff will also briefly introduce the schedule of the next plan update (Mobility 2050).

Background: On April 24, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Adequacy for the 2020 Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the purpose of transportation conformity, with an effective date of May 24, 2023. This adequacy determination requires transportation conformity to be performed within two years of the effective date. The Mobility Plan will not be updated for this analysis. However, a

draft timeline of the next plan (Mobility 2050) will be highlighted. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. **2023 Ozone Season Update**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas Vanhaasen, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the status of the 2023 ozone season including exceedance days, current design values, and future impacts facing the region.

Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area is currently classified as “moderate” for the 2015 ozone standard with an attainment deadline in 2024 based on 2021, 2022, and 2023 monitor data. Preliminary monitor data indicates the area has failed to attain the 2015 standard and will likely be reclassified to “serious” in the future. A draft air quality plan for the “moderate” nonattainment has been prepared by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Staff comments on the TCEQ draft plan are included as Electronic Item 6.1. In addition, the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area is currently classified as “severe” for the 2008 ozone standard with an attainment deadline in 2027. Attainment will be based on 2024, 2025, and 2026 monitor data. An air quality plan is currently under development by the TCEQ. It is anticipated to be available for public comment in November. Please see Electronic Item 6.2 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

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. Letter from Waller County (Electronic Item 7.1)
2. Update on North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies
3. Recent Public Meetings:
  - Transit East
  - Forest Hill Drive
  - Fair Park ([www.publicinput.com/fairparklinks](http://www.publicinput.com/fairparklinks))
4. High Speed Rail in Texas: Recent Meeting and News (Electronic Item 7.2)

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:35 – 2:45

8. **Regional Transit Version 2.0: Planning for Year 2050**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Director met with select transportation authority cities concerned that cities often take their local transit issues to the Texas Legislature bypassing opportunities closer to home for resolution. Staff is recommending the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) initiate a comprehensive transit study focused on advancing transportation authority city communication on common concerns, greater transportation authority collaboration between agencies and additional attention on expanding transit services to areas with transit needs, therefore, the consideration of Transit Version 2.0. Technical Committee support will be requested.

Background: It is being suggested that the RTC initiate a comprehensive transportation partnership initiative that addresses seven programs:

- Request the RTC to develop a more aggressive transit legislative proposal like it has done in the past.
- How can the transportation authorities increase membership?
- Are there economies of scale that create cost savings among the transportation authorities maintaining Board independence?
- Demographic growth is growing faster outside transit boundaries. How do transit agency cities develop better tools to capture market share?
- Improve Transit Board teamwork, where needed, redirecting legislature requests.
- Explore membership loyalty transit fare programs and maintain revenue benefits.
- Pursue resolution of the transit authority/city paradox.

Electronic Item 8.1 contains correspondence from cities following the meeting with the NCTCOG Transportation Director. Electronic Item 8.2 contains the draft white paper laying out the intent of the effort. Electronic Item 8.3 contains a summary presentation.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:45 – 2:55

9. **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. *Camille Fountain* – Fall 2023 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement – November 4, 2023 (Electronic Item 9.1)
2. *Jared Wright* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 9.2)
3. *Jared Wright* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([www.nctcoq.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcoq.org/aqfunding))

4. *Jared Wright* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
5. *Jackie Castillo* – October Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 9.3)
6. *Taylor Benjamin* – Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 9.4)
7. Written Progress Reports:
  - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 9.5)
10. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
11. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on October 27, 2023**.