

North Central Texas Council of Governments

MEETING SUMMARY

Public Works Council

Thursday, February 20th 9:30 am – 11:30 am (CST)

(In-person Meeting)

William Pitstick Conference Room, 1st Floor.

616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two

Arlington, TX 76011

Chair: Matt Leppla, Assistant Director of Public Works, City of Weatherford

Vice Chair: Glenn Barker, Director of Public Works, City of Corinth

Welcome and Introductions. The Public Works Council (PWC) Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Meeting Summary Approval.

The meeting commenced at 9:30 AM. Matt Leppla (City of Weatherford) introduced an action item and requested a motion to approve the November 21 meeting summary. Michael Linder (City of Denton) made the motion, and Keith Miertschin (City of Grapevine) seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Construction Standards Specs Update. Please consider a temporary subcommittee for updating specs. (Carl Singleton)

Carl Singleton (NCTCOG) suggested forming a subcommittee to update construction standards and specifications. Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) noted that this had been discussed in the previous meeting and asked the group whether they wanted to move forward with it.

Matt Leppla proposed opening the subcommittee for volunteers. Those interested should email Kate to participate.

Jake Philips, American Cast Iron Pipe Company inquired, about the historical process for such updates. Chris Cha (Council of Engineering Companies) explained that his committee had worked on a similar update for the Standard Drawings over two years, meeting once a month for approximately 90 minutes. The process involved reviewing sections individually while COG staff used CAD software for technical updates. The extent of revisions depended on the level of changes needed.

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Jake asked how often these reviews occur. Kate stated that a comprehensive update happens roughly every ten years, alternating between Standard Drawings and Specs.

Matt clarified that the current edition – the Amended Fifth Edition (2023) – was a revision to the Standard Drawings. The specs were previously updated for the Fifth Edition (2017).

For questions, email Kate.

3. Legislative Tracking. NCTCOG will provide an overview of state and federal legislation that could impact city and county agencies. (Carl Singleton)

Carl Singleton provided an update on legislative developments, highlighting Texas State House and Senate bills that could impact public works operations. Notable bills included:

- Employee government entity contracts and administrative penalties.
- Alternative fuel policies.
- Subdivision platting requirements.
- Open meetings regulations (HB1522).
- Landscaping and water conservation practices (HB1432).
- Issuance of notes and certifications of obligation by certain local governments (HB1453).

Live updates on these bills can be tracked online.

Matt Leppla acknowledged he was unfamiliar with some of these bills and thanked Carl for the update. He asked if anyone had concerns about their potential impact.

Eric Robison (City of Richardson) highlighted a bill concerning aging infrastructure and water law, noting its significance. Matt pointed out that changes in procurement rules could also have a considerable impact.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. EV Opportunities. Upcoming regional opportunities for EV Charging Stations and Zero-Emission Vehicles. (Joslyn Billings)

Joslyn Billings (NCTCOG), an air quality planner in the Transportation Department, explained that her team works on clean energy and fuel initiatives, collaborating with funding agencies and stakeholders.

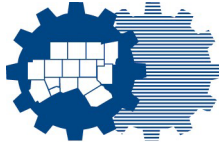
A key area of focus is Electric Vehicles (EV). Joslyn presented a heat map showing registered EV stations and charger locations. She said Texas has over 350,000 EVs, a 30% increase from February of last year. Currently, only 1.4% of vehicles in Texas are EVs, and efforts are underway to expand charging infrastructure.

Joslyn said TxDOT's EV Infrastructure Plan aims to install charging stations every 150 miles, with \$60 million allocated to build chargers in 12 counties and an additional \$10 million for county seats. A public input process is underway to determine charger locations.

Additional updates from Joslyn included:

- \$15 million allocated to construct 100 new publicly accessible EV charging stations

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- \$3.6 million designated for repairing and replacing non-operational chargers in DFW, with 13 sites under consideration
- Public input encouraged via TxDOT's interactive map
- Online database where vendors can sign up for project notifications
- A local (EV) interest survey, with strong encouragement to participate
- Support for local governments to update building codes and standards for (EV) readiness

Joslyn also discussed funding opportunities for alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure, including grants for replacing gas and diesel vehicles with electric and hydrogen alternatives. Workforce development programs, including hydrogen vehicle driver training, are also available.

Improving air quality remains a primary goal, with efforts to reduce emissions contributing to ozone attainment and minimizing environmental fees. Additional incentives include tax credits for clean energy production and energy-efficient building improvements.

For guidance on implementing these initiatives, the State Energy Conservation Office and the Clean Cities Coalition offer support. Joslyn encouraged stakeholders to reach out for meetings or assistance.

Joslyn highlighted upcoming deadlines:

- Stakeholder input session: February 26
- Three-day webinar on heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: March 25-27
- DFWCC annual survey: Due February 28

Matt Leppla inquired whether the website included submission deadlines, to which Joslyn confirmed that all funding and opportunity listings were available online.

5. Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence (CLIDE) Awards. Applications are being accepted. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke provided details on the CLIDE Awards, which recognize projects aligning with 12 key principles of sustainable development. The categories and additional information, including links and application details, are available online at www.developmentexcellence.com/About-the-CLIDE-Awards. The deadline for submissions is February 28. [The application deadline has since been extended to Friday, March 14, 2025.]

6. FY2025 Public Works Program Update. The PWC will be updated on recent Public Works events and Subcommittee activities.

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- **Marketing.** Update on New Inspectors Training Video to market PWC. (Carl Singleton and Lai Hoang)

Carl Singleton reported that the team is working on creating public works videos, including scripting and filming. Lai Hoang (NCTCOG) mentioned that footage from this meeting will serve as B-roll, and the storyline should be finalized by the next Public Works Council meeting.

- **Training Survey Responses.** Survey Responses from December PWC Preferred Training Survey. (Carl Singleton)

Carl reviewed the survey responses, noting questions about Q1 and Q2 and highlighting that most feedback focused on traffic-related concerns in Q3. The survey results indicated that safety is the top priority for public works training.

Layne Cline (City of Carrollton) asked if any suggested topics were not included in the survey. Carl explained that the survey was conducted blindly, meaning he did not know who submitted responses. He preferred listing relevant training topics and allowing participants to select their preferences.

Layne noted that certified flaggers are difficult to find since certification programs are infrequent. He asked for information about any available training programs.

Matt Leppla asked does any agencies train their own staff. Layne mentioned that OSHA provides training, but he was unaware of any current programs.

- **New Inspectors Training 2025.** NCTCOG is exploring options for hosting this training. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke provided an update, stating that discussions are ongoing with cities interested in hosting training sessions. The training will be free for Public Works Council participants, with plans to launch within the next few months before the weather gets too hot. Cities interested in hosting should reach out.

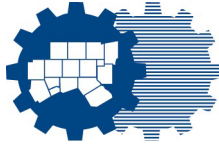
Matt asked if anyone had taken the Dallas inspection training and about the level of experience required. Mike Rozelle (City of Garland) shared that while some parts of the training differed from their usual methods, it was still beneficial since the Dallas team was also new to inspections.

Matt asked if volunteers could set their own agenda when covering topics or if flexibility was allowed. Kate said yes, while Dallas opened the training to the Public Works Council, it also was designed to train their own staff.

Carl suggested that a senior-level training program focused on city-specific needs would be helpful.

- **Public Works Roundup.** Gathering input on topics. (Carl Singleton)

Carl announced that the Hurst Conference Center has been selected as the venue for an event on September 4, 2025. He invited topic suggestions and encouraged those interested in presenting to contact Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) or Kate. Erin will manage the event planning.



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- **Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW).** NCTCOG will provide an update on events/meetings. (Carl Singleton)

Carl mentioned the last meeting was held February 5th and our next one is the week of May 5th. We may consider postponing the next meeting to further develop research into the committee objectives and goals.

- **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Subcommittee.** The Subcommittee Chair will provide an update of iSWM program activities. (Ranjan Muttiah)

Ranjan Muttiah (City of Fort Worth) discussed updates to the iSWM manual, which has been in use since the 1990s. The goal is to make it more user-friendly and concise, especially for fieldwork. Currently, the manual requires downloading a large PDF, with many sections rarely used. Updates will ensure appendix drawings are consistent with the manual.

The iSWM team meets quarterly, alternating online and in person, and encourages participation. A consultant supports the program.

- **Social Media Presence.** NCTCOG will provide suggestions on how to broaden the Public Works Council's public exposure. (Lai Hoang)

Lai proposed increasing PWC's media presence through LinkedIn, posting updates, and tagging cities to build a network. This would create a gallery of photos and information to share.

Matt asked about the status. Lai responded that they are in the process of obtaining permission to create a LinkedIn page and will provide an update at the next meeting.

7. Other Program Activities.

- **Public Works Emergency Response Team (PWERT).** A representative will give an update on recent PWERT activities. (Justin Stoker, City of Waxahachie – Chair)

Justin Stoker (City of Waxahachie) announced changes in staff leadership: Clay Riggs retired, and Paul stepped down as Vice Chair. As a result, Justin is now the new Chair. Thanks to previous leadership efforts, the team secured funding for new equipment, and the new leadership team looks forward to continuing this work. The next PWERT meeting is scheduled for March 20.

Ranjan Muttiah asked about the source of funding. Justin explained that the committee applied for a grant to cover emergency response items.

Kyle Sugg, City of Venus inquired about the PWERT cost-sharing structure. Matt Leppla explained that participation requires signing up, and funding details for disaster response are outlined in the agreement. Once a city joins, they gain access to shared equipment and resources in case of an emergency.

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Justin confirmed that there is a buy-in, and multiple pieces of equipment have been placed around the metroplex.

Matt strongly encouraged participation in PWERT.

- **Integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI).** NCTCOG will update the PWC on progress made on the TSI project. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke provided updates on integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI). She presented a map showing how the TSI study addresses land use challenges, with graphs overlaying cumulative outflow data resulting from growth. The study projects growth over the next 50 years and identifies areas where flooding may increase. An optimization effort is aimed at determining the best locations for detention sites. University of Texas at Arlington researchers are conducting optimization study.

- **Community Rating System Users Group.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the floodplain administrators/Community Rating System Users Group. (Kate Zielke)

Kate mentioned that the CRS course offers four days of training to help communities lower NFIP flood insurance rates. Each community can send up to two attendees. Those interested should contact Erin Blackman.

- **Texas Chapter of American Public Works Association (TX-APWA).** A TX-APWA representative will update the Council on upcoming TPWA local events and meetings. (Gabby Proce)

Jacob Reinig (Kimley-Horn) shared that a recent meeting in Lewisville focused on frontline water meters. The next meeting is scheduled for April in Frisco.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

8. **Future Agenda Items.** PWC members and NCTCOG may suggest future agenda items.

Kyle Sugg, City of Venus reported that the State Chapter successfully resumed Public Works Day at the Capitol. In late January, representatives met to discuss a \$24 billion state budget surplus, with key discussions on water resource projects, school vouchers, and EVs. The state recognizes the growing need for water infrastructure projects.

9. **Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** PWC members and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.

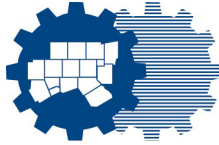
No additional items mentioned.

10. **The Next PWC Meeting** is scheduled (Virtual via Microsoft Teams) for May 15th at 9:30 a.m.

11. **Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned by Matt at 10:45 AM.

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If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Erin Blackman by phone at (817) 817-608-2360, or by email at ebblackman@nctcog.org.

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Public Works Council Meeting Attendance
February 20, 2025

**Public Sector Standing
Member**

Allen

☒ Joseph Cotton

Arlington

☐ Keith Brooks

☐ Christopher Funches

Carrollton

☒ Jody Byerly, represented by
Layne Cline

Collin County

☒ Wayne Anderson

Dallas

☐ Ahmed Alqaisi

☐ Raheel Khan

Dallas County

☒ Cecelia Rutherford

Denton

☒ Michael Linder

Denton County

☒ Stephen Belknap

Fort Worth

☐ Teanna Thompson

☒ Michael Owen

Frisco

☐ Dane Stovall

Garland

☒ Mike Rozelle

Grand Prairie

☐ Brister Merritt

Irving

☐ Walter Thomas

Lewisville

☒ Aaron Russell

McKinney

☐ Paul Sparkman

Mesquite

☒ John Mears, represented by
Qizhe "Victor" Hou

Plano

☒ Erik Ferner

Richardson

☒ Eric Robison

Tarrant County

☐ Joseph Jackson

**Public Sector Subregional
Representative**

Denton/Lake Cities Subregion

☒ Glenn Barker, City of Corinth

DFW North Subregion

☐ Vacant

East Subregion

☐ Chris Harris, City of
Greenville

Mid-Cities Subregion

☒ Boe Blankenship, City of
North Richland Hills

Northeast Subregion

☐ Andrew Figueroa, City of
Celina

Northeast Dallas Subregion

☐ Frank New, Rockwall County

Northeast Tarrant Subregion

☒ Keith Miertschin, City of
Grapevine

Northwest Subregion

☒ Dillon Luna, Town of
Northlake

Northwest Dallas Subregion

☒ Danielle Rix, City of Farmers
Branch

Northwest Tarrant Subregion

☒ Larry Hoover, City of White
Settlement

Southeast Subregion

☒ James Gaertner, City of
Waxahachie, represented by
Justin Stoker

Southeast Dallas Subregion

☐ Brooks Williams, City of
Ferris

South Tarrant Subregion

☐ Raymond Coffman, City of
Mansfield

Southwest Subregion

☒ Colt Friedrich, Johnson
County

Southwest Dallas Subregion

☐ Robert Woodbury, City of
Cedar Hill

West Subregion

☒ Matt Leppla, City of
Weatherford

**Private Sector
Representative**

Associated General
Contractors

☐ Sam Davis, TexasBit

☐ Connor VanSteenberg, AGC
of Texas

Council of Engineering
Companies

☒ Chris Cha, Pacheco Koch

☒ Ted Sugg, Cobb-Fendley

Texas Council of Engineering
Labs / Geoprofessionals
Serving Texas

☒ Reece Taylor, Braun Intertec

Public Works Council Meeting Attendance
February 20, 2025

Guests

Joslyn Billings, NCTCOG – Transportation Department
Lai Hoang, NCTCOG
Katie Hunter, NCTCOG
Olvkayode Kulunde, ADS Pipe
Bennett Lowery, ADS Pipe
Ranjan Muttiah, City of Fort Worth
Taner Ozdil, University of Texas at Arlington
Jake Phillips, American Cast Iron and Steel Pipe Company
Gregory Rayfield, Sourcewell
Jacob Reinig, Kimley-Horn
Alyssa Samarco, ADS Pipe
Saumya "Sam" Sarkar, Halff Associates
Carl Singleton, NCTCOG
Jeff Stacy, ADS Pipe
Kyle Sugg, City of Venus
Steve Templer, Quiddity Engineering
Michael Wellbaum, Pape-Dawson
Kate Zielke, NCTCOG