

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, September 12, 2024
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**11:00 am-
12:45 pm** **RTC Workshop: Transit 2.0 and RTC Legislative Program Luncheon**

1:00 pm **Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

1:00 – 1:10 1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today’s Agenda**
 Information Minutes: 10
Item Summary: Members of the public may comment on any item(s) on today’s agenda at this time. If speaking, please complete a Speaker Request Card, available at the meeting, and provide it to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum of three (3) minutes is permitted per speaker. At the conclusion of this item, no further opportunities for public comment will be provided for the duration of the meeting.
Background: N/A

1:10 – 1:15 2. **Approval of August 8, 2024, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Clay Lewis Jenkins, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the August 8, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A

1:15 – 1:20 3. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

3.1. **Transportation Paid Education Campaigns for Fiscal Year 2025**
Presenter: Whitney Vandiver, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will seek Regional Transportation Council (RTC) support of a recommendation to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board for the approval of funding up to \$1,779,750 for Transportation Paid

Education Campaigns that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

Background: Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has authorized annual large-scale advertising purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. The education campaigns are for public involvement for multiple projects including safety campaigns of Drive Aware North Texas, Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety (Look Out Texans), Unmanned Aircraft Safety, and Freight North Texas; the Congestion Management Program (Try Parking It); air quality campaigns of Car Care Awareness and Ozone Season Emissions Reduction (Air North Texas); and Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications for possible unanticipated costs that may arise. Efforts will be supported by a combination of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds, Transportation Planning Funds (TPF), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds, Regional Toll Revenue (RTR), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds, RTC Local funds, private funds, and RTC Transportation Development Credits (TDC) in lieu of cash match. This program has been evaluated through a new screening process that includes legal risk. Education campaigns will be in multiple languages and may be presented through out-of-home advertising, print, screen, social media, digital, and audio platforms. Electronic Item 3.1 provides more detail.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Safety

3.2. **November 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Modification Cycle**

Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other

planning and administrative documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: November 2024 revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP are provided in Electronic Item 3.2 for the Council'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

3.3. **North Texas Advanced Air Mobility and Uncrewed Aviation Systems Funding**

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to increase RTC Local funding to continue efforts related to Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) deployment in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Background: Since 2017, staff has been collaborating with the region's cities and other relevant stakeholders in integrating Advanced Air Mobility Technologies. Work in this area continues to increase as regional partners have implemented pilot projects with private sector partners. To continue support with these efforts, staff will request an increase of \$1,700,000 in RTC Local funding to work with regional airports, local jurisdictions and other partners to continue efforts within the region on the deployment of AAM operations. If approved, this funding increase will support staffing resources, Phase 2 of the North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot, development of infrastructure, and other costs associated with AAM operations. Electronic Item 3.3 provides additional information on this item.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:20 – 1:35

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Member Orientation – October 10 or 17, 2024; Prior to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Meeting; RTC meeting for October 10 or 17 to be discussed
2. Feedback on Regional Transportation Council 50th Anniversary Celebration
3. Feedback on Attendance at Texas Transportation Commission Meeting
4. Safety Review of Older Freeway Sections
5. Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District Correspondence to the Texas Department of Transportation (Electronic Item 4.1)
6. United States Department of Transportation Correspondence on Federal Aviation Administration Funding (Electronic Item 4.2)
7. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing
8. Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 4.3)
9. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
10. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
11. July – August Public Comment Report (Electronic Item 4.4)
12. September Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.5)
13. August Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.6)
14. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.7)
15. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.8)
16. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.9)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) information on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program (RCEP), an update on coordinating efforts and technical assistance given to regional partners on candidate projects, and request approval for North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to be the submitting agency for one of those projects. Applications are due to the United

States Department of Transportation (USDOT) by September 23, 2024.

Background: In July 2024, the USDOT announced a FY 2023-2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for approximately \$1.15 billion in RCEP discretionary grant funds. The Program includes certain funding amounts set aside for the following purposes: (1) Planning - \$38.2 million; (2) Rural/Tribal Grade Crossing Improvement Projects - \$229.3 million; and (3) Highway-Rail Grade Crossing safety information and education programs - \$3 million. Applications for each funding category are due to USDOT by September 23, 2024, and eligible entities are limited to a maximum of three applications per solicitation. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project (or group of projects) improving the safety/mobility of people and goods through: (1) grade separation or closure; (2) track relocation; (3) improvement/installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures pertaining to above project types; and (4) innovative solutions via technology, education, and/or other means. Available at <https://railroads.dot.gov/grants-loans/railroad-crossing-elimination-grant-program> is the FY2023-2024 RCEP NOFO that describes the application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements, and available technical assistance during the grant solicitation period. A presentation specifying key RCEP details, as well as those of the proposed RTC action, is included in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Safety

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Application Partnership for the Cotton Belt Trail**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request action for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to approve the partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to submit a capital construction grant application and associated federal and local match funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant program for portions of Phase 3 of the Cotton Belt Trail along the Silver Line rail project. The RTC will also be requested to approve additional Surface

Transportation Block Grant Program/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds and Regional Toll Revenue funding to support this leveraging of requested federal funds.

Background: The United States Department of Transportation has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the solicitation of applications for FY2024 RCP funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the RCP program, with \$457 million allocated for capital construction grant funding in FY2024. 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. Staff will provide an overview of the DART partnership and funding recommendations for the proposed capital construction grant to construct Phase 3 sections of the Cotton Belt Trail located in Addison, Carrollton, Coppell, and Dallas. If awarded funding, DART will procure a contractor and manage construction of the trail which is primarily located within rail right-of-way. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 6.

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

1:55 – 2:05 7.

Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Public Transportation Funding Programs of Projects will be requested.

Background: As the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration funds in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney-Frisco Urbanized Areas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has developed several Programs of Projects to suballocate approximately \$190.2 million in FY2024 Section 5307, Section 5339, and Section 5337 federal funding to public transit providers in the region. Approximately \$17.1 million in funding will be programmed in the future, including Section 5310 funding. Electronic Item 7.1 includes additional

information. Electronic Item 7.2 contains the proposed FY2024 Programs of Projects.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Work Zone Data Exchange Implementation Call for Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on the eligibility, criteria, and schedule for the Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx) 2024 Call for Projects will be requested.

Background: In March 2022, a procurement was issued to secure vendors through the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) TXSHARE Cooperative Purchase for WZDx. Five vendors are under contract to perform work in three areas related to WZDx including converting raw work zone data into WZDx format, establishing WZDx-compliant reporting system and general WZDx services. In June 2023, the RTC directed staff to engage regional partners on project scoping and execution to continue this effort. In addition, the RTC has set aside \$2.5 million to award local governments to implement WZDx services to continue to make progress in this area. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:15 – 2:25

9. **Federal Performance Measures Update: System Performance, Freight, Air Quality**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Jenny Narvaez and James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on a proposed reaffirmation of 2026 targets for federally required performance measures related to excessive delay, non-single-occupant-vehicle travel, and emissions reductions.

Background: In 2022, the RTC adopted 2024 and 2026 targets for the set of federally required performance measures commonly known as PM3. This includes measures broadly related to roadway system performance, freight, and air quality. The RTC now has an opportunity to adjust or reaffirm 2026 targets for a subset of these measures, if appropriate, based on new data and

analysis methodologies. Action on the remainder of the PM3 performance measures is anticipated in early 2025. Please refer to Electronic Item 9 for more details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:25 – 2:40 10. **Draft 2025 Regional Transportation Council Legislative Program and Status of Transit 2.0 – Workshop Discussion**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenters: Rebekah Gongora and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The draft Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Legislative Program for the 89th Texas Legislature and Transit 2.0 Task 2 legislative recommendations will be presented.

Background: A RTC workshop on Transit 2.0 and the RTC Legislative Program was held prior to the RTC meeting. The 89th Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 14, 2025. In advance of the legislative session, RTC members were provided with an overview of the draft RTC Legislative Program in Electronic Item 10.1 and the Transit 2.0 Task 2 Report in Electronic Item 10.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:40 – 2:50 11. **Vision Zero for Human Health Policy**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present an overview of a new health-based policy that will encourage the development of a non-regulatory monitoring network to track the movement of air pollutants into and within Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) with a focus on counties that are in nonattainment and near-nonattainment for the ozone and fine particulate matter standards.

Background: The DFW region continues to remain in nonattainment for the pollutant ozone with classifications of severe under the 2008 standard and serious under the 2015 standard. Regulatory monitors in current attainment counties are continuing to rise with many already exceeding both ozone standards. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency has lowered the annual standard for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) to 9 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). Two regulatory monitors in the region's most populous counties - Dallas

and Tarrant - currently exceed this standard. Elevated concentrations of ozone and PM_{2.5} are correlated with adverse health effects and are especially prevalent in disadvantaged communities. Increased stringency of federal standards and local increases of monitor values indicate increasing importance of need to better understand the influence of local sources, including the role of transportation, as well as the influence of potential exterior sources, meteorological patterns, and the resulting spatial distribution of pollutants. For more information, see Electronic Item 11.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

12. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 12.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 12.2)

13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

14. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council will be held at **1:00 pm, Thursday, October 10 or 17, 2024**. The meeting date will be discussed.