

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, November 13, 2025
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm RTC Transit Vision Subcommittee Meeting

**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 October 9, 2025, Minutes**
☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Rick Bailey, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the October 9, 2025, 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. Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program**
Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation

Improvement Program and update any administrative and/or planning documents, as needed, to incorporate the programs and projects contained in the UPWP modifications will also be sought.

Background: The UPWP is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2026 and FY2027 UPWP was approved by the RTC and North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board in July 2025 and identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2027. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates, and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments are provided in Electronic Item 3.1.1, and additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.1.2. A draft resolution approving the modifications is included in Electronic Item 3.1.3. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee took action at its October 24, 2025, meeting to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3.2. Air Quality Funding Recommendations Related to the Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval of funding recommendations for Waste Management through the North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 Call for Projects (CFP) utilizing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments opened the North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 CFP through an EPA National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program award. The CFP award grants fund

replacements of on-road diesel vehicles and engines, nonroad diesel equipment, diesel transport refrigeration unit trailers, diesel drayage trucks, locomotive engines, and locomotive shore power installation in North Central Texas. One eligible application was received by the CFP round three deadline of September 12, 2025; Waste Management for four certified Low-NO_x compressed natural gas-powered refuse haulers. Electronic Item 3.2.1 provides an overview of the call for projects and staff recommendations. Electronic Item 3.2.2 provides detailed project listings. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3.3. Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup Operational Projects and Staff Support and Trinity Railway Express Funding Trade

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval will be requested to assign \$800,000 of Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds from the existing Transit Sustainability Program to McKinney Avenue Transit Authority (MATA) for Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) preparedness and operations of the historic M-Line trolley, to replace \$400,000 of staff time out of the Transit Sustainability Program with RTC Local funds, and award the North Central Texas (NCT) 9-1-1 with \$200,000 in RTC Local funds to support Artificial Intelligence (AI) transcription and translation services in preparation for the World Cup. Approval to repurpose \$3.5 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funding previously approved for improvements to the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) in preparation for the FIFA World Cup will also be requested.

Background: In preparation for the FIFA 2026 World Cup, additional projects have been identified to support mobility efforts in the region. MATA has requested assistance in preparation for the FIFA World Cup

to refurbish their trolley cars and for operating assistance to support increased FIFA demand. The allocation of \$800,000 in RTR funds from the existing Transit Sustainability Program, and \$400,000 in RTC Local funds for labor budgeted to that program and for transit planning and connections around the International Broadcast Center and Fan Fest in Dallas and the Arlington Entertainment District is recommended. Coordination of Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility or barriers will also occur. Staff has also received a request from NCT9-1-1 for \$200,000 to deploy live 911 AI capabilities to deliver real-time voice translation and transcription for foreign-language callers during special events and recommend the award of RTC Local funds for these activities. In addition, the RTC approved \$7.2 million in STBG funds in March 2025 for improvements to the TRE, including painting and repair of locomotives, cab car/coach overhauls, upgrades to internal speaker systems, seat upgrades, and leasing two train sets. As Dallas Area Rapid Transit was preparing to execute a grant agreement for these funds, it was determined that federal funds cannot be utilized to lease the train sets. To allow the necessary contracts to move forward and ensure upgrades can be made prior to the World Cup, a funding trade is being proposed. More information is available in Electronic Item 3.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

3.4. Approval of Regional Transportation Council Local Funds to Support Regional Energy Management Assistance Program

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval of \$62,500 in additional Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds to support the Regional Energy Management Assistance Program which is anticipated to be funded by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO).

Background: Since 2018, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation and

Environment and Development Departments have received Department of Energy (DOE) funding through SECO to implement a Regional Energy Management Assistance Program. This initiative helps reduce air pollution contributing to local efforts to attain federal air quality standards. It also enables NCTCOG to develop a relationship with the state agency as a valued resource on energy-related topics, which may facilitate future partnerships and opportunities. In June 2025, in anticipation of a funding solicitation to continue this work, the RTC approved use of up to \$75,000 to be used as a non-federal match over three years of this program, with an expectation of \$125,000 federal funds and \$25,000 match to be programmed in fiscal year 2026. When SECO released the funding solicitation in August 2025, it imposed new limits on the amount of indirect and direct fringe expenses that may be reimbursed in fiscal year 2026 to reflect new guidance from the DOE. This has the effect of increasing the amount of non-federal funds that NCTCOG must contribute beyond the required match. To accommodate this change in funding structure and enable ongoing participation, additional RTC Local funds are needed to pay for ineligible indirect and direct fringe costs. The Transportation Department is in a position to support these ineligible costs for both the Transportation and Environment and Development Departments. Thus, staff proposes use of an additional \$62,500 in RTC Local funds, for a total contribution of \$137,500 RTC Local to support NCTCOG participation in this program during fiscal year 2026. More information is available in Electronic Item 3.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3.5. **Funding for Klyde Warren Park Phase 2 Cost Overrun**

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council approval of \$7.85 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funding and changes to non-federal funding for the Klyde Warren Park Phase 2 project will be requested.

Background: The Klyde Warren Park Phase 2 project in the City of Dallas is scheduled for a June 2026 letting and costs have increased based on 95 percent design plans. To facilitate a June 2026 letting, a funding plan needs to be finalized so an amendment to the Advance Funding Agreement can be executed by the end of the year. The project is part of the 2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood (RCN) grant award from the United States Department of Transportation. Additional STBG funding is being requested to fill the funding gap to ensure that the project can proceed to construction. More details can be found in Electronic Item 3.5.1 and Electronic Item 3.5.2.

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

1:20 – 1:35

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

☐ Action ☒ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Implications from Federal Government Shutdown
2. Status Report on Regional Transportation Council Transit Vision Subcommittee Meeting in January
3. Denton County Judge Eads Honored with Texas Department of Transportation Road Hand Award (Electronic Item 4.1)
4. Dallas Area Rapid Transit Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.2) and Proposed Action on Regional Transportation Council Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.3)
5. 2025 Federal Certification Review Report for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney-Frisco Transportation Management Areas (Electronic Item 4.4)

6. 2025 Regional Transportation Council Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Priorities (Electronic Item 4.5) and (Handout)
7. North Texas Zero Emission Vehicles Call for Projects Is Open Now (Electronic Item 4.6) and (Handout)
8. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 4.7)
9. Additional Correspondence from Hunt-Related Entities on High-Speed Rail (Electronic Item 4.8)
10. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 4.9)
11. 2025 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 4.10)
12. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
13. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
14. September – October Public Comment Report (Electronic Item 4.11)
15. October Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.12)
16. November Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.13)
17. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.14)
18. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.15)
19. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.16)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Proposed Traffic Signal Program Funding Process**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present and request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the proposed strategic traffic signal funding process.

Background: The RTC has funded traffic signal projects across the region over the years. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed strategic traffic signal funding process that includes agency eligibility requirements, the evaluation criteria for funding requests, and the categorization of traffic signal improvements. It will also include recommendations for cost-sharing between agencies and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. This effort continues in response to ongoing requests from local agencies. The proposed initiative aims to establish a structured process for evaluating and funding traffic signal projects as requests are received. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Approval of Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan - Transportation Elements**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval of transportation elements of the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan (DFW AQIP).

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation and Environment and Development Departments are collaborating on comprehensive air quality improvements, including efforts to support attainment of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards, continued transportation conformity determinations, and other regional concerns. As part of this work, NCTCOG is creating the DFW AQIP Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP), which will create a roadmap on how to comprehensively improve air quality from all sectors through 2050, including future emission reduction targets and measures to reach these targets for multiple pollutants. The DFW AQIP includes an inventory of current and projected carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions through 2050. For transportation, a NO_x reduction target was established in order to ensure successful transportation conformity analyses in the future. Future CO₂e reductions were estimated by applying the recommended NO_x target. Finally, staff identified measures consistent with Mobility 2050 which can support the region reaching these transportation sector targets. Electronic Item 6.1 provides additional details on the DFW AQIP CAP and Electronic Item 6.2 details proposed measures (i.e., policies and programs) to be implemented to reduce emissions and reach the transportation target.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Advance Fort Worth to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor Identification and Development Program, Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Study, and the McKinney Passenger Rail Corridor Study**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will review background and current context for each item and request the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) consider the following items:

- Request the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board and Project Team to proceed with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program for Step 1: Scope of Work Development.
- Request the NCTCOG Executive Board and Project Team to proceed with Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) initiative already underway.
- Request the City of Fort Worth and City of Arlington to complete their high-speed rail Economic Impact Study for evaluation, along with completed economic impact study efforts.
- Add the City of Plano withdrawal election from Dallas Area Rapid Transit to Go/No-Go decision point between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the McKinney Passenger Rail Corridor Study.

Background: The RTC has elected to pursue two parallel initiatives in advancing high-speed rail in the region: FRA-led Corridor ID Program which develops a national pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects for future federal funding opportunities and an FTA-led NEPA process between Fort Worth and Dallas to promote an environmentally cleared corridor for private investment opportunities. Staff advanced an alternate western alignment in downtown Dallas as directed by the RTC in August 2024. Staff will update the RTC on latest developments and seek action to advance the parallel high-speed rail initiatives (NEPA and Corridor ID). Additional information for this briefing is provided in Electronic Item 7. Following the positive results of the Collin County Transit Study in 2021, the RTC funded a study on the McKinney Passenger Rail Corridor (between Plano and McKinney) to serve as an extension of the DART rail system.

Current events that may positively or negatively impact the success of this study include the ongoing work of the RTC Transit Vision Subcommittee following the Transit 2.0 Study and recent developments between Dallas Area Rapid Transit and some of its member cities, including Plano.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

- 2:05 – 2:15** 8. **Interim Final Rule on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program**
- ☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10
- Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: The United States (U.S.) Department of Transportation (DOT) issued an Interim Final Rule on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program on October 3, 2025. Staff will provide a summary of impacts on the DBE Program.
- Background: In August 2025, the Regional Transportation Council approved an overall DBE Goal of 8.6 percent for Fiscal Years 2026-2028. During presentation of the goal, staff highlighted a pending U.S. Federal District Court case in Kentucky which could impact the DBE Program regulations in the future. The Interim Final Rule was published and became effective on October 3, 2025. The Interim Final Rule eliminates the sex and race-based presumptions to determine social and economic disadvantage. This requires all DBE firms to be re-certified under the new rule. Staff will provide a summary of changes and impacts on the DBE Program. Electronic Item 8.1 and Electronic Item 8.2 contain U.S. DOT's initial guidance and frequently asked questions regarding the new DBE Rule. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 8.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

- 2:15 – 2:25** 9. **Status Report on Major Regional Transportation Council Initiatives; Path Forward for 2027–2029 Management and Operations Program**
- ☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10
- Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will update the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on accomplishments since June 2025 and Policy challenges over the next 60 days. Focus will be placed

on the “every three years” approval of the Management and Operations Program.

Background: RTC approval of the ongoing Management and Operations Program is scheduled for December 2026. It included largely existing transportation programs needing approval for three more years. Examples include the Texas Department of Transportation Mobility Assistance Patrol, the Regional Vanpool Program, Regional Traffic Signal Program, and other continuous programs conducted by staff to the RTC. Electronic Item 9.1 contains major accomplishments since June 2025. Electronic Item 9.2 contains activities for the next 60-plus days.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

- 2:25 – 2:35** 10. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle Round 6**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle Round 6.
Background: The MTP Policy Bundle Program was created to encourage entities such as local governments, school districts, and transportation agencies to voluntarily implement a selection of the policies identified in Mobility 2050. By voluntarily implementing these policies, participating entities will receive Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to offset local funds as matching funds for federal transportation projects.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

- 2:35 – 2:45** 11. **Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Johnson, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief overview of the Texas Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program, established to provide financial assistance to eligible state government entities for rail grade separation projects that improve public safety, support economic development, and reduce traffic congestion.
Background: In 2025, the 89th Texas State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1555, establishing the Texas Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program. The Legislature

allocated \$250 million for this program through a supplemental budget allocation and authorized the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to prepare administrative rules governing its management and implementation. TxDOT will conduct a two-staged solicitation process that began on November 3, 2025, targeting the development and construction of projects that eliminates one or more existing adjacent at-grade roadway-rail crossings or provides a grade-separated pedestrian-rail crossing. Applications will be web-based and submitted online through TxDOT's Rail Division website, with preliminary applications due by November 14, 2025. Following an expedited review by TxDOT's Project Evaluation Committee, applicants will be selected to prepare a detailed application starting in December 2025 (deadline to be determined). Selected projects will be recommended to the Texas Transportation Commission for final approval and award. TxDOT's webpage for this program is located at: <https://www.txdot.gov/business/grants-and-funding/off-system-rail-grade-separation-state-fund-program.html>. Electronic Item 11 summarizes essential details known to date about the program, and TxDOT is expected to post additional information once the solicitation process formally begins.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

- 2:45 – 2:50** 12. **Regional Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Transit Safety Performance Measures – Crime Data Request**
- ☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5
- Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the collected crime statistics from Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Trinity Metro, and Denton County Transportation Authority as requested by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC).
- Background: On September 11, 2025, the RTC adopted updated targets to cover Fiscal Years 2026-2029 for the federally required Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). PTASP includes measures related to transit safety for passengers, transit workers, and those who share the road with transit vehicles. A request was made for staff to collect current crime data, preferably in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

format. The information will include an overview of the data provided to Federal Transit Administration's National Transit Database and NIBRS for DART as the only transit agency in the region with an independent police force. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 12.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

13. **Progress Reports**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 13.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 13.2)

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

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

16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council will be held at **1:00 pm, Thursday, December 11, 2025.**