

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL January 12, 2023

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on January 12, 2023, at 1:30 pm in the Transportation Council Room. The following members or representatives were present: Daniel Aleman, Steve Babick, Dennis Bailey, Rick Bailey, Adam Bazaldua, Gyna Bivens, J.D. Clark, Ceason Clemens, Jorga Clemson (representing Mayor Ron Jensen), John Cordary (representing David Salazar), Michael Crain, Theresa Daniel, Jeff Davis, Janet DePuy, Andy Eads, Gary Fickes, Renee Franklin, George Fuller, Barry Gordon, Rick Grady, Lane Grayson, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Brandon Jones, Brad LaMorgese, Pham Long (representing Councilmember Gonzalez), B. Adam McGough, Cara Mendelson, Cesar Molina (representing Board Member Dianne Costa), Ed Moore, Omar Narvaez, Manny Ramirez, Jim Ross, Chris Schulmeister, Perry Schrag (representing Mayor John Keating), Gary Slagel (representing Vice Chair, Michele Wong Krause), Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, Scott Turnage (representing Oscar Trevino), Chris Watts, and Duncan Webb.

Others present at the meeting included: Vickie Alexander, Julie Anderson, Dennis Bailey, Melissa Baker, Allie Beedle, Kenny Bergstrom, Natalie Bettger, Bill Bilyeu, Alberta Blair, Stephanie Boardingham, David Boski, Jack Carr, Molly Carroll, Angie Carson, Curt Cassidy, Jeff Coalter, Dina Colarossi, Clarence Daugherty, Jeff Davis, Savannah Doshier, Andria Dotson, Kevin Feldt, Susan Fletcher, George Fuller, Jillian Giles, Rebekah Gongora, Lane Grayson, Zoe Halfmann, Paulette Hartman, Robert Hinkle, Tracy Hornfield, Hayden Horton, Donna Huerta Simmons, Richard Isarraraz, Joel James, Zoe Johnson, Jan Joplin, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Tony Kimmey, Chris Klaus, Michael Knowles, Eron Linn, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Valerie Miller, Mindy Mize, Steve Montgomery, Erin Moore, Omar Narvaez, Evan Paret, Michael Peters, John Polster, Kelly Porter, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Guillermo Quintanilla, Kathryn Rotter, Ryan Sartor, Perry Schrag, Walter Shumac, Toni Stehling, Shannon Stevenson, Kimberlin To, Jonathan Toffer, Lauren Trimble, William Tsao, Isaac Vasquez, Dan Vedral, Caroline Waggoner, Beth Webb, Brendon Wheeler, Cheryl Williams, Amanda Wilson, Asa Woodberry, Casey Wright, and Susan Young.

1. **Opportunity for the Public to Comment on Today's Agenda:** This item allows members of the public an opportunity to comment on agenda items. Regional Transportation Council Chair Duncan Webb asked if there were any public comments. No members of the public chose to speak at the meeting or provide written comments.
2. **Approval of the December 8, 2022, Minutes:** The minutes of the December 8, 2022, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Rick Grady (M); Adam Bazaldua (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 3.1. **February 2023 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** Ken Bunkley requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other planning and administrative documents with TIP-related changes. February 2023 revisions to the 2023-2026 TIP were provided as Electronic Item 3.1.1 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. Also provided was Electronic Item 3.1.2, an Administrative Amendment processed through the November 2022 cycle. Commissioner Theresa Daniel asked why Modification Number 2023-0251 was being withdrawn and wanted to verify that the project was still going to proceed. Ken responded that the project is still proceeding but the request to add the project to the TIP/STIP had been delayed to the May 2023 modification cycle to allow time for environmental review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

A motion was made to approve Item 3.1 on the Consent Agenda. Rick Grady (M); Cara Mendelsohn (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to the Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris wished everyone a Happy New Year. He noted the noted the blue sheeted Reference Item 4.5.1 provided to everyone for the US Technology Lane 75 to SH 121 to IH 635, it's fully funded with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) design. thanked Barbara Malley, Federal Highway Administration, and North Central Texas Council of Governments Staff on the work for the Air Quality Conformity Approval and noted it was presented in Agenda Item 7. He presented and congratulated Commissioner Webb with the Road Hand Award from Texas Department of Transportation. He mentioned the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meetings dates for 2023 were made available for reference in Electronic Item 4.1. Michael briefly noted the partnership meeting with the Governor for the State of Tennessee. Michael asked Whitney Vandiver with the Air North Texas Partner Awards to come forward to present their teams' awards, details mentioned in Electronic Item 4.2. Michael mentioned the 1-20 Corridor Rail Project and AmTrak services from Dallas-Fort Worth to Atlanta, to Florida, and to the Northeast. Michael noted Jeff Neal is leading the Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program and encouraged everyone to coordinate with Jeff Neal if working on any of the grants. The remaining items were not presented.
5. **Medal of Honor – Museum Partnership Program: Leadership Institute:** Michael Morris and Karla Windsor requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a financial contribution of \$1.895 million in Regional Transportation Council Local funds to support the Medal of Honor Institute, the leadership component of the National Medal of Honor Museum currently under construction in Arlington. Phase 1 Base Improvements (\$1,696,000); financial commitment on an existing construction contract and Phase 2 Supplemental Improvements (\$199,000); future construction commitment. This item included communication received from the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation about partnership opportunities provided in Electronic Item 5.1, a letter of support to the RTC to be signed by members in Electronic Item 5.2, and additional information in Electronic Item 5.3 that provided background information about the upcoming project and recommended financial contribution. Financial participation is a donation, not a reimbursement-based grant. Also included is the methodology staff used to identify eligible transportation elements. Staff briefed RTC in December regarding the proposal to request the entire RTC to sign the commitment letter, including recognition of members with current and previous military service. Michael thanked Councilmember Rick Grady and North Central Texas Council of Governments staff, Karla Windsor, Kevin Kokes, and legal counsel, Ken Kirkpatrick, for all of their work making sure we respect the military and how items are signed with regard to respective military service. There were multiple questions that Michael Morris responded basically wanting a system integrated district.

A motion was made to approve \$1.895 contribution in RTC Local Funds to support the Medal of Honor Institute, the leadership component of the National Medal of Honor Museum and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP) and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes. Rick Grady (M); Theresa Daniels (S). Jim Ross abstained from voting due to being a Member of the Medal of Honor Museum Board Member. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Legislative Update:** Rebekah Gongora provided an update on federal, and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 118th US Congress convened on January 3, 2023. Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations: \$1.7 trillion Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 approved December 23, 2022; appropriates \$30 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation (Discretionary Appropriations); no change to Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds. State budget – Comptroller’s budget revenue estimate for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 (FY24 – 25) is \$188.2 billion of available general revenue for FY24-25; \$32.7 billion surplus, limited by constitutional spending limit; and Rainy-Day Fund expected to have an all-time high of \$27.1 billion. The 88th Texas Legislature will have a projected 2022-23 ending balance of \$32.7 billion, in addition to \$155.5 billion in total collections of available general revenue-related funds in 2024-25. The 2023 RTC Legislative Program includes the following topics: adequately fund transportation and utilize tools, expand transportation options in mega-metropolitan regions, enhance safety, improve air quality, and pursue innovation and technology. Bills of Interest – Transportation funding: proposes an additional \$200/\$100 fee for the registration of electric/hybrid vehicles to the State Highway Fund (HB 820), proposes an additional \$100 registration fee of electric vehicles to State Highway Fund (HB 960), proposes gas tax increases (SB 254, HB 321), local option registration fee increases (El Paso, Travis County only), and additional electric vehicle fee bills are expected to be filed. Bills of Interest: temporary paper tags would end with dealer issued license plates (HB 718), adds additional penalties to temporary tag violators (HB 914). Safety: hands free cell phone usage (SB41), school bus passing (HB 648), move over law penalties (HB 898), and driving under the influence (multiple). LIRAP/LIP funds would redistribute LIRAP funds to counties (HB 1175). Broadband creates the Texas Connectivity Fund (SJR 27). Air Quality has Texas Emissions Reduction Plan changes (SB 104), allowance of electric vehicle charging on state property/state parks (HB 821), and climate change reporting (HB 57) and (HB 846). Bicycle/Pedestrian requires three- to six-foot feet when passing (HB 421).
7. **Status of Conformity Determination - Received:** Chris Klaus announced that a Transportation Conformity determination was received by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) on December 16, 2022, for Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2022 Update and the 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This air quality action allows revised and new projects to proceed and also restarts a four-year time clock for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) through December 15, 2026. By federal requirement, the analysis demonstrates that projected emissions from transportation projects are within emission limits (Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets) established by the State Implementation Plan (SIP), ensures federal funding and approval is applied to transportation projects that are consistent with air quality planning goals, and ensures that transportation control measures are given priority for federal funding. Staff presented any effects on final project recommendations due to the Transportation Conformity review

process. Brendon Wheeler confirmed that no projects were materially affected by this review for consistency among the MTP recommendations, the TIP entries, and Conformity networks. Only editorial refinements such as recategorization of projects and adjustments to project costs, limits, and phasing to align with TIP affected the Plan document. These refinements affected plan documents including roadway recommendations maps and tables, transit recommendations table, financial plan expenditures table, associated performance metrics with final networks forecasting, and associated plan narrative text within the MTP document. Final financial plan maintained financial constraint by shifting plan expenditures to accommodate recategorization of projects while maintaining the same plan total of \$148.3 billion: Infrastructure Maintenance, \$42.8 billion; Management and Operations, \$9.6 billion; Growth, Development, and Land Use Strategies, \$1.5 billion; Rail and Bus, \$44.9 billion; and High Occupancy Vehicle Managed Lanes, Freeways, Tollways, and Arterials, \$49.5. Electronic Item 7.1 contained the US Department of Transportation conformity approval, which now allows new and modified projects in the MTP and TIP to proceed. Electronic Item 7.2 contained minor refinements made to the roadway and transit project recommendations tables because of the conformity review process.

8. **Recent Presentations by the Director: Implications for 2023:** Michael Morris Michael Morris summarized two end-of-the year presentations that have merit in focusing on policy conversations, technology emphasis areas and legislative needs because Dallas-Fort Worth is the fourth largest region in the nation and 14th in congested areas. He explained that it was important to discuss these themes to help determine where the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) may be headed in 2023. The last 12 months resulted in dozens of executive level presentations from city managers' associations to policy officials, to elected officials' groups, and national presentations in Washington DC. Two presentations exemplify these efforts. The first presentation was to the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC) on December 7, 2022, provided in Electronic Item 8.1. The second presentation, Future of Transportation (Not your Father's Oldsmobile), was presented at the Transportation Crossroads Conference on December 16, 2022, and was provided in Electronic Item 8.2. Michael noted that the material in both presentations was interchangeable and could have been used to speak to either group. During the RTC meeting, Michael highlighted a few pages from each presentation. Regarding congestion levels and population in the Dallas-Fort Worth area during 2021, the area grew by 400,000 people from 2019 to 2021, that is 150,000+ people per year and one million people per seven years. From 2008 to 2021, 1.6 million people came to the region and the transportation congestion level increased 2 percentage points. He explained the small increase was due to previous RTC leadership taking an aggressive position to build dynamically priced managed lanes and create partnerships with the North Texas Tollway Authority and the transportation authorities, and traffic engineers on traffic signals. Michael noted that although the RTC can do more and be better, there is no other place in the country that can show this type of performance measure as a result of the activities of this particular region. RTC member governments pass local bond programs and the RTC creates innovative technologies and opportunities for other states to come to the Dallas-Fort Worth region to learn more about projects and programs that are implemented within the region in hopes of implementing similar projects and programs and receiving the same results. Michael asked Natalie Bettger of NCTCOG to bring back to the Council a map that demonstrates how smaller regions are a lot more congested and how low the congestion level is in the Dallas-Fort Worth region compared to other regions of the same size. Michael briefly discussed the status of the North Tarrant Express (NTE): IH 820/SH183 "NexTE" Phase. Freeway mobility as a service was mentioned. Examples of services that would be included from passive to active are a context for private sector partnership,

creation of “Digital Twins”: dynamic lane configuration, electric vehicle recharging: induction loops; Dial 511 for Response Service, Guaranteed Transit: Transit Liability or is it Free, Dynamically Priced Managed Lanes: Choice Lanes, Funding for Gentrification Policy, and funding for Context Sensitive Design. All of these lead to the fact that the RTC wants to be more active in managing its freeway system in the future. Staff will bring policies to the RTC on these topics in the future. The RTC has directed staff that it wants to be the most advanced transportation network in the country, both in technology and innovative. Staff continues to pursue equal access to the internet which is a legitimate transportation mode under federal law. Through this mode staff pursues equal access to education, telemedicine, and interviews for all and the elimination of food deserts. Work will continue on freeway mobility as a service, including P3, Digital Twin, and Choice Lanes; new high-speed rail in Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas, and Houston; unmanned aircraft systems such as Bell plus; and an autonomous people mover such as those used by General Motors and in the International District in Dallas. In addition, staff is working in Las Colinas to help bring next general autonomous vehicles to the already existing Las Colinas people mover that is no longer in operation. Michael also highlighted I.H.30 next generation freeway design such as induction charging and dynamic lanes; heavy truck replacement including hydrogen fuel cell/electric; autonomous heavy-duty vehicles, the Alliance Mobility Innovation Zone at Hillwood; and technology drivers to reduce roadway fatalities. Dan Lamers will provide an agenda item at the February RTC meeting on the status of the high-speed rail project. The area is approximately 18-20 months from an environmental clearance on high-speed rail between Fort Worth, Arlington, and Dallas. New legal paperwork will be provided that shows that the new rail system will be Fort Worth to Houston and not Fort Worth to Dallas and then Dallas to Houston. The one-seat ride that the Regional Transportation Council requested is being honored. Staff will also provide information on the Fort Worth to Houston high-speed rail commitment at the February meeting.

9. **Walk to School Day Promotion 2022:** Karla Walker briefed the Council on the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 2022 Walk to School Day promotional efforts and the results of the events held at participating schools. Annual event that involves schools and communities across the country and the world walking to school on the same day. Community presence on the streets reminds us to help create calm, safe routes for students to walk and bicycle to school. Goals of the program: safety education, health, reduced congestion, transportation choice, etc. This year, Walk to School Day was held on October 12, 2023. Typically held the first Wednesday of October but was postponed due to the Yom Kippur holiday. Prizes were awarded to schools based on the planned events and the order of applications received, Walk to School Day banner, Bike raffle entries for participating students, and draw-string bag “Prize Packs”. Due to overwhelming interest, schools that received prize packs were given a limited number to raffle off/distribute as worked best for their events. To incentivize participation in Walk to School Day, NCTCOG raffled off four bikes to participating students in Walk to School Day. Two 20” bikes and two 24” bikes 973 total entries into the bike raffle from 14 schools! Statewide: 198 events, up from 166 in 2021 and 164 in 2019, were registered with WalkBikeRollToSchool.org for the state of Texas. 2,789 events were registered nationwide! 104 events were registered with the event tracker from Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, and Tarrant Counties. NCTCOG helped 20 schools celebrate Walk to School Day with special prizes! Save the date for next year’s Walk to School Day: Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Next year’s event preparation will begin Spring 2023. To be added to the Walk to School Day 2023 mailing list, fill out the interest form at: www.nctcog.org/WalkToSchool. Electronic Item 9 contained additional details.

10. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 10.1 and 10.2.
11. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
12. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Thursday, February 9, 2023, in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.