

Policy Support to Develop Process for the
Innovative Transportation Technology Infrastructure Certification Program
(P22-02)

The Dallas-Fort Worth region has positioned itself as an innovator in using advancing technology to address transportation issues. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) continues to receive interest from technology developers on implementing new and innovative infrastructure technology that is not currently in operation for a commercial application anywhere in the United States. As is the case with many new technologies, these transportation infrastructure solutions require certification by the appropriate governing entities (either local, state, or federal). This certification requirement may come in many forms, depending on the application, including safety certification to ensure the safety and welfare of the traveling public, as well as certification for use within the region as required by NCTCOG.

This policy outlines the guiding principles and process by which the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) may choose to coordinate with a technology provider to implement a certification facility in the Dallas-Fort Worth region for commercial application. To ensure flexibility with the various types of infrastructure being developed, the following process is structured in a transparent way for potential technology developers and local governments/transportation entities to express interest and collaborate on implementation opportunities. This process would allow for periodic expressions of interest to be facilitated in a timely manner.

The following are the guiding principles of this Innovative Transportation Technology Infrastructure Certification Program:

- Potential projects must serve a long-range transportation need as identified in the recommendations of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan or be considered for inclusion in a future Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- The technology developer is solely responsible for navigating any certification process(es) with the appropriate regulating authority(ies) for the developer's specific technology as required.
- If the proposed technology is implemented and fails to perform as intended, or the certification process ends or fails, the project-sponsoring local government must have verifiable assurances that the transportation need identified will still be appropriately addressed. It is encouraged that this contingency be included in any technology infrastructure proposal. Public funds may or may not be used for the certification needs of the emerging infrastructure technology.
- NCTCOG will facilitate mutual cooperation between local governments and transportation entities where potential project limits extend across multiple jurisdictional boundaries.
- When considering locations for proposed technology facilities, local governments and transportation entities should consider the following:
 - Expected timeframes for infrastructure to be operational for public use
 - Public use goals and performance expectations of proposed transportation infrastructure.

Following the guidelines listed above, the RTC directs staff to implement the following transparent process outlined in the steps below once NCTCOG or the RTC is approached by an infrastructure technology provider to enter into this process. This process is structured to allow for periodic solicitation or acceptance of proposed technology infrastructure solutions. The following process outlines how proposals brought to NCTCOG will be handled and does not

preclude local governments and transportation entities from engaging directly with technology entities.

- 1) NCTCOG staff will confirm infrastructure technology solution proposed by provider conforms with this policy and a long-range transportation need as identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- 2) NCTCOG staff will provide RTC with a summary of the technology provider's proposal, including any requirements and available details on the proposed operation of the technology. The RTC will take action on whether to initiate the development process for certification of the infrastructure technology.
- 3) Upon RTC action, local governments will submit potential locations of interest that utilize public right-of-way and serve a regional long-range transportation need.
- 4) The technology provider will determine the preferred location and project development opportunity to pursue based on the proposals provided by the local governments through NCTCOG.
- 5) The RTC will initiate project development activities and coordination efforts among the appropriate transportation agencies, local governments, and the technology provider. The RTC will direct NCTCOG staff to provide support in the project development activities and coordination efforts as needed. Project development activities and coordination efforts may include appropriation of public funds for project development and implementation.

The RTC directs staff to provide regular briefings when proposals are received and during project development. The RTC also directs staff to integrate the resulting recommendations from projects that advance into future mobility, air quality, safety, and other regional planning activities as appropriate.