

2.2. **Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Local Contingency for Fiscal Year 2021 Regional Aerial Photography Program**

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a \$1.8 million cash flow contingency for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Regional Aerial Photography Program will be requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has a cooperative Regional Aerial Photography Program whereby orthophotography and ancillary products are developed on a periodic basis at the request of local governments and other public entities. The primary flights for the region are conducted every two years. The FY2021 Program includes aeriels requested by the Dallas and Fort Worth Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Districts for transportation-related purposes. The total cost of the FY2021 Program is approximately \$2.4 million, with TxDOT's share being \$1.8 million. The flights need to proceed in January to obtain aeriels without leaves on the trees, which is a critical element for TxDOT and local governments. The RTC previously approved federal funds to cover the TxDOT share of these costs. Federal funds are anticipated to be available in the March timeframe (but could be later) to cover TxDOT's share, which will be due in April. Staff requests endorsement of RTC approval of a cash flow contingency in RTC Local funds of \$1.8 million to cover costs in the event federal funds are not available by the end of March. It is unlikely that this contingency will be needed; however, if used, the RTC Local funds would be replenished upon the availability of the federal funds.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2.3. **Grand Prairie Incident Management Vehicles**

Presenter: Camille Fountain, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) decision to approve the utilization of \$65,900 in RTC Local funding to fund the Grand Prairie Incident Management Blocking Equipment Pilot Project will be requested.

Background: In July 2020, the RTC approved the list of project recommendations submitted as part of the 2020 Incident Management Equipment Purchase Call for Projects (CFP). In support of the NCTCOG Traffic Incident Management Training Program, funding was made available for the purchase of equipment and technology to be used to mitigate traffic incidents in the

North Central Texas Nonattainment Area. A component of the CFP included the opportunity to participate in a special pilot project to purchase equipment used to provide blockage during incident response (e.g., crash barriers, attenuators, etc.). Due to Buy America compliancy restrictions associated with Federal Highway Administration funding, projects selected under the special pilot project were approved to be funded with Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding. Due to unforeseen timing constraints associated with the City of Grand Prairie accessing the RTR funding, staff submitted a request to fund the Grand Prairie Pilot Project with RTC Local funds during the December 10, 2020, RTC meeting. Additional information on this funding source request is provided in Electronic Item 2.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Update on the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Timeline and Changes Resulting from Statewide Financial Constraints**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Rylea Roderick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed on the altered 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP(STIP) approval timeline and will be asked to recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2021-2024 TIP/STIP listings.

Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth region, along with the other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in the State, submitted TIP listings to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in June 2020. At the statewide level, TxDOT determined that the draft STIP listings, TxDOT's information system, and long-term State funding plans were not financially constrained, and the State has been working toward a resolution since that time. In late 2020, TxDOT submitted proposed changes to North Central Texas Council of Governments staff for review and asked staff to advance the submittal of its regular TIP/STIP modifications through an amended process (not the quarterly cycle). Staff will brief the Committee on the updated process and timeline for TIP/STIP listing approval and modifications this year. Resulting revisions to the 2021-2024 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 3.1 for the Committee's consideration. These changes have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP. Electronic Item 3.2 contains additional information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Federal Transit Administration Funding Allocations in Response to COVID Relief 2.0 Funding Authorization**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Edgar Hernandez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding allocations in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Background: The USDOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced January 11, 2021, a total of \$14 billion in additional federal funding allocations nationwide to help alleviate funding shortfalls for the nation's largest public transportation systems due to COVID-19. Funding is provided through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA), signed by President Trump on December 27, 2020. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is the designated recipient for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (DFWA) Urbanized Area (UZA) and the Denton-Lewisville (DL) UZA.

The DFWA UZA will receive \$129,172,478 and the DL UZA was allocated \$41,938. The FTA allocated the funds to address funding shortfalls currently being experienced by large public transportation agencies with high operating costs. Funding will be provided at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and prioritizes the use of funds for operational and payroll needs but also supports expenses traditionally eligible under the Urbanized Area Formula Program and the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and incurred beginning on January 20, 2020, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

FTA funds are typically included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and follow that approval process, but the FTA is waiving those requirements for these funds in order to expedite the process. For transparency and accounting purposes, staff will still be submitting the FTA funds through the next available TIP modification cycle.

Staff will request a recommendation for RTC approval of funding allocations under the Urbanized Area Formula Program based on FTA's methodology under CRRSAA and for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds to be distributed based on eligibility and need. Details can be found in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **2020 Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Implementation (Round 2)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the proposed recommendations and deadlines for the projects that are part of the second round of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Milestone Policy initiative.

Background: The MPO Milestone Policy was adopted by the RTC to ensure that funded projects are being implemented in a timely manner and funding is available for other projects in the region. The first MPO Milestone Policy implementation resulted in 51 of the 57 projects on the list advancing to construction. Since then, a second round of projects have been identified by staff as Milestone Policy projects. These projects were funded between 2006 and 2010 and have not begun construction. Letters were sent to all agencies with a project on the Milestone Policy list notifying them of the action needed to ensure that these projects remain funded. As with the first set of Milestone Policy projects, agencies were asked to review their projects and provide: 1) a realistic, achievable project schedule, 2) a new policy board action that reconfirms the agency's commitment to the project, and 3) a demonstration of the availability of local matching funds. Staff has reviewed the responses and the draft list of proposed recommendations for these projects can be found in Electronic Item 5.1. Details on the MPO Milestone Policy can be found in Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:10 – 2:15

6. **Section 214/USACE Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the status of the Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), under Section 214, to expedite Section 404/408 permits for regionally significant transportation projects.

Background: In October 2008, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the USACE initiated a \$500,000 pilot program, under Section 214, that enabled a dedicated USACE staff position to review Section 404 and 408 permits associated with regionally significant transportation projects. Due to the initial success of the pilot project, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has authorized numerous additional funds and extensions, through Regional Toll Revenue funds, with the latest extension approved for an additional \$800,000 to September 30, 2022. Since the program began in 2008, 166 permit decisions have been

issued through the agreement, preventing permitting delays for projects such as North Tarrant Express, DFW Connector, the Horseshoe Project, SH 360, and the Cotton Belt Regional Rail. Additionally, the program allowed the development of Regional General Permit 12 to further expedite permits with Section 408 components. Benefits of the program include proven savings of time and money, as well as the preservation of the regional aquatic environment. Program participants have included local governments and transportation agencies.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:15 – 2:25

7. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Feldt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update regarding the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation (DFW HST) Connections Study. Currently the project is proceeding through the first phase, including analysis of route and mode alternatives.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the DFW HST Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis effort. The second phase will be a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Since April, staff and the consultant have been analyzing alternatives while engaging the public and stakeholders. The Phase 1 efforts are designed to reduce the number of alternatives to a minimum for more detailed analysis in the Phase 2 effort. The following items will be presented:

- Draft Preliminary Project Purpose
- Potential route alternatives
- Potential mode alternatives
- Technology update
- Engagement opportunities
- Project schedule

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:25 – 2:30

8. **Automated Vehicle Planning Project 2.1: Kick-Off Briefing**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a briefing on the Automated Vehicle Planning Project 2.1 (AV 2.1) and invite Committee members to participate in the planning process.

Background: In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Automated Vehicle Program 2.0, which includes the AV 2.1 project. AV 2.1 is a planning exercise designed to help the region prepare for higher levels of automation in the

transportation sector (e.g., automated vehicles). Through a procurement, a team headed by Kittelson & Associates was selected to assist staff in the planning process. The contract has been finalized and the 18-month project is kicking off.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:30 – 2:40

9. Director of Transportation Report Items

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current transportation items, including a summary on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Staff will highlight the following areas:

- 2021 Top 10 Transportation Technology Initiatives: Recent Presentations (Electronic Item 9.1)
- Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 9.2) (www.nctcog.org/pm/covid-19)
- Proposed Amendments to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) (Electronic Item 9.3)
- NCTCOG Staff Member Ernest Huffman Recipient of Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International Lone Star's Excellence Award for Work on Integrating Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into North Texas and Advocating for Advancement of UAS Technologies

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:40 – 2:50

10. Legislative Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas Allen, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Legislative actions to be covered include the following:

- Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations
- Federal Supplemental COVID Stimulus
- Texas Comptroller Biennial Revenue Estimate
- Actions in the Texas Legislature

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States (US) Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 117th US Congress convened on January 3, 2021. The 87th Texas Legislature convened on January 12, 2021.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:50 – 3:00

11. **Unmanned Aircraft Systems Draft Resolution**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the proposed Regional Transportation Council resolution to support the safe and efficient integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the Dallas-Fort Worth transportation system.

Background: With the growing number of UAS operators and use cases, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) would like to engage public-sector partners to support and advocate for UAS activities within the region, through the adoption of an Unmanned Aircraft Systems resolution. UAS activities could include delivery of medical supplies and packages, air taxi services, public safety uses, and accident reconstruction and surveying, among others. This effort supports the North Texas UAS Safety and Integration Task Force, comprised of public- and private-sector organizations. The Task Force works to identify best practices, emerging UAS technologies, and possible use cases. This resolution will support a coordinated approach to UAS planning activities and implementation opportunities. The draft resolution is provided in Electronic Item 11 for information and discussion.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

3:00 – 3:10

12. **Safety Performance Targets Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kroll, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the regional Roadway Safety Performance regional targets for the 2021-2022 target schedule for federally required performance measures. Roadway Safety targets are focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities for motorized and non-motorized travelers.

Background: In December 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. The FAST Act requires certain performance measures be included in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. These measures were established by a series of four rulemakings: Safety, Infrastructure Condition, System Performance/Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transit Asset Management. In December 2017, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted 2018 targets for Roadway Safety Performance targets. In November 2018, the RTC adopted the targets for Infrastructure Condition and System Performance/Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality required measures. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the North Central Texas region, the RTC is required to set targets for Roadway Safety. These targets will be used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents such as the Metropolitan

Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the State of the Region report. The proposed 2021 targets for Roadway Safety will be discussed. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

3:10 – 3:15

13. **Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Fleet Recognition and Annual Survey Results**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present an update on the status of the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC) Coalition Annual Survey and the Fleet Recognition awardees.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments has been the host organization for DFWCC, a United States Department of Energy (DOE) initiative to reduce total energy impacts in the transportation sector, since 1994. Clean Cities coalitions are required to complete annual reporting to DOE every March. The Coalition has a goal of increasing energy use impacts by 15 percent year-over-year. In order to complete this report and meet these goals, DFWCC seeks information from local fleets about alternative fuel use and other fuel-saving activities. DFWCC also uses this data to highlight fleets that demonstrate excellence in their fleet reporting through a Fleet Recognition program. Electronic Item 13 provides more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:15 – 3:15

14. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. \$4 Million Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ACTMTD) Grant from the United States Department of Transportation Received for City of Dallas SM Wright Smart Corridor Project in Partnership with the Regional Transportation Council (<https://highways.dot.gov/newsroom/us-department-transportation-awards-496-million-advanced-transportation-and-congestion>)
2. Upcoming Transit Studies Meetings (www.nctcog.org/transitstudies)
 - Tarrant County Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting: January 28, 2021, 2:00 PM
 - South Dallas County Public Meeting: February 4, 2021, 6:00 PM
 - Denton County Initial Stakeholders Meeting: February 5, 2021, 1:30 PM
 - East Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties Initial Stakeholders Meeting: February 12, 2021, 10:00 AM

3. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 14.1)
4. Air North Texas Partner Awards (<https://www.airnorthtexas.org/partnerawards20>)
5. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
6. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
7. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Programs (Electronic Item 14.2)
8. East/West Equity Report (Electronic Item 14.3)
9. Air Quality Fact Sheet (Spanish Translation) (Electronic Item 14.4)
10. December Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 14.5)
11. January Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 14.6)
12. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 14.7)
13. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 14.8)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 14.9)
15. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
16. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on February 26, 2021.***