



MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Freight Advisory Committee North Central Texas Council of Governments

**May 24, 2017
12:30 pm-2:00 pm**

The Regional Freight Advisory Council (RFAC) convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 24, 2017, at NCTCOG Offices.

Attendees

Sia Ardekari, University of Texas Arlington
Jason Brown, NCTCOG
Kale Driemeier, Texas Department of Transportation
Huong Duong, NCTCOG
Tim Feemster, Foremost Quality Logistics
Jose Grimaldo, University of North Texas
Dan Harbeke, Union Pacific Railroad
Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG
Mike Johnson, NCTCOG
Lisa Key, NCTCOG
Gus Khankarli, University of Texas Arlington
Kirk Lattimore, Pavlik and Associates
Tiffany Melvin, NASCO Network
Martin Molloy, Halff Associates
Mike Rader, Prime Rail Interests
Allan Rutter, Texas Transportation Institute
Mohsen Shahandashti, University of Texas Arlington
Amir Tabesh, University of Texas Arlington
Lauren Trimble, Dallas County
Jonathan Unger, NCTCOG

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Welcome and Previous Meeting Recap, Jeff Hathcock
2. NASCO Update, Tiffany Melvin, NASCO
3. 2017 Texas Freight Mobility Plan, Kale Driemeier, TxDOT
4. Regional Truck Routes, Jonathan Unger, NCTCOG
5. Critical Freight Corridors Update, Mike Johnson, NCTCOG
6. General Discussion/Announcements

1. Welcome/Previous Meeting Recap, Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG

Jeff welcomed attendees and provided a brief recap of the February 8 meeting highlighting several of the ongoing freight initiatives and noting the second quarter FASTLANE grant resubmittals. Jeff reviewed HB 20 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) requirements and the Mobility 2040 performance measures under consideration.

2. NASCO Update, Tiffany Melvin

Tiffany gave a brief overview of NASCO, North American Strategy for Competitiveness, the “leading organization focused on the competitiveness of the North American supply chain, workforce and energy independence.” She discussed the recent federal notice to Congress of its intent to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA) and the possible impacts to the freight industry.

Tiffany discussed an ongoing construction zone pilot project between Waco and Austin designed to reduce freight congestion by offering road conditions to truck drivers, via their company dispatch. Information includes construction, weather, and current traffic incidents impacting road conditions. Given enough advance notice, with available route options, drivers could choose to reroute their trip saving time, money, and hours of service. Old Dominion and McClean Trucking are participating in the pilot project.

3. 2017 Texas Freight Mobility Plan, Kale Driemeier, TxDOT

Kale Driemeier briefed the Committee on the status of the Texas Freight Mobility Plan (TFMP). TFMP updates include new FAST Act requirement elements, priority enhancements and expansions, and stakeholder outreach impacts. Stakeholder feedback received from previous outreach included the need to address HazMat and access to Foreign Trade Zones.

The Texas Highway Freight Network (THFN) has been drafted and stakeholder input was sought for scoring methodology and the evaluation process. Additionally, Critical Urban Freight Corridors have been designated by the applicable Metropolitan Planning Organizations. TxDOT has drafted Critical Rural Freight Corridors based on required criteria such as connecting to the Primary Highway Freight System, stakeholder support, and FAST Act requirements. More stakeholder meetings are planned for July and August and the TFMP is slated to be finalized October 2017.

4. Regional Truck Routes Jonathan Unger, NCTCOG

In the interest of time, this presentation will be given at the next RFAC meeting.

5. Critical Freight Corridors Update Mike Johnson, NCTCOG

Mike Johnson reviewed the Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) designation requirements along with the regional performance-based planning tools designed to align the Regional Critical Freight Corridor System goals with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the Ten Year Plan.

With feedback received from the Committee, in February 2017, staff scored potential corridors using a qualitative and quantitative approach. This led to the identification of approximately 100 miles of CUFCs. These corridors were presented to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the Regional Transportation Council and approved April 2017. The CUFCs were subsequently submitted to TxDOT for inclusion in the Texas Freight Mobility Plan. Staff will work with TxDOT to finalize the 2017 CUFCs and begin considering potential new corridors for 2018 designations.

6. General Discussion/Announcements All

There was some discussion regarding underground freight initiatives and applicable design standards. Others mentioned the viability of truck-only corridors and idling emissions at truck stops. Having heard no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

More information is available at www.nctcog.org/rfac.