



MEETING SUMMARY

Regional Freight Advisory Committee North Central Texas Council of Governments October 2, 2018 12:30 pm-2:00 pm

The Regional Freight Advisory Committee (RFAC) convened at 12:30 p.m. on October 2, 2018, at NCTCOG Offices.

Attendees

Steve Boecking, Hillwood
Ethan Boyd, NCTCOG
Jason Brown, NCTCOG
Huong Duong, NCTCOG
Kale Driemeier, TxDOT
Jose Grimaldo, NCTCOG
Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG
Mike Johnson, NCTCOG
Gus Khankarli, UTA
Jeff Neal, NCTCOG
Donald Parker, NCTCOG
Mark Rhea, Frozen Food Express
Allan Rutter, TTI
Seyed Mohsen Shahandashti, UTA
Travis Attanusio, City of Haslett
Mike Rader, Prime Rail Interests
Linda Pavlik, Representing City of Ennis

Meeting Summary Outline

1. Welcome/Previous Meeting Recap
2. BUILD Grant Applications
3. Air Quality, Volkswagen Update
4. TxDOT Truck Parking Survey
5. General Discussions/Announcements

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

Jeff Hathcock opened the meeting with a brief recap of the April 24 meeting highlighting the logistics case study presented by students from the University of North Texas.

2. BUILD Grant Applications, Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Jeff Neal presented a program overview of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program, from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). The maximum award for any single project will be \$25 million for urban projects and \$5 million for rural projects. This past July, NCTCOG staff submitted grant applications for three projects that met the merit criteria for economic competitiveness, environmental protection, innovation, and benefit-cost analysis, among others. Regional Project Selection Methodology included selecting projects in both the East and West sub-regions; identifying partnership opportunities with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), other transportation providers, and/or local governments; analyzing locations with potential to maximize non-Federal revenue leverage, and determining significant economic development opportunities with needed

transportation catalysts. Projects submitted for grant funding consideration included IH 635 East, Alliance Texas/Haslet Accessibility Improvement Project, and the Trinity Railway Express Multimodal Improvements. The BUILD Awards granted will be announced by the USDOT in December 2018.

3. Air Quality, Volkswagen Update, Nancy Luong, NCTCOG

Nancy Luong presented an update on Air Quality and the Volkswagen Settlement. The air quality attainment goal for North Central Texas is set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and according to the US EPA, "National Ambient Air Quality Standards attainment is reached when, at each monitor, the *Design Value* (three-year average of the annual fourth-highest daily maximum eight-hour average ozone concentration) is equal to or less than 70 parts per billion(ppb)." Ten counties in North Central Texas are currently in nonattainment for ozone. However, the eight-hour ozone historical trends continue to show improvements as a result of ongoing emissions reduction initiatives, transportation control measures and local strategies.

Federally-designated Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) corridors have been designated by the Federal Highway Administration. The intent is to establish infrastructure at 150-mile intervals to help advance alternative fuel usage and reduce emissions. Nancy illustrated a map of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana highlighting the designated CNG and LNG corridors.

Other air quality improvement initiatives include multiple funding opportunities for medium/heavy-duty vehicles and other programs offered through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Volkswagen total settlement to date is \$14.7 billion with \$2.7 billion available through the Environmental Mitigation Trust distributed to states. The TCEQ is the lead agency for the State of Texas who will manage and distribute funding to improve air quality by replacing and repowering diesel vehicles and making improvements to equipment.

4. TxDOT Truck Parking Survey, Kale Driemeier, TxDOT

Kale Driemeier briefed the Committee on TxDOT's initiative to "assess current design practices for infrastructure components on the Texas Multimodal Freight Network...to improve performance factors such as safety, reliability, and asset preservation." A component of the initiative is to facilitate a truck parking survey designed to assess and improve parking infrastructure for truck drivers moving freight through the state. Kale stressed the importance of survey participation from stakeholder carriers and drivers. TxDOT is hosting 19 workshops statewide beginning November 27, 2018, and ending February 7, 2019. The survey is available at <http://www.movetexasfreight.com>.

5. General Discussion and Announcements

Staff expressed their appreciation for Committee involvement and input and noted the next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2019.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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