

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
January 9, 2020

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 1:00 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The following members or representatives were present: B. Adam McGough (representing Tennell Atkins), Richard E. Aubin, David Blewett, Mohamed Bur, Loyl C. Bussell, Chris Watts (representing Dianne Costa), Theresa Daniel, Nick Genua (representing Jeff Davis), Pat Deen, Rudy Durham, Devan Allen (representing Gary Fickes), Rick Grady, Lane Grayson, Roger Harmon, Ivan Hughes, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jungus Jordan, John Keating, Lee M. Kleinman, Mike Leyman, David Magness, Curtistene McCowan, William Meadows, Robert Miklos, Cary Moon, Barbara Odom-Wesley, John Ryan, Stephen Terrell, Jeremy Tompkins, T. Oscar Trevino Jr., William Tsao, Paul N. Wageman, Dennis Webb, Duncan Webb, Chad West, W. Jeff Williams, and Ann Zadeh.

Others present at the meeting were: Amira Abdauah, Angela Alcedo, Vickie Alexander, Nick Allen, Joe Atwood, Melissa Baker, Tom Bamonte, Terry Barber, Jay Barksdale, Carli Baylor, Emily Beckham, Natalie Bettger, Brandi Bird, Alberta Blair, Amanda Boone, David Boski, Sheri Boyd, Bob Brown, Ian Bryant, Marrk Callier, Kristen Camareno, Jack Carr, Molly Carroll, Angie Carson, Ying Cheng, Lori Clark, Ceason Clemens, Nancy Cline, Mike Curtis, Clarence Daugherty, Brian Dell, Sam Dennehy, Edie Diaz, Chad Edwards, Sal Espino, Kevin Feldt, Ann Foss, Michael Gage, Mike Galizio, Christie Gotti, Rebekah Hernandez, David Hill, Robert Hinkle, Amy Hodges, Kristina Holcomb, Matthew Holzapfel, Terry Hughes, Breanne Jackson, Brian Jahn, Amy Johnson, Tom Johnson, Shannon Joski, Megan Keohen, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Paul Knippel, Audrey Koehler, Tom Krampitz, Dan Lamers, April Leger, Eron Linn, Ramiro Lopez, Paul Luedtke, Steve McCullough, Bill Meadows, Keith Melton, R. Craig Miser, Mindy Mize, Collin Moffett, Cesar Molina, Rebecca Montgomery, Erin Moore, Michael Morris, Elizabeth Mow, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Vanna Ngo, Paul Paine, James Paris, Dipak Patel, Brinton Payne, Michael Peters, John Polster, James Powell, Ezra Pratt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Chris Reed, Rebecca Rodriguez, Kyle Roy, Greg Royster, Steve Salin, Josh Shane, Lori Shelton, Walter Shumac, Samuel Simmons, Randy Skinner, Chelsey Smith, Paul Stevens, Shannon Stevenson, Marty Stewart, Kevin Strength, Dean Stuller, Teresa Taitt, Gary Thomas, Lauren Trimble, Paulette Vanderkamp, Dan Vedral, Lisa Walzl, Mitzi Ward, Brendon Wheeler, Douglas Wiersig, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, Ed Wueste, and Phil Yerby

1. **Opportunity for the Public to Speak on Today's Agenda: Consistent with HB 2840:** This item allows members of the public an opportunity to give input on agenda items. Speaker Request Cards were made available, and those interested in providing public input were asked to complete a card and provide to staff. Regional Transportation Council Chair Andy Eads asked if there were any public comments. No members of the public chose to speak at the meeting or provide written comments to staff.
2. **Approval of the December 12, 2019, Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 2. Rick Grady (M); Theresa Daniel (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** The following item was included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 3.1. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** Regional Transportation Council approval of revisions to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and

other planning/administrative documents with TIP-related changes was requested. February 2020 revisions to the 2019-2022 TIP were provided in Electronic Item 3.1.

Jungus Jordan (M); Curtistene McCowan (S); The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to the Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Lori Clark presented Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Fleet Recognition Awards. Bronze, silver, and gold awardees were recognized at the meeting and identified in Electronic Item 4.1. Michael Morris reviewed items in the Director of Transportation Report. He noted the region has been shortlisted as part of the competition for the Virgin Hyperloop One (VHO) Certification Center. The deadline for the next phase of the competition is February 28, 2020. Staff continues to engage the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Governor's Office, as well as host meetings with VHO and schedule trips to the test facility in Nevada and the VHO office in Los Angeles. Staff is also working with the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair to determine the appropriate attendees. The February 13, 2020, RTC meeting will be postponed to 10 am on February 27, 2020, the day prior to the submittal deadline. This will allow staff to present information to the RTC without providing details that will be included in the proposal too far in advance of the deadline. The February 27 meeting agenda will contain action items only and will also include next steps with TxDOT. Staff will email members to confirm their ability to attend the February 27 meeting. In addition, Mr. Morris discussed correspondence in Electronic Item 4.2 related to expediting the three interchanges in the City of Irving. He noted efforts are underway by all parties to let the project as quickly as possible. In addition, he discussed transit studies funded by the RTC in Collin County, Southern Dallas County, and in cities within Tarrant County. Request for Proposals for these studies are due January 24, 2020. Mr. Morris clarified that RTC New Member Orientation will proceed on February 13, 2020, at 11 am. All members were invited to attend. Current air quality funding opportunities for vehicles were provided at www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle, and upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities events were provided at www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings. December online input opportunity minutes were provided in Electronic Item 4.3. A January online input opportunity notice was provided in Electronic Item 4.4. Electronic Item 4.5 contained the current Public Comments Report. Recent correspondence was provided in Electronic Item 4.6, recent news articles in Electronic Item 4.7, and recent press releases in Electronic Item 4.8. Reference Item 4.9, distributed at the meeting, contained information about a funding opportunity for projects that reduce emissions from existing fleets of older diesel vehicles. Transportation partner progress reports were distributed at the meeting. Michael Morris recognized Stan Pickett for his service on the Regional Transportation Council. Several members thanked Mr. Pickett for his leadership and spirit of regionalism on IH 635E.
5. **Draft Rules for Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings (HB 2840):** Amanda Wilson presented draft Rules for Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Meetings. As a reminder, HB 2840 took effect on September 1, 2019, and requires governmental bodies to allow members of the public to make comments to a governmental body before or during the body's consideration of an item. A governmental body may adopt reasonable rules regarding public comments, including rules that limit the amount of time each member of the public can comment. If no simultaneous translation equipment is used, a member of the public using a translator must be given double the amount of time to comment than others. A governmental body may not prohibit public criticism of the body. Ms. Wilson noted that the Transportation Department implemented public comments beginning with the September 2019 RTC meeting and

continues to use informal guidelines to implement the process. To date, no members of the public have taken an opportunity to comment to the RTC directly. Draft rules have been developed and were provided in Electronic item 5.1. The intent of the process is to hear from the public directly regarding their views on RTC items and promote an orderly and fair process to do so. Staff proposed to have a single public comment period following the pledges and before any action items, similar to Agenda Item 1 on agendas since September 2019. Public comments will be taken on any agenda item. Draft rules establish a three-minute time limit; six-minute time limit if using a translator. Large delegations may be encouraged to have one spokesperson speak for the group, with a five-minute time limit provided; ten minutes if using a translator. Translation will be provided if requested 72 hours in advance. In addition, provisions are included for warning speakers when time has exhausted or if removal of a speaker is necessary. A Speaker Request Card, provided in Electronic Item 5.2, must be completed prior to the start of the RTC meeting. The card also provides an opportunity for written comments rather than speaking at the meeting. Ms. Wilson noted that in development of the draft rules, staff benchmarked local governments in the region as well as other metropolitan planning organizations in Texas on several topics and proposed draft rules are consistent with those benchmarked. The rules will be added to the Public Participation Plan as an appendix when adopted and to the RTC Bylaws when next updated in 2022. Ms. Wilson noted staff also considered room layout, and personnel and technology needs to effectively implement the public comments. In addition, she noted information regarding the opportunity to speak will be provided on the RTC website, as well as ability to request translation. Comments received will be documented in the RTC minutes. If written comments are provided, the comments will be provided in the monthly Public Comments Report. Ms. Wilson provided an overview of the schedule for this effort, which includes a 45-day public comment period. RTC action on the draft rules is anticipated at the March 12, 2020, meeting. Details were provided in Electronic Item 5.3. Barbara Odom-Wesley asked if there will be an opportunity for a person to register their comments for or against a topic even if they do not want to speak. Ms. Wilson noted the bill provides an opportunity for the public to speak to the body. However, the Speaker Request Card does allow for an option to submit a written comment. The comment will then be noted in the meeting minutes and documented through the public involvement process already in place. RTC Chair Andy Eads noted that written comments received during the Denton County Commissioners Court are copied and distributed at the meeting while the topic is deliberated. RTC Secretary Theresa Daniel also noted concern that the RTC would see the comments after an item was considered. Ms. Wilson noted this step is not outlined in the draft rules presented, and staff could include the practice of providing written comments received to members during the meeting. Rick Grady noted the City Secretary of Plano collects written comments and announces the number of written comments received for and/or against an item. A motion was made to approve staff to take the draft Rules for Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings, provided in Electronic Item 5.1, to the public for a 45-day comment period. Lee M. Kleinman (M); Rick Grady (S); The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Update on the Fort Worth to Laredo High-Speed Transportation Study:** Kevin Feldt provided an update regarding the high-speed transportation study draft report for the Fort Worth to Laredo project. This initiative encompasses metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) from the Dallas-Fort Worth region to Laredo, with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as the lead agency. The final report is expected to be submitted in February 2020. As part of the study, staff reviewed the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Texas to Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study (TOPRS) recommendations for corridors, technologies, and modes of travel. The project background

was highlighted and included three corridors that were recommended in the Tier I Final Environmental Impact Statement completed by TxDOT. Technologies analyzed in the MPO's study included hyperloop, magnetic levitation, high-speed and higher-speed trains, regional rail, and guaranteed transit. High-level criteria were used to review the TOPRS corridors, with 23 city-to-city combinations analyzed. Corridor types identified were greenfield, existing highways, existing railroad, and existing utility. Hyperloop technology with stops at all major cities along the corridor was the highest-rated alternative analyzed. The general corridor path recommended alternative is use of a utility corridor from Fort Worth to Waco, the IH 35 corridor from Waco to San Antonio, and a greenfield corridor west of IH 35 from San Antonio to Laredo. Study results indicated further analysis in a Tier II Environmental Study is warranted. MPO partners in the corridor enthusiastically support connecting the various regions. They have also expressed concerns regarding the need for public funding, construction costs, the project timeline, maturity and expectation of the technology, and the availability of existing rights of way to emerging and new technologies. Michael Morris discussed interest of the MPOs to advance transportation between Fort Worth and Laredo. He noted staff will need 60-90 days to engage the other MPOs regarding partnership efforts to approach the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) and request that the project advance into a Tier II Environmental Study since the project spans several regions within the state. He added the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be asked to formally endorse moving forward to see Governor and TxDOT approval to move to a Tier II project as part of next steps for the project. RTC Chair Andy Eads asked about the opinions of the other MPOs. Mr. Feldt indicated the impacted MPOs are in favor of the project. Lee M. Kleinman asked if the impacted MPOs are aware the next step in the process is a Tier II Environmental Study. Mr. Morris noted they are aware of the basic steps and concerns expressed are reflective of their engagement with the community and stakeholders. Mr. Kleinman also asked if connection north to Oklahoma City has been considered and if there is an institutional structure to engage another nation regarding service to Monterrey. Staff noted volume to Oklahoma City does not warrant high-speed transportation and the TOPRS recommendations was for conventional intercity rail at a higher speed. Regarding connection to Monterrey, Mr. Morris noted the conversation with the TTC should include a request for the nation and state to engage another nation regarding seamless service to Monterrey. This would be part of a resolution or position to be brought back to the RTC for consideration. The economic impact to the State of connecting to Monterrey is significant and the French have said that demand to Monterrey would pay for service from Monterrey to San Antonio. RTC Secretary Theresa Daniel asked if the proposed model would include the MPOs in the corridor working together. Mr. Morris suggested that local elected officials on MPOs from those six communities come together to bring a common set of resolutions and position to the TTC. Secretary Daniel asked if the strategy leaves the door open for expansion south to Monterrey and north to Saint Louis. Mr. Morris noted staff will bring to the RTC the Mobility Plan recommendations for high-speed and higher-speed rail at a future meeting.

- 7. Next Steps with the Texas Department of Transportation and 10-Year Unified Transportation Program:** Michael Morris presented the latest schedule and process to formulate the Unified Transportation Program (UTP), as well as information on the comprehensive development agreements and P3 procurements. Instruction from the State of Texas is to submit all potential projects for the next UTP to the local Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) districts, who will then forward the list of projects to the State by the January 31, 2020, deadline. However, funding category targets will not be received until February 2020. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff is working to develop a project list that exceeds the estimated funding to prevent the potential loss of

funds during project selection by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC). Conversations are ongoing with TxDOT regarding formula allocation and tools needed to advance projects and complete the system of projects that are underway. Before the State initiates its public involvement process for the UTP, members will be presented with the proposed project list. Mr. Morris referenced an article, distributed at the meeting in Reference Item 7, outlining TxDOT's new philosophy for transportation. He noted as conversations continue and in order to meet the January deadline, staff is working on system constraints, potential safety problems and lane drops, and will submit to the TxDOT districts four potential tolled projects for funding should the policy be updated so tolled projects can proceed. In Tarrant County, IH 30 from IH 35W to FM 157/Collins will be submitted. The project previously included tolls and there was a commitment to rebuild. The second project, IH 30 from IH 45 to US 80 or beyond, is important because of the safety issue caused by the lane drop from the Downtown Canyon project. SH 183 from SH 121 to SH 161, which is not in the appropriate configuration, is the third project to be submitted. The P3 provider will be making improvements to the non-tolled lanes, but this will create additional lanes that are not being balanced with the existing staged construction due to the lack of tools on Airport Freeway. The final project to be submitted as a tolled project is technology lanes on US 75 in Collin County. Project negotiations are ongoing and currently Mobility 2045 does not include tolled lanes on US 75. Since high-occupancy vehicle users must be maintained, tolling is being considered as a contingency. Mr. Morris noted that Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the projects will be needed in the future if staff is successful in regaining use of tools. He reviewed a comparison of congestion levels and population among Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Dallas-Fort Worth. Minimal changes in congestion within the Dallas-Fort Worth region despite population growth is a testament to what the region has been doing as a team, the roll of tolled managed lanes, and the importance of regaining the ability to use tools. He also highlighted information in response to comments received regarding comprehensive development agreements, including the leveraging of funds and financial benefits of the partnerships. In addition, he discussed the managed lane system in the region. Mr. Morris noted staff expects to hear more from TxDOT regarding the path forward and will provide updates to members at the February 27, 2020, RTC meeting.

8. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle – Round 4:** Kevin Feldt provided an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle Round 4 application process. The MTP Policy Bundle is a list of 20 voluntary policies that can be adopted by local governments or transportation partners. A minimum adoption of 50 percent of the applicable policies is required, and successful applicants receive Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) that can be used to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. To be eligible, projects must be new and not contained in the current Transportation Improvement Program. Example policies were highlighted. Agencies can take action to adopt the policies through four types of action: 1) joint staff coordination, 2) governing body approval, 3) local ordinance, or 4) election. Round 4 of the Policy Bundle will be a two-year program, versus a one-year program as in previous rounds. TDC award amounts will be commensurate with the longer time period. As in previous rounds, all interested agencies must reapply even if they participated in the previous round. In addition, the same list of eligible policies from Mobility 2045 will be available. Round 4 funding assistance will open on February 3. The early submittal deadline is March 20. Applications received by this deadline will be reviewed for completeness by North Central Texas Council of Governments staff. The final application deadline is April 27, 2020. Action on the award of TDCs to successful participants is anticipated on July 9, 2020. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 8.

9. **Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Update:** Lori Clark presented an update on Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program funding. Approximately \$209 million was allocated to the State of Texas as part of the Volkswagen settlement agreement related to the installation of emissions defeat devices. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is responsible for administration of funds received through the settlement. Of the total, approximately \$31 million was set aside for statewide zero-emission vehicle infrastructure which is anticipated to be available in summer 2020. Organizations interested in applying for zero-emission vehicle infrastructure funding were encouraged to contact staff. Approximately \$169 million of the total funding was set aside for mitigation actions such as the replacement or repower of old, heavy-duty diesel equipment with the Dallas-Fort Worth in receipt of approximately \$33 million. The funding has been released in specific application cycles for specific project types. The first category of funding was for school, transit, and shuttle buses. The second category includes approximately \$8.3 million for refuse vehicles, and the third category includes approximately \$6.7 million for local freight and port drayage trucks. Approximately \$7 million in remaining funds is available for other categories listed in Electronic Item 9. Ms. Clark noted that refuse vehicle funding is available for the repower or replacement of refuse vehicles such as garbage trucks, roll-off trucks, dump trucks, sweeper trucks, and others. Funding is available at 80 percent with no federal requirements, and members were encouraged to provide this information to appropriate staff within their entities. Ms. Clark also noted that as of December 2019, the Dallas-Fort Worth region has outpaced the remainder of the State in terms of funding requests. Staff will continue to monitor how the funding is being requested statewide to determine if unallocated funding could be requested for redistribution. Regarding local freight and port drayage trucks, she noted that the Texas Commissions on Environmental Quality will be hosting a webinar on January 22 at 2:00 pm. Funding is anticipated to be available the following day. Staff will continue to monitor funding available through the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program and provide updates to members. Lee M. Kleinman noted that this funding is a challenge to entities who keep their fleets current since eligible model years range from 1992-2009. Ms. Clark noted staff was aware of the challenge and flagged another recent funding opportunity, distributed at the meeting in Reference Item 4.9, that allows for replacement of a few newer model years.
10. **Auto Occupancy Verification Technology Update:** Natalie Bettger provided an update on the launch of a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) detection and verification technology that will allow the region to transition from self-declaration and manual enforcement to a technology that verifies and automatically applies the HOV discount on managed lanes within the region. The technology will launch January 24, 2020, on LBJ East and on all other managed lanes January 27, 2020. An overview of the new automated process was provided. Users will get the GoCarma app that is associated with a toll tag and setup the GoCarma pass which is detected by the user's smartphone. If a user does not have a smartphone, an occupant pass will be provided for free. The app automatically recognizes the number of passengers in the vehicle, and the HOV users will receive the discounted toll rate. Ms. Bettger noted that communications have been sent to current TEXpress users that receive the HOV discount regarding the GoCarma app launch. Since that time, over 22,000 visitors have accessed the website through the link provided and approximately 10,000 have preregistered for the technology. Most questions received are related to occupant passes and general use of the technology. She noted that efforts are continuing on final acceptance and integration testing, implementation of a communication plan, and customer service monitoring. After launch of the technology, members will be updated on the go-live process, ongoing performance measures, and any customer service items. She thanked LBJ/NTE Mobility Partners, the North Texas Tollway Authority, and the Texas

Department of Transportation for their partnership on this effort, and the schedule for this effort was reviewed. Ms. Bettger noted that staff has provided answers to questions from the December 12, 2019, meeting and has received no additional feedback. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair Andy Eads requested that members be included in the distribution of the press release and he encouraged members to disseminate the information through their individual agency efforts.

11. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 11.1, Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes in Electronic Item 11.2, and the current Local Motion was provided in Electronic Item 11.3.
12. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
13. **Future Agenda Items:** Michael Morris noted that action on the Collin Creek Mall project will be included on the February 27, 2020, Regional Transportation Council meeting agenda.
14. **Next Meeting:** The February 13, 2020, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting was postponed. The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for 10:00 am, Thursday, February 27, 2020, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.