

MINUTES

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

June 22, 2018

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) held a meeting on Friday, June 22, 2018, at 1:30 pm, in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following STTC members or representatives were present: Micah Baker, Bryan Beck, Katherine Beck, David Boski, Keith Brooks, Mohamed Bur, Dave Carter, Johnathan Browning (representing Curt Cassidy), Ceason Clemens, Robert Cohen, George Marshall (representing Kent Collins), John Cordary Jr., Clarence Daugherty, Chad Davis, Duane Hengst (representing Greg Dickens), David Disheroon, Phil Dupler, Chad Edwards, Claud Elsom, Eric Fladager, Chris Flanigan, Ann Foss, Gary Graham, Brian McNulty (representing Ron Hartline), Kristina Holcomb, John Brunk (representing Kirk Houser), Terry Hughes, Paul Iwuchukwu, Chiamin Korngiebel, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Joseph Jackson (representing Alberto Mares), Cesar J. Molina Jr., Mark Nelson, Corey Nesbit, Jim O'Connor, Dipak Patel, Todd Plesko, Shawn Poe, John Polster, Tim Porter, Daniel Prendergast, Bryan G. Ramey II, William Riley, Greg Royster, Moosa Saghian, David Salmon, Lori Shelton, Brian Shewski, Walter Shumac III, Tom Simerly, Randy Skinner, Angela Smith, Chelsea St. Louis, Caleb Thornhill, Matthew Tilke, Mark Titus, Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize, Daniel Vedral, Caroline Waggoner, Robert Woodbury, and John Wright.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Melissa Baker, Tom Bamonte, Berrien Barks, Tara Bassler, Carli Baylor, Kenny Bergstrom, Natalie Bettger, Ron Brown, Angie Carson, Sarah Chadderdon, Michael Copeland, Brian Crooks, Kevin Feldt, Brian Flood, Camille Fountain, Mike Galizio, Jeff Hathcock, Victor Henderson, Tim James, Dan Kessler, Kevin Kroll, Dan Lamers, Sonya Landrum, April Leger, Nancy Luong, Karina Maldonado, Mindy Mize, Jeff Neal, Archie Nettles, Timothy O'Leary, Donald Parker, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Caryn Sanders, Russell Schaffner, Kelly Selman, Samuel Simmons, Kimberlin To, Whitney Vandiver, and Mitzi Ward.

1. **Overview of Remote Technology Instructions and Clean Air Action Day:** Charles Covert provided a brief reminder of technology instructions for those members participating in the meeting remotely. In addition, Whitney Vandiver highlighted Clean Air Action Day information. Additional Clean Air Action Day material was provided in Electronic Item 1.1 and Electronic Item 1.2.
2. **Approval of May 25, 2018, Minutes:** The minutes of the May 25, 2018, meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 2. Daniel Vedral (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 3.1. **Federal Functional Classification System Amendments:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of four amendments to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification System was requested. All amendments involve the construction of new roadways which are included in the current Transportation Improvement Program. Details were provided in Electronic Item 3.1.
 - 3.2. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of revisions to the 2019-2022 Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP), as provided in Electronic Item 3.2, was requested. Modifications were reviewed for consistency with the Mobility Plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP.

A motion was made to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. John Polster (M); Kristina Holcomb (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **2019 Unified Transportation Program and Update to the Regional 10-Year Plan:**

Christie Gotti presented information on project changes associated with the Regional 10-Year Plan that is being updated through development of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) 2019 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). She noted that staff is preparing an updated document containing changes since approved in December 2016. Edits include funding allocation changes since the initial target setting, year-of-expenditure/total project cost changes, revised construction costs, changes in funding allocations, updates from recent Regional Transportation Council actions on IH 635 East and SH 183, and project status and timing changes. Ms. Gotti noted that a copy of the revisions to the Regional 10-Year Plan will be provided to members following the meeting. She added that the revisions have not yet been financially constrained to available revenue, but the information has been reviewed by the TxDOT districts and is believed to be accurate. This effort is taking some time so that staff can confirm how carryover funds for Regional 10-Year Plan projects for each fiscal year are identified in the UTP and to confirm that additional increments of funding are reflected. A map of the existing Regional 10-Year Plan projects was shown. It was noted that although there are several additional projects in the document that will be emailed, in many cases they are projects that were placeholder entries and TxDOT has now reviewed and determined that it should actually be split into several projects. There are very few new projects. The timeline for this effort was reviewed. She noted that staff is working with TxDOT to determine the appropriate timeline to meet the Texas Transportation Commission approval schedule. John Polster discussed scope changes for IH 35E and asked if the changes could be included in the revisions. Ms. Gotti noted that staff has been working with TxDOT and the changes will be included. Members were encouraged to review their respective projects in the Regional 10-Year Plan and communicate any changes or questions to staff. The complete listing of the projects previously approved in the 10-Year Plan was provided in Electronic Item 4.

5. **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Discretionary Grant Program:**

Jeff Neal presented proposed projects to be submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for the 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program. Details of the \$1.5 billion grant program were included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity provided in Electronic Item 5.1. Mr. Neal highlighted project application requirements including minimum/maximum grant awards, project eligibility, and eligible applicants. The application submittal deadline is July 19, 2018. An entity must demonstrate the ability to complete environmental clearance design and right-of-way acquisition for the project being submitted by the obligation deadline of September 30, 2020. The maximum Federal cost share for the program is up to 80 percent in urban regions and up to 100 percent in rural areas. Mr. Neal also highlighted the merit criteria evaluation used to select projects proposed for the application. It was noted that an important aspect of the program is the consideration of the ability for a project to generate non-federal revenue for transportation investments. In addition, the methodology for regional project selection was reviewed. Staff identified projects in both the eastern and western subregions, projects with potential partnership opportunities, recent project submittals, locations with potential to maximize non-federal revenue leveraging, and those with

significant economic development opportunities. Proposed projects for the BUILD grant application were presented. Mr. Neal noted that at the May 25 meeting, staff proposed a south Dallas logistics hub project. After results of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant were received, staff decided to instead propose IH 635 East as part of the BUILD application. In addition, an overview of the 2018 BUILD Grant Program request was provided in Electronic Item 5.3. Since the meeting mail out material was provided to members, additional information was received from stakeholders on the AllianceTexas/Haslet project. Based on the additional information, staff proposed to increase the proposed BUILD request and total project cost for the project. Proposed projects and request amounts included: 1) IH 635 East for \$25 million, 2) Alliance Texas/Haslet accessibility improvements for \$20 million, and 3) Trinity Railway Express double tracking/multimodal connectivity enhancements for \$25 million. The timeline for this effort was reviewed. He noted that the deadline for entities requesting letters of support for other local government projects was June 29, 2018. Mr. Neal also presented INFRA grant awards announced on June 8. He noted that \$65 million was awarded for the North Tarrant Express IH 35W 3C project. John Polster discussed the timelines associated with discretionary grant programs and asked if staff would place IH 35E on a list of projects for consideration in future discretionary grant programs. Michael Morris suggested that the Texas Department of Transportation district, Denton County, and staff meet to review the project to better understand for which grant programs it may be appropriate. A list of recent NCTCOG projects submitted for previous United States Department of Transportation discretionary grant programs was provided in Electronic Item 5.2. A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of projects proposed for submittal by the Regional Transportation Council/North Central Texas Council of Governments for the BUILD Discretionary Grant Program. Action also included a recommendation to the Regional Transportation Council directing staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and other planning/administrative documents to include the BUILD projects, if selected. Randy Skinner (M); Cesar J. Molina Jr. (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. Implications of Texas Attorney General Opinion on Proposition 1 and Proposition 7

Funds: James Powell provided an overview on the implications of the recent Texas Attorney General Opinion on whether Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 funds can be used on toll projects. On May 7, 2018, the Texas Attorney General issued an opinion requested by Representative Joseph Pickett. A copy of the Attorney General opinion was provided in Electronic Item 6. Regarding Proposition 1 article III, section 49-g(c) of the Texas Constitution states that "...revenue transferred to the state highway fund under this subsection may be only used for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring right-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads." Similarly, article VIII, section 7-c(c) of the Texas Constitution states that "money deposited in the state highway funds under this section may on be appropriated to construct, maintain, or acquire right-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads or repay the principal or interest of general obligation bonds..." The Attorney General opinion is clear that Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 funds cannot be used to fund any toll roads. In addition, the Texas Transportation Commission may not co-mingle Proposition 1 or Proposition 7 funds with other funds with no mechanism for ensuring that funds are spent as constitutionally required. The opinion provides a footnote that indicates that the Texas Department of Transportation potentially has the ability to segregate the costs, but that it is beyond the Attorney General opinion to make that determination. Finally, absent a definition of "toll road," the Attorney General was unable to render an opinion on whether such funds can be spent on non-tolled portions of tolled projects. Mr. Powell noted that the primary legal implication to transportation of the opinion is that the Texas

Legislature may move to define the term “toll road” in the upcoming Texas legislative session. John Polster encouraged members to remain vigilant regarding a future consideration by the Legislature to define “toll road” due to potential material impacts on the available tools for the region. Michael Morris noted that he will flag the need to get out in front of this issue early and the potential for the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and Regional Transportation Council to take a related position.

7. **Transit Implementation in Three Areas of the Region:** Michael Morris presented information regarding three subregion transit requests received from stakeholders in Collin, Dallas, and Tarrant counties. Over the past few months, elected officials and other interested parties have asked for assistance with a comprehensive approach to planning and implementing transit services outside of transportation authority service areas. In the northern portion of the region, the Cities of Frisco, McKinney, Allen, and Plano, have expressed a need for additional transit. Transportation Management Associations (TMA) currently exist in Plano and Frisco but more assistance is needed. In Dallas County, the Cities of Cedar Hill, Duncanville, DeSoto, and Lancaster are requesting planning assistance to get employees to employers at the intermodal hub. In addition, a TMA is also being requested. Cities within Tarrant Counties are also requesting transit outside the current Fort Worth Transportation Authority (Trinity Metro) service area. Pilot projects are currently funded for the Cities of Crowley, Everman, and Forest Hill. Most elements to be considered are similar in each request and include: internal and regional connections, focus on strategic implementation, near term implementation, increased transportation options, funding options, and private sector involvement. Dallas County is also interested in the movement of goods in addition to people. Entities are requesting an independent assessment through the Metropolitan Planning Organization planning process. Consultants will be necessary, as well as coordination with the transportation authorities to ensure that the outcome is fair and equitable. The preliminary cost estimate for this effort is approximately \$2 million. Efforts are in the early development stages. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff will be reviewing options to move forward, including inclusion in the Unified Planning Work Program and meeting with transportation authorities. Chad Edwards asked if NCTCOG has had conversations with transportation authority leadership. Mr. Morris noted that he has met with Gary Thomas and is in regular conversations with the Denton County Transportation Authority and Fort Worth Transportation Authority, but that future discussions are necessary. Surface Transportation Technical Committee Chair Todd Plesko noted that Dallas Area Rapid Transit is supportive of the vision for the northern portion of the region and looks forward to working to address mobility needs in the region.

8. **Travel Demand Management Performance Report:** Caryn Sanders provided an overview on items included in the Travel Demand Management Program Performance Report for 2017. The report included Try Parking It commute modes, the Regional Vanpool Program, Try Parking It Commuter Challenge results, Try Parking It 2018 news, and the Try Parking It GREEN Rewards Partners. Try Parking It is a ride match and trip logging program available for commuters in North Central Texas. Active participation aids in improving air quality and decreasing traffic congestion but also allows a commuter to earn points to use towards rewards by tracking their alternative commutes. Commute modes were highlighted, with carpooling being the preferred mode with nearly 18,000 trips logged followed by walking, telecommuting, and biking. Emissions and health savings for each commute mode were highlighted. Total calories burned for commuters in 2017 was approximately 3.6 million, with the highest by those that chose to bike. Overall, logged commutes saved over 1 million pounds (lbs) of greenhouse gas emissions, 760 lbs of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), almost

10,000 lbs of carbon monoxide, 125 lbs of particulate matter, and over 3,000 lbs of reduced volatile organic compounds (VOC). Next, Ms. Sanders highlighted the Regional Vanpool Program data. Vanpool operators include Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Trinity Metro, and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA). Information is also received from private providers. The vans are available at a low monthly cost to riders and can seat as many as 15 people. During 2017, over 36 million vehicle miles traveled were reduced through the Regional Vanpool Program averaging over 2,000 participants monthly. At the end of 2017, data shows approximately 304 vans were operating resulting in reduced NO_x and VOC emissions. Ms. Sanders also highlighted 2017 Try Parking It Commuter Challenges hosted by DART, DCTA, and The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG): NCTCOG I-30 Insider Commuter Challenge, DART Bike to Work Challenge, and DCTA Bike Everywhere Commuter Challenge. Results of each challenge were highlighted, including number of participants, trips logged, and incentives for participants. Next, Ms. Sanders highlighted current and historical Try Parking It GREEN Rewards Partners. A copy of the report was provided in Electronic Item 8. As of May 2018, 151 local business have signed on to be partners, and over \$386,000 rewards of goods and services have been donated. She also presented information on the upcoming 2018 Try Parking It Employee Transportation Champion Awards Luncheon on June 29, 2018. Awards will be presented to individuals in the public private and education sector in recognition of individuals that best demonstrate a commitment to promoting and advancing employer alternative commute transportation options. A copy of the 2017 NCTCOG Safety Program Performances Measures Reports was provided in Electronic Item 8.

9. **Safety Program Performance Measures Report:** Camille Fountain provided an overview of items included in the 2017 Transportation Safety Performance Measures Report. A copy of the report was provided in Electronic Item 9. She noted that the Federal Highway Administration Safety Performance Measure final rule requires that state departments of transportations and Metropolitan Planning Organizations set Highway Safety Improvement Program targets for five performance measures: number of fatalitis, fatality rate, number of serious injuries, serious injury rate, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. TxDOT and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) safety performance targets for 2018 were highlighted. The targets are based on five-year averages and are updated annually with a 2 percent reduction identified by 2022. In addition, NCTCOG has established a regional safety position that even one death on the transportation system is unacceptable and will be working with partners to develop projects, programs, and policies that assist in eliminating serious injuries and fatalities. Next, Ms. Fountain highlighted 2013-2017 crash statistics for the 12-county metropolitan planning area. From 2016-2017, there was a 4.87 percent decrease in crashes, with the highest decrease in Dallas County at 9 percent and the highest increase in Parker County by 6 percent. Fatalities increased almost 1 percent overall, with the highest decrease in Hood County at 26 percent and the highest increase in Collin County at 36 percent. The top 10 contributing factors for serious injury and fatality crashes on limited access facilities in the 12-county metropolitan planning area boundary were also highlighted, with speeding and failure to drive in a single lane as the top two contributing factors. In addition, Ms. Fountain reviewed crash rates for limited access facilities. For 2017, the regional crash rate was approximately 70 percent and reported per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. Crash rates for Dallas, Tarrant, and Rockwall Counties were higher than the regional average. Next, Ms. Fountain provided an overview of Traffic Incident Management courses. To date, there have been 2,917 attendees for First Responders training, 790 attendees for Executive Level training, 210 for the Basic Photogrammetry training, and 129 attendees for the Advanced Photogrammetry training. She noted that NCTCOG would now be reporting

on the agencies that have attended more courses since the last major update in 2013. Michael Morris discussed contributing factors for serious injury and fatal crashes. He suggested that staff add a slide identifying the 10 categories and how each can be addressed by one of the following: engineering, education, and/or enforcement.

Kevin Kroll provided an overview of hazardous material data for incidents that occurred along limited access facilities within the 16-county region. In 2017, 18 such incidents occurred in the region which is an increase from 2016. Related to the Mobility Assistance Patrol program, five agencies operate within the region. These include Dallas County, Tarrant County, private entities in the North Tarrant Express and LBJ Express, and North Texas Tollway Authority on its tolled facilities. Coverage has been maintained in the same limits as in previous years, with the addition of patrols on the newly opened SH 360 facility. In 2017, Dallas and Tarrant County mobility assistance patrols provided over 3,831 minor mechanical assists to drivers and over 28,000 courtesy checks. Other types of assistance included crash, debris removal, protection to first responders, and abandoned vehicle checks. Mr. Kroll also provided data on wrong way driving crashes in the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area boundary. Over the last five years, there has been an 11 percent increase in related crashes. Both TxDOT districts have create pilot programs to address these types of crashes. Also reviewed was data from crashes involving impaired drives in the 16-county region. In 2017, approximately 12 percent of crashes involved alcohol, 54 illegal drugs, and 34 prescription drugs. From 2013-2017, there was an overall increase of 17 percent. Mr. Kroll reminded members that 2018-2019 RSAC appointments were due by July 13, 2018. The first meeting of the 2018-2019 term was scheduled for July 27, 2018. Chad Davis requested that staff provided the performance report and presentations to members by email.

10. **Status Report on Hyperloop and High-Speed Rail:** Michael Morris presented information on the role of hyperloop technology in the high-speed rail environmental document on the corridor between Fort Worth and Dallas. He noted that staff would present additional details to the Regional Transportation Council regarding consideration of this technology in the corridor. In addition, he noted that staff also proposes that hyperloop technology be included in the conceptual feasibility study for high-speed rail between Fort Worth and Laredo. An action item on these topics is anticipated at a future meeting.
11. **Surface Transportation Technical Committee Officers and announcement of New Regional Transportation Council Officers:** Dan Kessler noted the proposed Surface Transportation Technical Committee officers for the 2018-2019 term to be considered for appointment by the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board at its June 28, 2018, meeting: Chair Kristina Brevard, Vice President of Planning and Development, Denton County Transportation Authority; Vice Chair Bryan Beck, Director of Public Works, City of Grapevine; and Secretary Brian Moen, Assistant Director of Transportation, City of Frisco. In addition, Mr. Kessler noted Regional Transportation Council (RTC) officers approved at the June 14, 2018, RTC meeting: Chair Gary Fickes, Commissioner, Tarrant County; Vice Chair Andy Eads, Commissioner, Denton County; and Secretary Roger Harmon, County Judge, Johnson County.
12. **Fast Facts:** Carli Baylor noted that May public meeting minutes were provided in Electronic Item 12.1. The minutes include summaries of the items presented and comments received on the topics of Mobility 2045, transportation conformity, strategic partnerships, and school projects.

Carli Baylor also noted that the July public meeting notice was distributed at the meeting in Reference Item 12.9. A meeting is scheduled for 6:00 pm on July 23, 2018. Topics include the Regional 10-Year Plan update and alternative fuel highway corridors.

In addition, Carli Baylor noted that Progress North Texas 2018 was distributed to members at the meeting and that additional copies were available upon request. An electronic version of the publication is also available at www.nctcog.org/ourregion.

Victor Henderson highlighted general public comments submitted April 20-May 19 in the Public Comments Report provided in Electronic Item 12.2. The majority of comments received were related to bicycling and bike month.

Karina Maldonado noted that in March 2018, the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW Airport) notified the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) of its intent to discontinue transit service between the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Centreport Station and the remote south parking lot. This project was previously awarded funds by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to operate a shuttle from the TRE station to DFW Airport to provide access to jobs and other employment related activities. The airport announced that service would be reduced by June 4 and discontinued by January 2019. NCTCOG staff is working with transit authorities to ensure alternative solutions are identified to meet existing transit demand. Additionally, NCTCOG is reviewing other funding options to identify other long-term solutions. She noted additional information will be presented at a future meeting.

Nancy Luong highlighted current air quality funding opportunities for vehicles. She noted that the Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program is open to the public and offering rebates on alternative fuel vehicles. Approximately \$8 million is available. Details were provided in Electronic Item 12.3.

Nancy Luong also highlighted current Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities events. A Propane Auto Gas Technician training is scheduled in Irving on July 31. Details on other upcoming events were provided in Electronic Item 12.4 and include the biannual meeting and fleet recognition awards on August 21. The North Texas National Drive Electric Week event will be held on September 8.

Jenny Narvaez provided an ozone season update. As of the meeting, the region has experienced 12 exceedance days and is at a design value of 75 parts per billion (ppb). At this time last year, the region had experienced 8 exceedances and had a design value of 78 ppb. Details were provided in Electronic Item 12.5. In addition, she noted that the technical support document for the 2015 ozone standard designations and classifications was provided in Electronic Item 12.6. The document explains how the Environmental Protection Agency came to the conclusion of the nonattainment area for the DFW region and Houston.

Ms. Narvaez noted that with RTC approval of Mobility 2045 and 2018 Transportation Conformity on June 14, appropriate documents have been provided to interagency consultation partners for review.

The current Local Motion was provided in Electronic 12.7, and transportation partner progress reports were provided in Electronic Item 12.8.

13. **Other Business (Old and New)**: Dan Kessler announced new North Central Texas Council of Governments staff members: Tim O'Leary and Archie Nettles.
14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for 1:30 pm on July 27, 2018, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.