

2.2. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**

Presenters: Rylea Roderick and Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: Since approval of the 2021-2024 TIP listings by the RTC on June 11, 2020, staff worked to finalize the project listings for submittal to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for inclusion in the Statewide TIP (STIP). During that process, a subset of technical corrections or changes was identified and made by staff to ensure that the listings were consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and met all federal requirements, such as financial constraint. The list of revisions is provided in Electronic Item 2.2.1 and consists of a list of changes that require RTC approval per the TIP Modification Policy (e.g., substantive limits and/or scope changes, funding revisions, and delaying projects by more than one fiscal year). Electronic Item 2.2.2 is a list of administrative changes to the TIP (e.g., changes to TxDOT Control-Section-Job (CSJ) numbers and non-substantive clarifications of limits and/or scopes). Additional details on the TIP development process can be found in Electronic Item 2.2.3.

In addition to these technical corrections made prior to the submittal of the TIP to TxDOT, quarterly modifications to the TIP are underway. November 2020 revisions to the 2021-2024 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 2.2.4 for the Committee's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination and financial constraint of the TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pavement and Bridge Condition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transit Asset | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System Performance/Freight/CMAQ |

1:40 – 1:50

3. **2021 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the projects funded by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) in the 2021 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), and a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the final project listings will be requested.

Background: In the summer of 2020, the Committee and the RTC approved updates to the Regional 10-Year Plan. The TTC approved the final 2021 UTP at its August 2020 meeting. Staff will discuss which projects were approved for funding in the UTP and provide a preview of the upcoming schedule for the development of the next 10-Year Plan and UTP. These details are provided in Electronic Item 3.1. Electronic Item 3.2 contains the revised 10-Year Plan listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Call for Projects to Reduce Diesel Emissions**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval to open three new, competitive calls for projects (CFP) to subaward funds through the Clean Fleets North Texas 2020 CFP and award rebates through the North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 CFP and North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP.

Background: Over the past few years, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been successful in receiving grant funding for multiple proposals submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program authorized by the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. Consistent with the awards and original proposals, NCTCOG is to conduct open, competitive CFPs to distribute funds. CFPs have been prepared for three different initiatives, under three separate EPA awards:

Clean Fleets North Texas 2020 CFP, awarded based upon a proposal submitted in June 2018 which provides funding to subaward projects to replace older, high-emitting diesel-powered vehicles and equipment owned by public or private fleets contracted to local governments in the ten-county ozone nonattainment area.

North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 CFP, awarded based upon a proposal submitted in February 2019 which provides funding to award rebates to replace older, high-emitting diesel-powered vehicles and equipment owned by private fleets in the ten-county ozone nonattainment area along with Navarro and Hood counties.

North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP, awarded based upon a proposal submitted in June 2018 which provides funding to award rebates for installation of EPA-verified electrified parking spaces and related infrastructure including electric capable kits and power

monitoring equipment at freight terminals and distribution centers that primarily receive heavy-duty trucks with Transport Refrigeration Units within the ten-county ozone nonattainment area.

A schedule and project selection criteria for these CFPs will be presented. These initiatives are an extension of clean vehicle and technology efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 4 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:00 – 2:10

5. Computer Equipment and Hardware

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to use RTC Local funds for the purchase of computer hardware, software, and equipment.

Background: Computer resources are a fixture in today's workplace providing an asset needed to accomplish daily activities. This is especially true with employees working at home in a COVID-19 environment. Each fiscal year, the Unified Planning Work Program includes attrition of existing computer equipment, computer equipment for new staff, and necessary software with associated licensing. Historically, federal planning funds have been the source of revenue for purchasing. As these items contain components sourced from outside the United States, federal Buy America provisions prevent the use of federal funds to buy these items. In addition, for staff to stay productive and the Department maintain services to the region during the COVID-19 pandemic, additional equipment is necessary to comply with use of workplace supplied computers and necessary hardware in a dual office situation. This dual office situation allows an employee to work remotely from the office while experiencing high quality network connectivity to workplace functions. Electronic Item 5 provides additional details that include \$650,000 in RTC Local funds.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:10 – 2:20

6. High-Speed Rail Status Report and Contingency Action

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a status report on federal high-speed rail approvals between Dallas and Houston. In addition, high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth is underway. A

contingency action will be requested for approximately \$1.5 million in funds for engineering purposes.

Background: By the Committee meeting, staff will be able to summarize federal actions regarding high-speed rail between Dallas and Houston. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff, with consultant assistance, is undergoing a Tier II environmental on high-speed transportation between Dallas and Fort Worth. The next public meetings (virtual) on this project are September 23 and September 24.

Staff will request a contingency action for approximately \$1.5 million to loan to Texas Central Partners in order to advance the engineering on the City of Dallas Floodway Extension in partnership with United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:20 – 2:30

7. Strategic Traffic Signal Program

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Marian Thompson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of a strategic traffic signal program and request feedback from the Committee.

Background: In 2002, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) began the Regional Traffic Signal Retiming Program in partnership with local governments. The program has focused on the implementation of traffic signal retiming to maximize the capacity of the existing roadway system by improving traffic operations. Staff is proposing a new approach for the evaluation of traffic signals and the implementation of traffic signal improvements as part of this program. Electronic Item 7 includes an overview of the proposed program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:30 – 2:40

8. Clear Path™ Technology Program

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Surface Transportation Technical Committee on the Clear Path™ Technology Program.

Background: North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has been coordinating with each of the freight and transit rail agencies in the North Central Texas region to identify the benefits associated with implementation of the Clear Path™ technology system. As outlined in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2045, passenger rail service is anticipated to increase with the planned implementation of new and expanded service

on existing freight rail corridors throughout the region. Increasing the rail networks' operational efficiency is key to expanding passenger service on existing corridors.

The Clear Path™ system is a technology solution that monitors and forecasts train traffic conditions in critical transportation gateways, such as Chicago, to help reduce train congestion. Clear Path™ is enabled by continuous real-time feeds of railroad train dispatching and infrastructure status data used to maximize the efficiency of the freight and passenger rail network. Clear Path™ technology will increase capacity of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) rail network and allow DFW metroplex rail system agencies to exchange timely, accurate, and actionable information on train movements throughout the region by facilitating inter-carrier operations. Implementation of Clear Path™ technology would advance transit operation opportunities as designated in Mobility 2045.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Transit Asset
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:40 – 2:50

9. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery and State Legislative Items

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system. An update on State legislative items will also be provided.

Background: Four performance metrics have been developed that will be tracked through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery process: 1) travel behavior response to COVID-19, 2) financial implications to traditional revenue sources, 3) benefits of travel behavior responses to areas of RTC responsibility, and 4) prioritization of infrastructure improvements that offset unemployment increases. More information is provided in Electronic Item 9. In response to data, meetings are being held with transit agencies to help improve their ridership. In addition, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has communicated four letters to the Texas House Committee on Transportation and an RTC Legislative Workshop will be held at 11:30 am on October 8, 2020.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety
- Transit Asset
- Pavement and Bridge Condition
- System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

2:50 – 3:00

10. **North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies: Research Project Funding Standards**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will discuss an effort to establish selection criteria and a process for providing funding for sponsored research projects on mobility technologies proposed by the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies (NTCMT).

Background: In February 2020, as part of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) proposal to host the Virgin Hyperloop One Certification Center, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved \$2.5 million in seed money to help fund sponsored research in mobility technologies. With the assistance of the Texas Research Alliance, the four major research universities in the region (UTA, UNT, UTD, SMU) have organized themselves into the NTCMT. Through the NTCMT, the universities will function as a Research and Development network for sponsored research. The NTCMT is intended to strengthen the capabilities of these universities in the transportation sector and attract mobility technology companies to the region and will recommend certain research projects for NCTCOG funding. The purpose of this item is to establish standards and a process through which NCTCOG identifies which research projects to fund out of the seed money approved by the RTC. These standards and process are described in Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

3:00 – 3:05

11. **National Drive Electric Week: Virtual Event and Local Successes**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Bethany Hyatt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will give a brief overview of this years' Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Drive Electric Week event as well as provide updates on electric vehicle (EV) trends and local electric vehicle successes.

Background: National Drive Electric Week is an opportunity to educate Texans about the benefits of EVs, including the important role they play in improving our region's air quality. The DFW National Drive Electric Event has been the largest gathering of EVs in Texas and second largest in the United States since 2018. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been collaborating with local and national stakeholders to produce a virtual DFW National Drive Electric Week Event, which will be held "live" on September 26, 2020. Other events in celebration of National Drive Electric Week will include workshops for local governments about fleet electrification and planning for EV charging infrastructure. Details and registration are available through

www.driveelectricdfw.org. Staff will also provide updates on local EV trends and will highlight successful projects. Electronic Item 11.1 provides additional details, and a case study highlighting a local municipality EV fleet is available in Electronic Item 11.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

3:05 – 3:15

12. **Curb Management Regional Planning Guide**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide on update on the *Curb Management Regional Planning Guide* produced by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as a resource for municipalities.

Background: Competition for curbside space continues to increase and change with the evolution of competing modes of transportation and new technologies. In response to this increased need, the *Curb Management Regional Planning Guide* was completed by NCTCOG in the Spring of 2020. The goal of the guide is to provide municipalities in the metroplex with the knowledge and tools to plan enhanced curbside management that most effectively balances the curb's many potential uses. The guide includes best practices for balancing tradeoffs among uses and tools to assist with curbside planning, whether just beginning curb management efforts or enhancing already well-established curb zones. The *Curb Management Regional Planning Guide* is available online at www.nctcog.org/parking.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

3:15 – 3:15

13. **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. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
2. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
3. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 13.1)
4. High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 13.2)
5. August Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 13.3)
6. October Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 13.4)
7. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.5)

8. Written Progress Reports:

- Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.6)
- Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.7)

14. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on October 23, 2020.***