PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on February 12, 2015.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Thursday, July 20, 2017 through Sunday, August 20, 2017. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

Transit Comments

Website & Email

1. Rose Bolden

We need more seats at bus stops on GASTON AVE ALL DOWN GASTON AVE

2. Connor W. Endicott

I write to file a complaint regarding one of NCTCOG member, namely, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Firstly, DART has managed the servicing and development of Dallas's public transit in a manner that significantly discriminates poor and ethnic communities. The South side of Dallas, which is rather impoverished, has, unlike the wealthy north side, no rail lines in it, and fewer buses that have longer times between stops. This means that the people who most need public transit in Dallas are given the least access and the poorest quality. This creates a de facto division between the wealthy and poor areas of Dallas, as the poor neighborhoods have to use public transit that moves at a snail's pace just to even get to the nice transit hubs in north Dallas. I don't see how this underdevelopment can construed as anything other than a purposeful ghettoization of ethnic minorities and the impoverished. Furthermore, the DART board has been making moves towards instituting a significant increase in fare prices, thus making public transit even less accessible to those in most need of it. The changes I would like to see are: 1 - A more equitable development of public transit so as to address actual needs of the citizenry rather than the interests of land developers. 2 - A reasonable pricing scheme that doesn't price out the economically disadvantaged. 3 - The repeal or reduction of regulations that require new developments to install a minimum number of parking spaces. Reducing the number of mandatory parking amounts encourages greater use of public transit systems and curbs urban sprawl. I understand that not all of these things are in the direct control of the NCTCOG, but hope the NCTCOG addresses these complaints to the fullest extent possible.

Response letters from NCTCOG are Attachment 1

Twitter

1. Let's instead invest in mass transit options so acres of parking aren't necessary but instead we can have acres of economic opportunities! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)
2. Cityplace station is a disgrace to Dallas. If #DART wants a D2 line they need to be ready to cleanup urine and profanity. – Eric Wallace (@ecrosstexas)

@ecrosstexas Hey @CityOfDallas @dartmedia @NCTCOGtrans @TxDOT @WalkableDFW – Eric Wallace (ecrosstexas)

3. W/ @TexasCentral linking Hou-Dal it'll be exciting to see #DFWCore continue to FtW. Next, okc-ftw-waco-austin-sanantonio then to Monterrey! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

4. Fluor Enterprises, Lane Construction to design, build Texas' proposed bullet train https://www.dallasnews.com/business/business/2017/08/14/fluor-enterprises-lane-construction-track-design-build-texas-proposed-bullet-train … @CityOfDallas @NCTCOGtrans – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

@LeeforDallas @NCTCOGtrans Or, companies will be ones to profit from taking private property. #AnotherWayToSay – #txlege (@TXlege)
@Txlege @NCTCOGtrans Tell you what, stop expanding the state's civil asset forfeiture. Then you can gripe about private companies doing it. – LibertarianRed (@libertarian_red)

5. North Texas will benefit from transit improvements in the near future. – Southwest ELGL (@SWELGL)


**Project Planning Comments**

**Website & Email**

1. Terry Millican

Number 1 on the list of traffic improvements needed should be - COORDINATE ALL TRAFFIC SIGNALS. Use the best available software to time lights dynamically. This needs to be done by a regional agency that does nothing but optimize our existing urban roadways. So much of our existing lane capacity is wasted due to uncoordinated signals and poorly designed intersections. The result is wasted fuel, air pollution and lost time and productivity.

**Response by Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG**

Terry,

Thank you for your comments. One project that the North Central Texas Council of Governments works with local agencies to implement is the Regional Traffic Signal Retiming Program. The goal of this program is to maximize the capacity of the existing roadway system by improving traffic operations through signal retiming and implementation of technology that allows traffic signals to be coordinated to keep traffic moving and improving air quality.

We are challenged within the Dallas-Fort Worth Region because all jurisdictions operate their own traffic signals. Coordination across jurisdictional lines also needs to be better coordinated. The program mentioned above focuses on major corridors that cross jurisdictional lines. NCTCOG continues to work with partner agencies to identify ways to better operate the existing transportation system and look for ways to provide a seamless system to the users.

We appreciate your insight regarding the transportation system operations and ideas to get the most out of our existing transportation system.
Please do not hesitate to contact us with further questions.

Response by Terry Millican

I really appreciate your response. It was right on target. Now the question is how to wrestle local control and funding of traffic signals from the individual municipalities and place them in control of a competent regional agency. Has NCTCOG had any luck working through the legislature to make this happen?

Response by Rebekah Hernandez, NCTCOG

Hi, Terry

During the 84th Legislative Session in 2015, Representative Sanford from Collin County did offer an amendment to House Bill 13, which proposed a study to be conducted by the Texas Department of Transportation related to a traffic light synchronization program and to consider the study when prioritizing projects. NCTCOG staff did reach out to the Representative at that time and provided him with information on our traffic signal retiming program. However, there were no bills filed on traffic signal funding during the 85th Legislative Session that concluded in May or the Special Session that concluded earlier this week.

2. Ron Whitley

Are there plans to alleviate the congestion on 820 at NE Mall where traffic merged going South to 820 S and 121? This area is getting more dangerous with traffic from west to South. Also is there any relief in sight for the continuing congestion On 820 N and S between int 30 and Trinity Blvd.

Response by Berrien Barks, NCTCOG

Mr. Whitley,

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

The Texas Department of Transportation is currently working on a long-term project that will address congestion concerns along IH 820 and SH 121 near the Northeast Mall. This long term project will be built in two phases, an interim project as well as an ultimate project. The interim project will help alleviate the congestion along SB IH 820 between Randol Mill Road and Trinity Blvd. TxDOT will be conducting a public hearing on the ultimate project in mid to late September/early October and obtaining environmental clearance and schematic approval by the end of October/early November. The interim project will let in December 2017.

For more information on the interim or ultimate project you can contact John Tillinghast of the Texas Department of Transportation at John.Tillinghast@txdot.gov.

Feel free to let us know if you have any more questions.
3. Elaine Laisure

We need I20 from Fort Worth to Brock, expanded or a New Toll Road. It appears the traffic West from Fort Worth to Weatherford, will have to get as congested as North I35 Traffic BEFORE you do anything. There is no other quick way around I/20.

Twitter

1. I support your rearrangement of deck chairs – R T (@waterhauler)


@NCTCOGtrans @NTExpress Got to start making that money ! – John Giglio (@skydrol64)
@NCTCOGtrans @NTExpress You guys are crazy with these high a-- tolls. One express lane by my house costs almost $5 to drive about 2 miles. F------- ridiculous. – Ministry_of_Truth (@Cowboy1brian)

@NCTCOGtrans @NTExpress What a freaking sham. – Joshua Thompson (@joshua_TdH)

4. The Dallas City Council this morning is discussing pulling its support for Trinity Parkway, which could kill the controversial project – Brandon Formby (@brandomformby)

City staff: @NCTCOGtrans and @txdot spent $40 million designing the road w/ assumption that whoever built it would pay that back – Brandon Formby (@brandomformby)

5. @TxDOTDallasPIO falsely told us that no highway improvements could be made in Dallas urban core until Trinity was built. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

@Wylie_H_Dallas @NCTCOGtrans backed up those lies. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

@Wylie_H_Dallas @NCTCOGtrans Why I ripped Michael Morris in open mike. First speaker. Brutal analogy. Got chuckles. – Larry (@LarryBrautigam)

6. We need these in Dallas, to get more utilization out of our highway network. Tagging @NCTCOGtrans to research this further. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)
7. Despite what @NCTCOGtrans tells you, Dallas actually has the best traffic in the nation. Even during rush hour. https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/national/escape-time/?utm_term=.83bbae95e0f8 ... – Dallas May (@1DalM)

8. How can we get @NCTCOGtrans to stop obsessing over highways and start addressing urban mobility more effectively? – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

9. RTC took action to advance the 635E project today. Thanks @NCTCOGtrans for your leadership on the innovative funding! – Judge Clay Jenkins (@JudgeClayJ)

Facebook

1. Today, during our monthly Regional Transportation Coalition meeting, the NCTCOG Transportation Department briefed members on a new site developed for constituents to learn about TEXpress lanes and provide data and other resources. If you have ever had questions
about what TEXpress lanes entail, their location, usage, and data, please feel free to visit http://www.nctcog.org/trans/toolkit/ for more information.

#NorthRegionalTransit #TEXpress #Transportation TxDOT – Adam McGough, Dallas City Council, District 10

Innovative Vehicle & Technology Comments

Twitter

1. Exciting to see #automated shuttle testing hitting road with hopefully a multimodal AV world in mind! – Greg Rodriguez (@smartertranspo)

   NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans
   We’re on board an automated vehicle for a test drive. •• for these in the Entertainment District soon. Can’t wait to ride to a game!

2. #AV test ride in @CityOfArlington – IUStudies (@IofUrbanStudies)

   NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans
   Look Mom, no hands! #AV

3. Transportation engineers now must factor in #VisionZero safety principles and equity/access issues with traditional engineering. @pkoonce – Thomas Bomante (@TomBomonte)
@TomBomante Why won't @NCTCOGtrans or @CityOfDallas embrace #VisionZero? – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

Facebook

1. Is North Texas ready for electric cars? We think so! Thanks to Lexie Houghtaling NBC5 for visiting with us and NCTCOG Transportation Department for your help! Do you want to learn more about electric cars? Come join us at National Drive Electric Week on September 9 and learn all about them from real electric car owners at the largest NDEW event outside California. https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=984 http://www.nbcdfw.com/.../Can-North-Texas-Keep-Electric-Cars... – Tesla Owners Club of North Texas

2. The past two months have been huge for electric cars in Texas! 310 cars have been registered since May, plus the newly tracked Bolt (5 cars) Spark (32 cars) and Fiat 500e (226 cars!). This brings the Texas total to 10,450 cars. There are now 3130 Model S & 991 Model X in Texas (an addition of 187 in two months). In North Texas, we have 1345 Model S & 388 Model X (an addition of 71 in two months). Thanks to our friends NCTCOG Transportation Department for the data and don't forget to see many electric cars at National Drive Electric Week on Saturday, September 9. Register now to view OR show at the largest NDEW event outside
Bicycle & Pedestrian Comments

Twitter

1. Vehicle crashes with pedestrians at Mockingbird and 75 as reported by @NCTCOGtrans – Dallas May (@1DalM)

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11th row – failed to yield right of way
@1DalM Correction: People driving vehicles crashes with people as pedestrians… – Jay Blazek Crossley (@JayCrossley)

@JayCrossley That is correct. My bad. – Dallas May (1DalM)

**Air Quality Comments**

**Twitter**

1. Level Orange again today. Consider carpooling! – Grand Prairie, TX (@gp_tx)

   ![NCTCOGTRANSPORTATION](https://bit.ly/9nC9vy)

   DFW-area ozone on 8/4 is predicted to be at Level Orange, unhealthy for sensitive groups.

   https://catee.tamu.edu/ #cleanair #energyefficiency – Tiffany Harris (@harris_tnt)

3. #DidYouKnow When vehicles like this @IMCwastDisposTX are dispensing such #toxins you can get them help @NCTCOGtrans http://www.nctcog.org/trans/air/smoking/formn.asp … – N.R. Goldsmith (@motsresponse)
Alternative Fuels Comments

Twitter


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Mobility 2045 Comments

Website & Email

1. Cary Fitzgerald

I just took your mobility survey and would like to add that hike and bike paths should be connect to all rail stations and some bus hubs. I would ride the TRE daily if parking at Medical Center was not an issue or if the stop was connected by bike path. Thanks and good luck!

2. Mary Hogan

The print was too small for me to read the survey comfortably. This "Comment" is even smaller. If this survey is for older people, you may not get any "takers."

3. Lou Ragan

Where is the five-question survey? I am fairly tech savvy & unable to locate it. I’m sure it’s something simple, but still no go. Please advise.

Response by Kyle Roy, NCTCOG

Mr. Ragan,
Thank you for your feedback, and for your interest in Mobility 2045. I’m sorry for the difficulty you had finding the survey link. The link below should work, and you can also share it with your friends, neighbors and coworkers. Please let me know if it works or if I can further assist you.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YP93FFH

**Twitter**

1. Want to give input on long-range #transpo plans? Then check this out. #Mobility2045 – City of Allen (CityofAllenTX)

   ![NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans](image)
   Drumroll, please. 1st survey for new long-range metropolitan #transpo plan is here! Have at it, folks: bit.ly/2tP93LZ #Mobility2045

2. Be heard! – Loren S. (txbornviking)

   ![NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans](image)
   Drumroll, please. 1st survey for new long-range metropolitan #transpo plan is here! Have at it, folks: bit.ly/2tP93LZ #Mobility2045

3. Give feedback on new long-range transportation plan. @NCTCOGtrans planners seeking input on Mobility 2045. http://ow.ly/xPA730elLlv #dfw – Carlos Flores (@carlosfloresfw)
4. @NCTCOGtrans is looking for your input on a New Long-Range Transportation Plan. Here’s the link: http://ow.ly/9LyE30ep6SD – Andy Nguyen (@AndyNguyenTC)

1. Do you ever have difficulty getting to your destination? How do you get to places in Dallas-Fort Worth? Answer five questions by the North Central Texas Council of Governments to help us plan the future of transportation here. Whether you walk, bike, take transit or drive, your voice counts. #Mobility2045 – NCTCOG Transportation Department
I've been saying the same things for over 10 years--it hasn't made any difference. – Nancy Wagner Johnstone

Crosswalks do not work or not enough time to cross to the other side. – Andi Champagne Morgan

Don't allow "EXIT AND ON-RAMP" every 50 feet. Use all motor-fuel tax for "ROAD MAINTENANCE". A "DRIVER" should get in line to take an exit, not exit from the far left lane at the exit. There is revenue right there. The only time I take any toll road is by force (the lane markings are clearly confusing. – Eddie Stephens

Is necessary to teach in general to All drivers how to Drive It's a Bunch of bad drivers All over Texas. – Miguel A Carranzs

Would love more light rail – Blake Ward

Raise the gasoline tax! – Jim Duncan

How is it that I cannot take DART directly to Love Field? – Trey Rozelle

interurban trains! – Gina Raye

I avoid dallas – Stephen Neumann

Dispose of the foreign owned toll roads. – Dan Rowell

2. Surveys are an important part of the planning process. Please lend a few minutes of your time to help out the NCTCOG Transportation Department with their #Mobility2045 survey! – City of Denton Sustainability
3. How do you move? Help the NCTCOG Transportation Department with this quick Mobility 2045 survey. Mobility 2045 is the next long-term transportation plan that is a blueprint for the region’s multimodal transportation system. – TRWD - Tarrant Regional Water District

4. NCTCOG Transportation Department wants to hear from you! They’re seeking public input on their transportation plan for the region, ‘Mobility 2045’. Take the survey today. – Keep Fort Worth Beautiful
5. Have an opinion about transportation in North Texas? Highways, transit, bikes, walking? Take this quick survey to help NCTCOG Transportation Department plan the future of transportation in North Texas: bit.ly/2vd2tlH #Mobility2045 – City of Roanoke, Texas

Fix 377/114 quickly. That intersection is ridiculous. – Jay Darsie
6. NCTCOG SURVEY: How would you improve transportation in North Texas? Help the North Central Texas Council of Governments figure it out by taking their survey: bit.ly/2vd2tiH
#Mobility2045 NCTCOG Transportation Department – City of Fate

7. Transportation is a population health issue, and here in Tarrant County the NCTCOG Transportation Department wants your help with our diagnosis. #UniteTarrant – TD Smyers
1. We've got all the degrees... 😎🌞#texasheat – DFWConnector (@DFWConnector)

2. It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Arlington, Texas! What are you up to today? – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

@NCTCOGtrans Waiting for the cool front to blow in 🌫️. – Southwest ELGL (@SWELGL)

@SWELGL Yes! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)
3. Back when a @FWStreetcar was connecting our city's neighborhoods. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

**NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans**

On this day in 1897, Downtown Fort Worth streets were filled with horse-drawn buggies. #HorsePower #TBT

Photo: UTA Special Collections

4. Now this is what we call a Throwback Thursday! – Downtown Fort Worth (@DTFortWorth)

**NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans**

On this day in 1897, Downtown Fort Worth streets were filled with horse-drawn buggies. #HorsePower #TBT

Photo: UTA Special Collections

5. Now this is what we call a Throwback Thursday! – Fort Worth Now (@FortWorthCP)
6. #bringbackthestreetcartrack – Fort Worth Urban (@UrbanFortWorth)

7. How about this for a #FlashbackFriday?! – Betsy Price (@MayorBetsyPrice)

Facebook

1. #StayCoolMyFriends – NCTCOG Transportation Department

   Johan Petterson COG’s got jokes! – Maegan Nunley