MINUTES
Regional Transportation Council
PUBLIC MEETINGS

Work Program Modifications

Mobility 2045: The Long-Range Transportation Plan for North Central Texas

Solar Energy: North Texas SolSmart Designations

Meeting Dates and Locations

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held public meetings as follows:

1. Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018 – 6:00 pm – Crosby Recreation Center (Carrollton); attendance: 7; moderated by Chris Klaus, Senior Program Manager
2. Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018 – 2:30 pm – North Central Texas Council of Governments (Arlington); attendance: 17; moderated by Natalie Bettger, Senior Program Manager
3. Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018 – 6:00 pm – Ella Mae Shamblee Public Library (Fort Worth); attendance: 1; moderated by Dan Kessler, Assistant Director of Transportation

Public Meeting Purpose and Topics

The public meetings were held 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. Staff presented information about:

1. Work Program Modifications – presented by Vickie Alexander (Carrollton and Arlington); Dan Kessler (Fort Worth)
2. Mobility 2045: The Long-Range Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – presented by Kevin Feldt

The NCTCOG public meetings were held to educate, inform and seek comments from the public. Comments were solicited from those present who wished to speak for the record. The presentations made at the meetings are available at www.nctcog.org/input, and a video recording of the Arlington public meeting was posted at www.nctcog.org/video.

Each person who attended one of the public meetings received a packet with a meeting agenda, a sheet on which to submit written comments and copies of the presentations.
Summary of Presentations


The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) summarizes transportation activities for NCTCOG’s metropolitan planning area, which covers a 12-county region. The UPWP is divided into five major task areas: Administration and Management, Transportation Data Development and Maintenance, Short-Range Planning and Programming and Air Quality and Transit Operations, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Special Studies and System Operations.

Most of the modifications presented address budget adjustments and fall under Short-Range Planning and Programming and Air Quality and Transit Operations or Special Studies and System Operations. There is also a modification proposing an additional $50,000 for continuing staff coordination on performance-based planning activities.

Both the Regional Transportation Council and the NCTCOG Executive Board will take action on the FY 2018 and FY 2019 UPWP modifications in February. Final modifications will be submitted to the Texas Department of Transportation on February 23, 2018.

Summary of Mobility 2045: The Long-Range Transportation Plan for North Central Texas presentation: http://www.nctcog.org/trans/outreach/meetings/2018/01/Mobility%202045.pdf

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is required by federal law. This financially-constrained plan guides expenditures of federal and state funds, identifies policies, programs and projects for continued development and represents a blueprint for the region’s multimodal transportation system.

The MTP development process maximizes the existing transportation system through infrastructure maintenance, management and operations, and growth, development and land-use strategies. Strategic infrastructure investments include transit, HOV and managed lanes, and freeways, tollways and arterials.

NCTCOG staff are working on the latest version of the MTP, Mobility 2045, and will incorporate latest project developments and planning initiatives into the document, including high-speed rail, modern people movers and emerging technologies.

Next steps include finalizing project recommendations and the financial forecast as well as hosting an RTC Workshop in February. Additional public meetings will be held in February, April and May. The RTC will take action on Mobility 2045 on June 14, 2018.


SolSmart is a recognition program funded by the Department of Energy. The program is made up of two components: designation and technical assistance for participating cities.
Solar energy is utilized in the transportation sector in several ways, including as a fuel source and to power infrastructure on streets and in public right of way. Regional solar benefits include abundance, a growing energy demand, economic and financial stability and air quality benefits.

NCTCOG provides assistance and informational resources to designated and participating SolSmart cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth region, including Denton, Plano, Kennedale, Cedar Hill, Corinth and Lewisville. More information can be found at GoSolarTexas.org

ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED AT MEETING
(Meeting location in parenthesis)

**Mobility 2045: The Long-Range Transportation Plan for North Central Texas**

Larry Howe, Citizen (Carrollton)

A. Funding

*Question:* Will the funding referenced in the Mobility Plan all be spent within the next five years?

*Summary of response by Kevin Feldt:* No, a transportation project has to be in the plan in order to move forward with the implementation process. We are also required to follow the State’s 10-year horizon requirement. We spread the money out over the course of time.

David Parker, Self Reliant Solar (Carrollton)

A. Hyperloop and bullet train in the Mobility Plan

*Comment:* You didn’t mention a hyperloop or bullet train in your presentation.

*Summary of response by Kevin Feldt:* We have a high-speed rail program in the Mobility 2040 Plan. Additionally, the environmental impact document for the proposed high-speed rail train from Dallas to Houston was just released by the Federal Railroad Administration, and public comments are due by February 20.

Also keep in mind we have to have a new plan every four years, and we update it every two years. We don’t know enough information right now to say what the transportation modes will be several years from now. The 2040 Plan does not have a technology section, but the 2045 Plan will. We also have to figure out funding sources for various projects.

Johnny Swaim, Citizen

A. Transportation funding total

*Question:* What does the total amount of funding in your presentation represent?

*Summary of response by Kevin Feldt:* The number doesn’t include local streets, but it does take into account state and federal roadways. We have to include how we’re going to fund projects, but the plan doesn’t really say what dollar is allocated to what project. However, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a shorter four-year program and identifies funding for each project.

*Summary of response by Chris Klaus:* The TIP is updated every four years, TxDOT has a 10-year plan and then there’s this Mobility Plan. Things shift each year and funding availability changes.
Travis Attanasio, City of Haslett (Arlington)

A. Backup plan for toll road funding

Comment: We’ve been following the Texas Transportation Commission down in Austin. You currently won’t receive funding unless you pull toll roads. Is there a backup plan?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: We’re working with the Commission to try and reverse the decision and provide a basis for why toll roads are crucial. We are trying to figure out a way to still include tolls in the plan.

Chad Edwards, DART (Arlington)

A. Arterial units

Comment: On the existing arterial unit map, you have units.

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: It’s a score we developed with the criteria. It includes population, arterial spacing, traffic volume, etc.

Question: Do you account for any roadway scores?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: No, we did not do that. We’re just looking at capacity improvements.

B. Draft recommendations

Question: When do you anticipate providing a draft of the plan?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: We will present a more refined listing at the February RTC Workshop. We want to allow the RTC a month or so to digest it. In March, we’ll request to go to our 60-day comment period.

Solar Energy: North Texas SolSmart Designations

Larry Howe, Citizen (Carrollton)

A. Utilization of natural gas

Question: Do you all have some examples of cities or school districts utilizing natural gas?

Summary of response by Chris Klaus: Yes, there is so much information available. There is a sheet back on the sign-in table that lists funding opportunities, and there are so many grant opportunities. The Work Program presentation referenced local money because it’s very flexible. The transit agencies also have a heavy supply of natural gas. We will coordinate with you and obtain the information you’re looking for.

David Parker, Self Reliant Solar (Carrollton)

A. PACE partnership

Question: Does NCTCOG partner with PACE?

Summary of response by Kristina Ronneberg: We’ve been working with the Texas PACE Society, but we’re fairly hands off after that. We also tell people PACE is a great option if they have it in their area.
B. Building solar systems

Question: Do you seek input from people who build solar systems?

Summary of response by Kristina Ronneberg: We reference a lot of RFPs, but we haven’t received a request to build anything at this particular point in time.

Other

Barbara Tunstall, Bubbl (Carrollton)

Comment: Bubbl is a safe and reliable service that provides rides to all people who live and work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Our rides are driven by off-duty or retired police officers who have been thoroughly vetted, and we own all of our own vehicles. We started in Park Cities and branched out into Preston Hollow. How do we become one of your partners?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: We don’t implement transportation services. You might want to contact some of the transit agencies.

Summary of response by Chris Klaus: I’d also like to reference our grant page.

Summary of response by Carli Baylor: I will also make sure to provide your company’s information to our transit team. If they can’t provide you with the information you need, they will find someone who can.

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Mobility 2045: The Long-Range Transportation Plan for North Central Texas Comments

Email

1. Trey

Hello, As a citizen of Arlington, I would like to request that the Union Pacific line running from Fort Worth, through Arlington and Grand Prairie, and to Dallas be included back into the Mobility Plan for commuter rail. Thanks!

2. Chuck Erwin

Alternate roads not modes. You cannot solve congestion by expanding capacity for non-congested mode. The funding for each mode should be an exact proportion to its trip share.