MINUTES
Regional Transportation Council
PUBLIC MEETINGS

Work Program Modifications

Policy Foundation for Mobility 2045 Recommendations

Funding Program: Sustainable Development Phase 4

Access North Texas

Meeting Dates and Locations

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

1. Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 – 2:30 pm – North Central Texas Council of Governments (Arlington); attendance: 19; moderated by Dan Kessler, Assistant Director of Transportation
2. Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018 – 6:00 pm – Haltom City Library (Haltom City); attendance: 10; moderated by Dan Kessler, Assistant Director of Transportation
3. Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 – 6:00 pm – Richardson Civic Center (Richardson); attendance: 9; moderated by Michael Morris, 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 Dan Kessler (Arlington and Haltom City); Vickie Alexander (Richardson)
2. Policy Foundation for Mobility 2045 Recommendations – presented by Kevin Feldt
3. Funding Program: Sustainable Development Phase 4 – presented by Adam Beckom (Arlington and Richardson); Brian Dell (Haltom City)
4. Access North Texas – presented by Kelli Schlicher

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

Summary of Work Program Modifications presentation:

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 related to the University Partnership Program. There is also a modification proposing $50,000 to upgrade video displays in the NCTCOG Transportation Council Room. Additionally, staff is requesting $109,170 of RTC Local funding for the Blue-Green-Grey Program.

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

Summary of Policy Foundation for Mobility 2045 Recommendations presentation:
http://www.nctcog.org/trans/outreach/meetings/2018/02/Mobility%202045%20Policy.pdf

Additional information specific to Collin County presented at the Richardson public meeting:

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. A prospering region, corporate relocations and congestion maintenance are some of the key foundations for this current long-term plan. Staff will incorporate latest project developments and planning initiatives into the document, including IH 35W Segment 3C, IH 635 Phase 3 (LBJ East), high-speed rail, modern people movers and emerging technologies.

Next steps include reviewing project recommendations and hosting public meetings in April and May. The RTC will take action on Mobility 2045 on June 14, 2018.

Summary of Funding Program: Sustainable Development Phase 4 presentation:
http://www.nctcog.org/trans/outreach/meetings/2018/02/SD%20Phase%204.pdf

Handout: http://www.nctcog.org/trans/outreach/meetings/2018/02/Phase%204%20Handout.pdf
In April 2017, a process to select projects via several funding programs was presented to the Regional Transportation Council. Projects were categorized into 11 programs, and project selection is proposed to occur in stages throughout 2017 and into early 2018.

The purpose of the Sustainable Development Phase 4 Program is to support sustainable development initiatives by providing funds for turnback partnerships and transit-oriented development (TOD) projects.

The Cities of Weatherford, Lewisville, Crowley and Irving have submitted requests to participate in the program. Staff is proposing to allocate more than $51 million in funding, all of which are federal except for the City of Irving, which staff is proposing to award Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds.

All partnership details will be finalized before the RTC takes action on the Sustainable Development Phase 4 Program in March 2018.

**Summary of Access North Texas presentation:**

Access North Texas focuses on transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. The plan, which was last updated in 2013, identifies ways to enhance or expand public transportation availability and efficiency to meet identified needs.

Much progress has been made since 2013, including a new transit service in Hutchins, a transportation link from Hunt County to DART’s Rowlett station and cooperative vehicle procurement. Staff conducted 14 outreach meetings and offered a public transportation poll in English and Spanish to engage citizens and obtain feedback.

Regional themes of the latest Access North Texas include availability, affordability, complexity and advocacy. Strategies to enhance public transportation in Collin, Dallas and Tarrant Counties are also included. The full document can be viewed online at accessnorthtexas.org.

Next steps include incorporating public comments, working with stakeholders to implement new or enhanced services and ensuring projects funded under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs are included in the plan.
Policy Foundation for Mobility 2045 Recommendations

Ian Henderson, Citizen (Richardson)

A. Alternative transportation funding

Comment: Our major issue is lack of transportation funding. I don’t like toll roads. Why can’t we find money elsewhere?

Summary of response by Michael Morris: We have proposed 15 different funding strategies over the last 20 years. I don’t think our elected officials like toll roads either. Congress hasn’t increased the gas tax since 1993. However, the State Legislature was successful in getting citizens to support Propositions 1 and 7. They give us tools, and we pick the best ones. In the absence of revenue, we’re going to do the best we can. We’re advancing the concept of only building toll roads in the most congested areas. We’re not the elected officials, and our local officials don’t increase the revenue.

Tracy Wallace, Good Faith Impact (Richardson)

A. Transportation assistance for patrons in South Dallas

Comment: I work in South Dallas and see the worst level of poverty. This plan looks pretty set. When can you all look at options for our area?

Summary of response by Michael Morris: It’s not too late to address specific needs in this plan. What are you looking for?

Comment: All modes of transportation for people in South Dallas.

Summary of response by Michael Morris: Give us your contact information, and we’ll set up a meeting. We have so many policies and programs we would like to see what we can do to identify your needs.

Cody Hawkins, Student (Haltom City)

A. Transit funding in plan

Question: What percentage of funding is devoted to transit?

Summary of response by Sarah Chadderdon: Mobility 2045 includes every single dollar spent on transit. We can give you that number, but I don’t know that we track local dollars.

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: I would say about 15 to 18 percent of funding is devoted to transit. If you look at the last plan, about $27 billion was dedicated to that form of transportation.

Summary of response by Dan Kessler: The majority of transit operations is funded through a local sales tax. Transit operations is also very expensive. If you look at the TEX Rail project, we rely on federal funding, which is also very competitive. Any time we’ve surveyed North Texans,
people generally tell us they’d be willing to pay more taxes if we can put a more robust transit system in place.

**Access North Texas**

**Nancy J., Citizen (Haltom City)**

A. Public participation

*Comment:* The public participation for Access North Texas is great. Are there other public participation opportunities?

*Summary of response by Kelli Schlicher:* In Tarrant County, we work very closely with the Tarrant Riders Network. They have a very established group that meets quarterly to talk about transportation. I can share contact information if you’d like to be involved. We are very pleased to have the connection.

*Summary of response by Sarah Chadderdon:* Access North Texas is a snapshot of an on-going conversation. If you aren’t from Tarrant County, we can help plug you into another network. NCTCOG coordinates with people all the time to find them the right contacts.

B. Equitable transit access initiative

*Question:* If people want to participate in the equitable transit access initiative, what are the options for doing so?

*Summary of response by Sarah Chadderdon:* RTC just approved that. We don’t know what it will look like yet, but we’ll connect after the meeting so you can become a part of it.

**Other**

**Ian Henderson, Citizen (Richardson)**

A. Conversion of HOV lanes

*Comment:* Has there been any interest in converting HOV lanes into main lanes?

*Summary of response by Michael Morris:* That is what we’re trying to do on US 75. We’re getting rid of the HOV lane. We have also demonstrated this idea on SH 161. We field tested the use of the shoulder during the peak period, and there was tremendous benefit.

B. Traffic signals

*Comment:* Is there some kind of technology to help manage traffic signals?

*Summary of response by Michael Morris:* We prioritize a signal plan, which lasts about three to five years. We’ve been to about 3,000 signalized intersections, and we’re adding technology so detectors can see the demand.

**Phyllis Silver, Citizen (Richardson)**

A. Traffic signals

*Comment:* We’re talking so much about congestion, and sometimes you wait such a long time at a traffic light just to go two miles.
Summary of response by Michael Morris: Sometimes traffic signals aren’t doing what we think they’re doing. When you have a concern, I encourage you to communicate with us.

Comment: Who should we contact in your Department?

Summary of response by Michael Morris: Contact our public involvement team.

Howard Maher, BikeDFW (Richardson)

A. Traffic signals for bicycles and pedestrians

Comment: Traffic signals are almost impossible for bicycles. I try to bike everywhere I go and approach intersections that should supposedly detect a bicycle, and they don’t.

Summary of response by Michael Morris: I would like to loop Karla’s team in on this. Sometimes the signal in dense areas should be driven not by the car but the pedestrian. We need to create a better system to balance this.

Raymond Aung, Student (Haltom City)

A. Vehicle occupancy

Question: Why are you all counting the number of people in each vehicle?

Summary of response by Dan Kessler: The idea is if you’re willing to travel outside the peak period with another person, we’ll charge you less to be on a toll road. It’s meant to be an incentive. More and more transportation is going to be offered like a utility.

Nathanael Wolf, Student (Haltom City)

A. Utilization of technology to count vehicle occupants

Question: Why is technology utilized to count the number of people in vehicles?

Summary of response by Dan Kessler: Technology counting is unique to the private sector, and we sought out institutions who develop different technologies they’ll patent and license. A lot of the same technologies help us determine thermal movement and capture if something is in place or not.

Taylor Hansen, Student (Haltom City)

A. Application of aerial photography

Question: How is aerial photography used in transportation planning?

Summary of response by Dan Kessler: Engineers use photos to look at things like drainage, right-of-way widths and impact on businesses and homes. We’re also doing a lot of creative work with satellite photography to forecast and examine urbanization rate.

Cody Hawkins, Student (Haltom City)

A. Environmental awareness

Question: Does the Transportation Department have any environmentally-focused programs?
Summary of response by Dan Kessler: We’re nonattainment for air quality, and we don’t satisfy EPA standards. We oversee and implement many programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality. We run the AirCheckTexas program and provide financial assistance to repair or replace vehicles. We also run the RSVP Program and coordinate electric vehicle and solar initiatives.

Nancy J., Citizen (Haltom City)

A. Land-use strategies

**Question:** How does the agency work with local governments to identify efficient land-use strategies? Does the RTC look at it?

*Summary of response by Dan Kessler:* We work on projects of all types of scope and scale. If there are areas of specific discipline, we’re plugged into them. A lot of us come from planning backgrounds and understand the relationship between transportation and land-use. We have no taxing authority so we don’t have control over land-use. In Texas, counties don’t even have land-use authority. It’s a huge challenge for us because there is so much growth occurring. However, incentives have really caught on.

Terri Palomino, Cigna Health (Haltom City)

A. TAPS

*Comment:* Due to mismanagement of funds, TAPS went under. It’s starting back up again, but how did that happen?

*Summary of response by Dan Kessler:* It’s a complicated question. Federal government had some responsibility. TxDOT had oversight responsibility as well. We were a partner with TAPS. We had a much smaller amount in the system, but it did give us some oversight responsibility. People just didn’t do the right thing. It’s a very complicated business, and they took on a lot of programs and projects. As soon as entities were made aware things weren’t going right, we put a lot of time and effort in to make things right because they were providing a needed service to a lot of people.

B. Time saved utilizing toll managed lanes

*Comment:* The toll managed lanes has saved me tons of traveling time.

*Summary of response by Dan Kessler:* We appreciate your comment. Please communicate that to the Legislature.
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Public Meeting Comment Form

Instructions:
1. Please mark the box indicating whether you would like to make an oral comment, a written comment, or both oral and written comments.
2. Please fill in your name and affiliation as well as the date and location of meeting.
3. If you are submitting a written comment, please write your comment on this form.
4. Please return this form to an NCTCOG employee at the registration desk.

☐ I wish to make an oral comment at the public meeting
☐ I wish to submit a written comment at the public meeting
☐ I wish to make both oral and written comments at the public meeting

Name ____________________________
Organization _______________________
Date _____________________________
Meeting Location ___________________

Please provide written comments below:

On the toll managed lane study when “removing” toll lanes, what did that mean? Did that mean removing physical lanes/capacity or removing the toll/charge for using those lanes?

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To submit comments or questions by mail, fax, or e-mail, please send to:
North Central Texas Council of Governments, Transportation Department
P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005-5888 Phone: (817) 695-9240 Fax: (817) 640-3028
E-mail: transinfo@nctcog.org Website: http://www.nctcog.org/transportation
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Name: Kristine Kerich
Organization: Refugee Services of TX (RST) - FW Branch
Date: 2/5/18
Meeting Location: Six Flags - Dr. Council of Gov's

Please provide written comments below:

Please include refugee resettlement agencies in your outreach.
As a member of the employment team at Refugee Services of TX (FW), I see 100's of job candidates being blocked in their pursuit of self-sufficiency due to lack of mobility. Other agencies doing similar work who you can reach out to are World Relief and Catholic Charities.

I'm happy to see the plans for increased mobility options between S. FW & the Alliance area!

Thank you for your dedicated efforts on behalf of our residents.

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☐ I wish to make both oral and written comments at the public meeting

Name

Organization

Date

Meeting Location

Please provide written comments below:

- alternate revenue
- automation of traffic lights
- number plates for bicycles on roads over 30 mph. (and stickers)

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E-mail: transinfo@nctcog.org Website: http://www.nctcog.org/trans
WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Access North Texas

Email

1. Tracy Wallace

Good afternoon,

There is currently a working group dreaming about better transportation not only for our elders but neighbors in general in the South Dallas/Fair Park area. Two of us will meet with DART this week. What caught my eye on your announcement for upcoming meetings were funding possibilities for transportation for elderly. I’d love to learn more and see if there’s any other information this working group could use.

Response by Kelli Schlicher

Good afternoon Tracy,

It was a pleasure speaking to you this afternoon. I wanted to follow-up on some of the resources I shared with you this afternoon.

1. The Transit Operations Team will lead a Call For Projects around February 2019 to award funding to projects that support transit options for low-income individuals and seniors and individuals with disabilities. I’ll have my colleague Karina Maldonado add your contact information to their contact list.

2. Access North Texas is a plan that documents the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes in North Central Texas. I look forward to meeting you tonight at our public meeting. The document is posted online for public review and comment.

3. My Ride Dallas is an organization that helps connect Dallas County residents to transportation resources and providers, depending on their transportation needs. Brittney Tree (btree@ccadvance.org or 214-954-4243), Manager of this project, may be able to identify some additional transportation resources in the South Dallas/Fair Park area.

4. I’m excited to hear that you’re interested in participating as a stakeholder to provide input on transportation burdens and benefits. We’ll keep you in the loop as we develop this effort.

5. My coworker Jing Xu is also working with Dr. Hamidi to conduct an analysis on the quality of public transit access to life-essential opportunities for our 12-county region. This project is still underway, but a report will be available later this year.

Again, I look forward to meeting you tonight.
Email

1. Kristine Kekich

Hi Carli,

I'm wondering, is the Feb. 5th meeting on Six Flags Drive a discussion on transportation in Arlington only? I am in Fort Worth and am looking for a meeting pertinent to my region.

Summary of response by Carli Baylor, NCTCOG

Hi, Kristine

Thank you for contacting me.

The February 5 meeting here at NCTCOG will provide transportation updates for the entire Dallas-Fort Worth region. In fact, one of our staff members will be presenting on Mobility 2045, which is our long-term transportation plan for the entire region, including Fort Worth. If you’d like more information on our presentation topics, they are available at www.nctcog.org/input.

Let me know if you have additional questions, and I’ll be happy to answer them.

Hope to see you on Monday.