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 Friday, July 20, through Sunday, August 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. The majority of comments received were non-project specific and included the Green Dallas/TryParkingIt Facebook contest, Progress North Texas 2018, multi-modal transportation and the new Conserve North Texas website.

Air Quality

Twitter


   Promote electric vehicles more. They're perfect for the DFW area and the traffic jams we have. I've been driving pure electric vehicles for the last 6 years and it's great!
   #DriveElectric @NissanElectric – Aροη Γλενσοη (@aarchel822)

Facebook

1. Ozone is predicted to be at Level Orange in the Dallas-Fort Worth area tomorrow. Children, older adults and people with lung disease, such as asthma, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis, should limit outdoor activity if ozone reaches Level Orange. For more information, visit AirNorthTexas.org #AirNTX NCTCOG Transportation Department – City of Bedford, TX-City Services
Aviation

Twitter

1. 🚴‍♂️@DFWAirport lands $180 million in federal funds for taxiway project https://www.dallasnews.com/business/dfw-airport/2018/07/27/dfw-airport-lands-180-million-federal-funds-taxiway-project … @CityOfDallas @Mike_Rawlings @MayorBetsyPrice @JohnCornyn @NCTCOGtrans – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter

That’s a big deal for the economic engine of our Region. @DFWAirport with @Mike_Rawlings & @MayorBetsyPrice provides great leadership and thanks for your work Councilman @LeeforDallas – willis johnson (@johnsonwillisj)
1. Trail lovers, get excited! The ribbon is CUT on @DallasCountyTx @DallasParkRec @DallasCoTrails @NCTCOGtrans the SOPAC Phase 4A Trail in east Dallas. This adds 2.5 miles to the 158-mile trail system! #DallasParks #getoutside – Calvert Collins (@CalvertCollins)

2. Man, @NCTCOGtrans can right off with this victim-blaming. – Joel Reamer (@pettyintrigues)
I believe this was Willie Brown’s suggestion to prevent pedestrian runovers too. – OrneryPiglett (@OrneryPiglett)

I can’t make eye contact with drivers who are not looking at me much for me. Enraging. – Joel Reamer (@pettyintrigues)

3. Swap Hand 4 #Safety!


@myTDOT @NACTO @NCTCOGtrans @NUSDTransDept @OakDOT @ODOT_Statewide @OhioBicycling @RIDOTNews @TXDF @cityofwspolice @Ohio_BMV @NHTSAgov @AAA #DOT #NIOSH_MVSafety #NIOSH @CTDMV @TxDMV @CA_DMV @MnDPS_OTS @Cyclingnewsfeed @WeAreHub #velo – Michael Charney (@DutchReach)

Facebook

1. Spent the afternoon at the NCTCOG Transportation Department for the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting today, and have to say, there are an awful lot of good things happening across the region!! Thrilled to hear the word “connectivity” being used by the folks that are making the plans and getting them going!! The coordination across cities, counties, transit authorities, private industry, stake holders, etc is mind blowing, and incredibly exciting to see. Awesome things are in the works!! Check out the new lane markings on Main in Fort Worth!! – BikeDFW
Glad to have some good cycling representatives available for accountability and reporting minutes. – Raynard Andrews

Iiii LIKE it! – Tony Cummings

2. Check out the results from the 2017 regional bicycle opinion survey from NCTCOG Transportation Department.

- People feel most comfortable riding in separated path or a protected bike lane.
- Besides the heat, lack of bicycle facilities (parking, connected pathways, showers, etc.) were cited as key obstacles to bicycling more often.

Full survey presentation (April, 2018): https://www.nctcog.org/…/2018-04-6-Presentation-Slides-ALL-…

Survey website: https://www.nctcog.org/…/plan/bikeped/bicycle-opinion-survey – Bike Denton
Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Twitter

1. North Central Texas Council of Governments @NCTCOGtrans visit @HyperloopOne in Nevada.

The Transportation Department at NCTCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth region.

https://youtu.be/DrOIYyZ4lko – Nefty Gonzalez (@NBC5photog)

I’d argue @NCTCOGtrans time would be better spent working with @TexasCentral. #HSR is a proven technology ready to work today!

Plus it can carry 6.5x more people! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)
Thanks for your comment, Loren! We'll make sure to provide it to the RTC. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Facebook
1. Self-driving passenger vans have now taken the road in Frisco! https://cbsn.ws/2LWZFyk – NCTCOG Transportation Department

I'll pass, thank you very much. Driving is freedom! – Brian C Mertz

Electric Vehicles

Facebook
1. Our friends at NCTCOG Transportation Department have updated their EV stats. There are now about 5,000 electric vehicles in North Texas and for the first time Teslas represent more than half!

See how far we've come since 2011 (239 electric vehicles)!
2. Just a reminder that our friends at NCTCOG Transportation Department are hosting National Drive Electric Week North Texas on Saturday, September 8, 2018. Please register today and join us! https://www.dfwcleancities.org/ndew

In 2017 we had the second largest NDEW event in the world with 155 cars.

We had more Teslas at our event than any other NDEW!

With so many new electric cars delivered to North Texas this year, we could easily be the largest event in 2018.
After the event, we'll adjourn to a nearby restaurant to celebrate!

#TexasEV – Tesla Owners of North Texas

3. Are you on the market for a new car? Consider an electric vehicle! One option is the Nissan Leaf and Oncor customers can receive a rebate in addition to state and federal tax credits.


Hey Grapevine residents, anyone want a new car? A really clean one that's good for the environment? – Keep Grapevine Beautiful

2018 Nissan Leaf: Power Up Your Savings

MSRP $29,990

- State Rebate: $2,500
- Federal Tax Credit: $7,500
- Oncor Customers: $3,000
- Total Savings: $13,000

***Garding apply. See your local Nissan dealership for details. Bring a copy of your electric bill to receive discounts***

Transit

Twitter
1. @RideDCTA @TrinityMetro get #onboard with #ElectricBuses the #CostSaving & #CleanAir is awesome @NCTCOGtrans @FTA_DOT @APTA_info – Shawn Eric Gray (@ShawnEricGray)

![Arik Ring](https://www.example.com/arihRing)

Arik Ring @arihRing
Imagine the #City Streets, Cleaner, Quieter #EV’s Yes+ #Electric-Buses!
fortune.com/2015/08/24/all...
#Climate #Solar

2. Now that's what I call sustainable! UTA wins national award for:
- Launching bike- & car sharing programs
- Collaborating on the clean-air campaign Air North Texas
- Committing campus-wide efforts to reduce water & energy use, & waste production & more!

![The University of Texas at Arlington](https://www.example.com/ut Arlington)

Now let's get @utarlington & @CityOfArlington fully integrated into either @dartmedia or @TrinityMetro ! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

Be expecting a blizzard in downtown Nairobi first lol #sgact #transit #sustainability – Prophet Mumia Le’on II (@mesonoptic)

3. We think riders will choose TEXRail for going to the airport without the risk of getting stuck in traffic. Plus, it's a very cool ride with a much lower price. @txbornviking @UrbanFortWorth @TarrantTransit @MayorBetsyPrice @CityofNRH @GrapevineTXCity @CityofFortWorth – Trinity Metro (@TrinityMetro)
I don’t believe Uber and Lyft could weaken demand at all. I just wish there was a comprehensive plan to connect all of the Dallas area! Accomplished in a way that I wouldn’t have to drive my car at all... – Robert Barkers (@BarkersRobert)

Definitely check out @NCTCOGtrans plan 2045 for a regional perspective on the future.

It's not as good as it should be, but it's a stepping stone. – Fort Worth Urban (@UrbanFortWorth)

I will check it out shortly! – Robert Barkers (@BarkersRobert)

Hi, Robert! Here's the link to the plan:
https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/mtp/2045 .... Let us know if you have any trouble viewing it! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Good Morning NCTCOG,

Is there any thought to a re-design of the 2045 rail transit. Looking at the map it would be beneficial to have a rail city ring around both Dallas and Fort Worth. (Copenhagen rail did a good joc of that) – Robert Barkers (@BarkersRobert)

Part 2:

The rail system just doesn’t look built for everyday life. How could I be apart in helping design what rail should look like or could we tap the local universities to do a comprehensive look into what transit rail should look like on 2045 – Robert Barkers (@BarkersRobert)

Apologies for the delay! At this time, there is no thought to a re-design of the plan. Rail recommendations were made based on partner system planning efforts and available funding constraints. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

We want you to continue engaging with us on future projects. Feel free to mention us here or send us an email at transinfo@nctcog.org! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)
Project Planning

Email

1. Michael Altman

Why is no attention paid to read during construction? Road are uneven and erratic design causing confusing and sure accidents with paths set to cross lines and misdirection. Last minute road close sign should not be accepted. Companies should be fined if 10 miles of notice is not given. More aware should be made to drivers to be aware of trucks and trailers distant instead driving to try to put race a heavy semi

2. Jeff Warneke

Hello Jeff,

My name is Jeff Warneke. I found your contact info from the December 2017 Collin County Strategic Roadway Plan presentation.

My wife and I are moving from Point Venture, Texas to Murphy as part of a career opportunity for me.

We are currently looking at a home that backs up to the South side of Betsy Lane between McCreary and Murphy road (side with the current green belt between the home and the road).

Clearly there is ROW for a six lane expansion in this area and the strategic planning document recommends 6 lane expansion along this east/west artery.

I was hoping you could help answer a couple of questions for me.

1. What stage of the planning process is Betsy Lane in?
2. Do you have an estimate on when the expansion would begin and how long it may take?
3. Will there be new noise reduction walls installed for properties along the expanded area of Betsy Lane?
4. Are there any relevant studies you are aware of that show impact to property value, good or bad, as a result of road expansion?
I really appreciate your input. We have a decision to make on a home purchase and trying to educate myself on any relevant items related to that purchase.

If you would rather talk live please feel free to call my cell at 512.203.9321.

Have a great day,

Jeff W.

Response by Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Mr. Warneke,

Good afternoon. Thank you for your inquiry regarding Betsy Lane, and I hope my response will be of assistance as you complete your decision-making for relocating to the City of Murphy. While I’m happy to provide any knowledge and readily accessible data to help address the questions you asked below, I would strongly suggest that you also reach out to planning/public works staff from the City of Murphy, City of Wylie, and also Collin County since they would likely have greater familiarity, extra background data, and perhaps more updated information to aid in your evaluation.

1. Yes, you’re correct that Betsy Lane between FM 2551 (Murphy Road) and McCreary Road has available right-of-way (ROW) for 6 lanes, and that capacity has been formally recommended in the most recent thoroughfare planning documents from the City of Murphy and Collin County. However, I wanted to be sure you were aware of a recent City Council action earlier this year that was a result of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) activities related to the ongoing Collin County Strategic Roadway Plan (CCSRP). Attached above, you’ll find January 2, 2018 meeting minutes indicating that in item #11 on pages 3-4, the Council unanimously approved Resolution #18-R-861 stating opposition to the 6-lane expansion of Betsy Lane through the City of Murphy. So, as of now the CCSRP and the Dallas-Fort Worth region’s long-range transportation plan…the Mobility 2045 Plan…recommends that Betsy Lane carry a maximum of 4 lanes between Los Rios Boulevard (Plano) and McCreary Road. This means that the roadway is ultimately planned to remain at its current width, capacity, and configuration in the area where you are considering your relocation.

2. While there’s no longer any planned expansion of Betsy Lane, the City of Wylie has recently programmed the reconstruction of McMillan Road between McCreary Road and FM 1378 (Country Club Road) as part of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan, and a portion of available Collin County
funds are proposed to be spent in FY 2019 according to the draft budget plan. The draft budget plan was presented to the Wylie City Council and made available to the public on August 3, 2018…and you can find the project listed on page 182 in the following link:
http://www.wylietexas.gov/Departments/Finance/Budget/FY%202019%20Proposed%20Budget.pdf. The Wylie Thoroughfare Plan indicates an ultimate 6-lane (or 120-foot) ROW for McMillian Road (as well as both the CCSRP and the Mobility 2045 Plan), but this upcoming project will only build the initial 4 lanes (with a wide median similar to recently completed Betsy Lane sections to the west). I don’t have a timetable available regarding the construction start/end dates for the project, but I would imagine that staff from the City of Wylie or Collin County would be able to answer that question more accurately.

3. Since there is no longer local support to add extra capacity to Betsy Lane, I’m not able to locate any future plans for additional noise reduction or other mitigation elements beyond what already exists along the roadway. However, that may be subject to future change based on how much additional traffic will use the corridor after the McMillian Road project or other proposed City of Wylie projects to the east are completed. Nevertheless, that decision will ultimately reside with the City of Murphy and whether or not there is large-scale public support for extra noise reduction measures over time.

4. I’m not aware of any localized studies that analyze changes in land values following a thoroughfare expansion project. Certainly, changes in land values over time are subject to variety of conditions and a wide range in economies of scale. I believe you may be able to obtain better and more precise information from the City of Murphy or Collin County regarding such outcomes.

Again, I hope this information provides a good starting point for your decision-making. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have additional questions, comments, or need any other information. I wish you the best of luck with your relocation, and welcome to the North Central Texas region!

Thanks,
Jeff

Twitter

1. In NTX Council of Gov’s 2045 plan, less than 3 percent of $42.9 billion in traditional federal and state transportation money goes toward projects built for pedestrians and bicyclists; less than 1 percent goes toward public transit. Old school thinking! – Bob Voelker (@TXUrbanMixedUse)

Antiquated thinking at @NCTCOGtrans is interfering with Dallas’ ability to attract high-paying, quality jobs. Our urban transportation infrastructure is a complete disgrace & leads to abnormally high fatality rates. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)
2. Commuters who travel through the State Highway 360 and Mayfield Road intersection in #ArlingtonTX should be aware of scheduled lane closures later this month that are necessary as part @TxDOT’s SH 360 Widening Project: https://bit.ly/2ndYWKO – City of Arlington (@CityOfArlington)

@CityOfArlington @NCTCOGtrans @TxDOT Adding lanes to deal with traffic congestion is like loosening your belt to cure obesity. - Lewis Mumford – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

3. @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit my concern is exactly what @keranews reported on. “The Council of Governments’ […] plan for North Texas’ future looks decidedly old school”. “Planning right out the 1950s”. – Robert Barkers (@BarkersRobert)

KERA News @keranews
The reality is that highway projects are much easier to sell in the suburbs than pedestrian, bicycle and transit projects. “It’s a vicious cycle,” says Dallas City Councilman @scottgriggsdal. “It’s transportation planning right out of the 1950s.” keranews.org/post/texas-cit...

4. @NCTCOGtrans what happened to expanding the 635?? – Steven Werner (@StevenWernerCS)

Hi, Steven! Can you tell us which section you're referring to? – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

There was a meeting to add two extra lanes to the 635 starting from the 75 all the way toward Garland for a half a billion dollars.
But I think it was canceled but I don't know why – Steven Werner (@StevenWernerCS)

In May, the Regional Transportation Council voted unanimously to propose to the Texas Transportation Commission that this project proceed to procurement (agenda item 5): https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/Committees/RTC/2018/0510_18_RTC-agenda-packet.pdf?ext=.pdf … – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

In June, TxDOT began seeking qualifications from teams interested in entering a Design-Build Contract. The request for qualifications can be found here: https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/debt/strategic-projects/alternative-delivery/lbj-east/rfq.html …. Does this answer your question? – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

My question is if the 635 East expansion is still in progress? I appreciate your responses – Steven Werner (@StevenWernerCS)

Yes, it's still in progress. Let us know if you have any other questions! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

**Public Meetings & Forums**

**Twitter**

1. @LeeforDallas has been asked to serve as Vice Chair of the Legislative and Finance Partnership subcommittee @NCTCOGtrans. I’m excited to serve with Chair @JungusJordan_FW of @CityofFortWorth @CityOfDallas – at North Central Texas Council of Governments – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

**Facebook**

1. Don't miss out NCTCOG Transportation Department's DFW Clean Cities Annual Meeting and Fleet Recognition Awards

WHEN: August 21, from 11:30 am- 1:30 pm
WHERE: NCTCOG offices in Arlington

Presentations Will Include:

- Oncor Electric on their plans to electrify their fleet,
- DFW Airport alongside Clean Energy on their experience with Renewable Natural Gas,
- Texas Volkswagen Settlement- Draft Mitigation Plan Overview
- and of course, our Fleet Recognition Awards!
FREE lunch and cake will be provided with an RSVP!

Registration closes at 9 am, August 17:
https://www.dfwcleancities.org/.../dfw-clean-cities-bi-annual...
#texasenergy #funding #energy #vw #naturalgas #rng #cng – Texas NGV Alliance

**Rideshare**

**Twitter**

1. Since 2.8 miles are driven 1 mile Of passenger transport, I think there should be a Based on the hours of the day, not necessarily just a blanket total market cap. There’s no reason you need as many cars at 5 AM they should at 12am-2am @NCTCOGtrans @StateOfTexas – Shawn Eric Gray (@ShawnEricGray)

2. All city’s @TxDOT @TTITAMU @NCTCOGtrans @USDOT should have caps on total #rideshare & #taxis there’s a reason why 2.8 miles are driven for each one mile of transport, #roaming for #rides #riders #pax #passengers. This causes #Congestion & undue #traffic – Shawn Eric Gray (@ShawnEricGray)

**Engadget**

NYC will cap the number of Uber and Lyft vehicles on its streets
engadget.com/2018/08/08/nyc...

**511DFW**

**Twitter**

1. Begin Your Trip Here: @NCTCOGtrans Launches Free Real-Time Traffic Conditions App for Apple and Android devices. – City of Arlington (@CityOfArlington)
2. Traffic in Dallas can be rough. Check out the 511DFW app from our friends @NCTCOGtrans for real-time traffic information! You can also visit http://511dfw.com or call 511 from any phone. #DALTravelTips #DAL – Dallas Love Field (@DallasLoveField)

**Facebook**

1. Shorten your morning commute with accurate up-to-the-minute travel info! TODAY NCTCOG Transportation Department launched the new 511dfw, a free trip planning mobile app and website just for North Texas! The app integrates travel data from other apps – including Google Maps, Apple Maps and Waze – with data from local municipalities. Learn more at www.511dfw.org – City of Lancaster, TX - Municipal Government

**Other**

**Twitter**

1. How can we reform or disband @NCTCOGtrans as a first step towards building an efficient multi-modal transportation system? – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)


3. When will @NCTCOGtrans end its dangerous obsession with highways and begin embracing best practices? They are doing incalculable damage to our environment and ruining our quality of life. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)
4. Hey Dallas residents! Follow us on FB & enter your name on the pinned post for a chance to win a solar phone charger ... & share #TryParkingIt awesomeness with a friend! @NCTCOGtrans – Green Dallas (@GreenDallas)

5. Healthy you, healthy community, healthy world. #ProgressNTX18 is here and shows updates on the performances of our transportation system. Request a copy at: http://www.nctcog.org/ourregion – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)
Thank you for the comprehensive & insightful report! 🎉

We look forward to the prosperous growth of the DFW area and are happy to read about @TEXpress’ role in accommodating the robust growth. – Cintra (@Cintra_USA)

Glad you enjoyed it! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

**Facebook**

1. Have you heard of Try Parking It? It's a ride-match and trip-logging program for commuters in North Central Texas. You can locate carpool and vanpool matches, along with transit, biking, and walking buddies. Your active participation improves our air quality and decreases traffic congestion, AND you earn points to use towards rewards. The more active you are, the more prizes you can redeem. Sign up at www.tryparkingit.com

If you are a Dallas resident who is at least 18 years old, tag a friend on this post so they can learn about Try Parking It. One lucky person will be selected at random on Aug 31st to win a prize!

NCTCOG Transportation Department – Green Dallas

2. What to be a winner? Tag a friend in the pinned Try Parking It post on our page for a chance at a solar powered cell phone charger. It’s #EasyPeasy for any Dallas resident at least 18 years old.

NCTCOG Transportation Department – Green Dallas
3. Enter our Try Parking It contest by tagging a friend in the pinned post. As long as you're a Dallas resident and at least 18 years old, that's all it takes! #TagfortheWin NCTCOG Transportation Department – Green Dallas