MINUTES
Regional Transportation Council
PUBLIC MEETING

2017-2018 CMAQ/STBG Funding: Regional/Air Quality and Management and Operations Programs

RTC’s Assessment Policy Project Funding

Start of 2019 Ozone Season

AirCheckTexas Program Update

Meeting Date and Location

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held a public meeting Monday, March 11, 2019, at 6:00 pm at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (Arlington); Dan Lamers, Senior Program Manager, moderated the meeting, attended by 17 people.

Public Meeting Purpose and Topics

The public meeting was held in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Plan, 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 November 8, 2018. Staff presented information about:

1. 2017-2018 CMAQ/STBG Funding: Regional/Air Quality and Management and Operations Programs – presented by Cody Derrick
2. RTC’s Assessment Policy Project Funding – presented by Evan Newton
4. AirCheckTexas Program Update – presented by Darshan Patel

The NCTCOG public meeting was 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 meeting are available at www.nctcog.org/input, and a video recording was posted at www.nctcog.org/video.

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

Summary of Presentations

2017-2018 CMAQ/STBG Funding: Regional/Air Quality and Management and Operation Funding Programs presentation:

Handout:
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/03/Handout-Regional-AQ.pdf
In April 2017, a process to select projects via several funding programs was presented to the
RTC. Projects were categorized into 11 programs, and project selection has occurred in stages
Both the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and Surface Transportation Technical
Committee (STTC) usually consider extending existing and funding new air quality and
management and operations projects every few years. The last review occurred in 2014 and
2015, and projects were funded through Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. If carryover funds were
insufficient, projects were extended into FY 2019 through the Transportation Improvement
Program (TIP).

The Regional/Air Quality and Management and Operations Programs ensure programs and
projects continue without interruption into FY 2020-2022, enable staff to respond to certain
planning and implementation assistance requests, assign resources for RTC priorities and
improve air quality initiatives.

Staff is proposing to allocate more than $66 million in various funding sources to vanpool
programs, clean air programs, traffic signal retiming, mobility assistance patrol, transit
operations, data collection, aviation and freeway incident management, among others. A portion
of the requested funding will be used by NCTCOG staff to implement regional projects and
programs, and the balance will be passed through to other agencies in the region.

All details will be finalized before the RTC takes action on the Regional/Air Quality and

**RTC’s Assessment Policy Project Funding presentation:**
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/03/A
ssessment-Policy.pdf

**Handout:**
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/03/H
andout-RTC-Assessment-Policy.pdf

In April 2017, a process to select projects via several funding programs was presented to the
RTC. Projects were categorized into 11 programs, and project selection has occurred in stages

The purpose of the Assessment Policy Program is to assess the increased value of
transportation improvements to adjacent property so the Regional Transportation Council (RTC)
is repaid as development occurs in project areas.

Staff is proposing to allocate more than $34 million in RTC funding for the City of Anna’s
Ferguson Parkway, Fort Worth’s Butler Housing, the Dallas central business district and several
roadways in the TxDOT Fort Worth District. Details will be finalized before the RTC takes action
on the Assessment Policy Program in April 2019.

**Start of 2019 Ozone Season presentation:**
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/03/O
zone.pdf

Ozone is a gas composed of three atoms of oxygen and occurs both in the Earth’s upper
atmosphere and at ground level. Ground-level ozone is commonly referred to as “bad ozone”
and forms when emission sources emit nitrogen oxides and/or volatile organic compounds that
react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone can make it more difficult to breathe, aggravate lung diseases and inflame and damage the airway.

North Texas is currently under two ozone standards, one for 2008 and one for 2015. The attainment deadline for the 2008 standard was July 20, 2018. The region did not meet the standard, and therefore, its air quality status has been reclassified as serious. It must achieve attainment by July 20, 2021. The nonattainment deadline for the 2015 standard is August 3, 2021.

Everyone in the region can help improve air quality by working from home, using mass transit, avoiding unnecessary trips, carpooling, etc. More information on air quality and ozone alerts is available at https://www.airnorthtexas.org.

**AirCheckTexas Program Update presentation:**
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/03/ACT.pdf

The AirCheckTexas Program was established in 2002 and assists low- and middle-income residents in nine participating counties in repairing or replacing vehicles that either fail inspection or are at least 10 years old.

The program is funded by the $6 fee collected through vehicle registrations. Since its inception, more than 35,000 vehicles have been repaired and more than 36,000 have been replaced. AirCheckTexas has provided approximately $121 million in financial assistance.

Governor Greg Abbott vetoed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 funding for the program during the 85th Legislative Session in 2017. Operations have been maintained from a carryover of previous appropriations from the 84th Legislative Session, but the carryover expires at the end of FY 2019. Therefore, April 8, 2019 is the last day AirCheckTexas applications will be accepted, and the program will officially end on June 28, 2019.

Efforts are currently underway to reinstate previously collected funds, and residents can contact their local legislature to support House Bill 2253 and Senate Bill 1070.

**ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED AT MEETING**

**RTC’s Assessment Policy Project Funding**

**Staron Faucher, AECOM**

A. Butler Housing Project

**Question:** What is the plan for Butler Housing?

**Summary of response by Evan Newton:** The projects included on slide 10 of the presentation are in very preliminary stages. Funding allocated to these initiatives is intended to help kick them off. We'll bring details back to the public for review and comment once they've been finalized.

**Summary of response by Dan Lamers:** Butler Housing and Oak Farms are historic areas. Both of them need to be connected to their surrounding neighborhoods in a safe manner, allowing for both accessibility and economic development.
Question: Has Butler Housing been torn down?

Summary of response by Dan Lamers: City of Fort Worth will be closing down Butler Housing and relocating residents, but I believe there is a historic African American school that will remain. A large portion of the allocated funding will be used to evaluate land use, roadway connections and bicycle and pedestrian components.

Start of 2019 Ozone Season

Warren Melton, Citizen

A. Modeling air quality benefits of trees

Question: How does the NCTCOG Transportation Department model the air quality benefits of trees?

Summary of response by Dan Lamers: Our Department does not model the air quality impacts of biogenic sources. The ozone Jenny mentioned in her presentation does not distinguish whether it came from a cow or a vehicle tailpipe.

Summary of response by Jenny Narvaez: We measure volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides that come from vehicles. The modeling you are referring to is conducted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Summary of response by Brian Dell: I know TxDOT has what’s called the Green Ribbon Program, and you should be able to contact them about this initiative.

B. Most effective air quality projects

Question: Which projects are most effective for air quality?

Summary of response by Jenny Narvaez: I would say on-road, heavy-duty vehicle replacement programs.

Other

Anthony Sosa, Citizen

A. Transportation projects today versus projects in the early 2000s

Question: What differentiates today’s projects from those that occurred in the early 2000s?

Summary of response by Dan Lamers: In the early 2000s, transportation development focused on moving people to places in a safe and efficient manner. While this is certainly still a focus in today’s world, we’re also trying to provide transportation choices for people throughout their daily lives. We’re seeing a much more sensitive approach to finding holistic solutions.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

No comments received via website, email or social media.