MINUTES

Regional Transportation Council
PUBLIC MEETING

10-Year Plan Update

2019 Congestion Management Plan Update

Mobility 2045 Status Report

511DFW Traveler Information System

Meeting Date and Location

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held a public meeting Monday, April 8, 2019, at 2:30 pm at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (Arlington); Amanda Wilson, Program Manager, moderated the meeting, attended by 15 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. 10-Year Plan Update – presented by Brian Dell
2. 2019 Congestion Management Plan Update – presented by Mike Galizio
3. Mobility 2045 Status Report – presented by Kevin Feldt
4. 511DFW Traveler Information System – demonstration by Eric Quintana

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

10-Year Plan Update presentation:

Scoring Process Handout:

Project List Handout:
The Regional 10-Year Plan was first approved by the RTC in December 2016, and an update was approved in August 2018 in conjunction with the development of the 2019 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

Since the August 2018 update, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) staff has begun developing the 2020 UTP. Thus, NCTCOG staff has coordinated with TxDOT districts regarding project costs, funding, environmental clearance, and potential new projects and has drafted a project listing for the 2019 10-Year Plan update.

Projects on the proposed update list fall under one of five categories: projects approved by the RTC and approved in the UTP, projects approved by the RTC but not approved in the UTP, proposed projects pending RTC approval, proposed projects needing funding to advance pre-construction activities, and proposed projects to be removed from the 10-Year Plan list, funded with other sources or are future candidates for funding.

NCTCOG staff is continuing to finalize project selections, and the RTC will take action on the Regional 10-Year Plan update on May 9, 2019.

**2019 Congestion Management Plan Update presentation:**
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/04/CMP.pdf

A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federal requirement in any urbanized area with a population exceeding 200,000. Developed, established and implemented as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process, it is a regionally accepted approach for managing congestion and provides information on transportation system performance.

The CMP has many benefits. It creates a structured process for analyzing congestion issues, fosters an objectives-driven and performance-based approach, advocates for increased collaboration, facilitates project/program implementation and provides a linkage to project development and environmental review.

CMP strategies include demand management, operational traffic and public transportation improvements, technologies and additional system capacity where necessary. Additionally, the CMP requires a process to demonstrate that single-occupant vehicle (SOV) capacity projects in nonattainment areas are justified and comply with the CMP.

Several workshops on the CMP update will take place in late summer and early fall 2019, and the RTC will take action on the final CMP draft in November 2019.

**Mobility 2045 Status Report presentation:**
https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/04/Mobility.pdf

Mobility 2045 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that defines a long-term vision for the region’s transportation system and guides spending of federal and State transportation funds. This includes funding for highways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality.

Mobility 2045 is currently in progress, and the RTC recently approved the following initiatives: a Clean Fleets North Texas Call for Projects, Strategic Partnerships Round 3 projects, shuttle
funding for the Trinity Railway Express (TRE), emergency funding for transit provider Span, Inc. and funding to link Alliance to Trinity Metro.

NCTCOG staff is focused on several emphasis areas in 2019: high-speed rail, public transit, tolled facilities such as LBJ East, technology advancement and several major project initiatives, including Butler Housing, Downtown Dallas and Oak Farms Dairy.

Additionally, NCTCOG staff has already completed several planning initiatives, including the TEXRail, a transportation study in Wise County and a gentrification study. Current construction activities include the IH 30 and SH 360 Interchange, Sam Rayburn Tollway, SH 360 in Arlington, the Southern Gateway, the bicycle and pedestrian trail from Fort Worth to Dallas and several city veloweb projects.

**511DFW Traveler Information System demonstration:** [www.511dfw.org](http://www.511dfw.org)

Eric Quintana provided attendees with a demonstration of the recently improved 511DFW Traveler Information System phone application.

Traveler information for the region related to freeways, toll roads, city streets and transit trip planning is available through 511DFW. The system provides information in Spanish and English through Mobile Apps for Android, iOS devices, the 511DFW.org website and by dialing 511.

**ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED AT MEETING**

**Mobility 2045 Status Report**

**Gary Hennessey, Citizen**

A. Traffic signal retiming

*Comment:* You referenced technology advancement during the Mobility 2045 presentation. Red light cameras can recognize when there’s a vehicle at an intersection, but is there some kind of technology that can detect when there are no vehicles at an intersection?

*Summary of response by Marian Thompson:* I’m not sure if it is possible, but when we meet with the cities, we can ask them about it.

*Summary of response by Amanda Wilson:* There are a lot of technology advancements considered in Mobility 2045. We can talk to some of the city engineers and get back to you with a more detailed response.

B. Traffic patterns and migration

*Comment:* When I arrived in Dallas-Fort Worth in 1983, IH 20 was mostly unused, but as time has gone by, a lot of things have built up around it, and of course, the area has grown and changed a lot. Has there been any discussion to extend SH 360 down to the Hillsboro area to help with traffic patterns? That might improve freight movement.

*Summary of response by Kevin Feldt:* We’re always reviewing traffic patterns. Even though Mobility 2045 was approved in June of last year, we have to conduct another update in four
years and there will be different conditions. Unfortunately, Hillsboro isn’t part of our MPO, and we can only go as far as Johnson and Ellis counties.

Question: Can you obtain freight traffic patterns?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: We have traffic counters that conduct vehicle classification counts, and we can use the data to forecast growth.

Question: Is that data available on your website?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: You can find more information on traffic counts at www.nctcog.org/trans/data.

Other

Heidi Swan, The Greater Fort Worth Chapter of the American Council of the Blind

A. NCTCOG partner coordination

Question: Do you all coordinate with Handitran?

Summary of response by Amanda Wilson: Today we’re talking mainly about roadway projects, but Mobility 2045 is a multimodal plan. We do work with all of the public transportation entities, and they have representation on our policy board, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). You just happened to catch us on a day when we’re talking about roadway projects.

Davis Tubre, Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

Question: Has anyone advocated to convert school buses into clean fleets?

Summary of response by Kevin Feldt: We have the North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program, which aims to reduce emissions from school bus fleets. More information on this program can be found at: https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/for-fleets/clean-school-bus-program

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

No comments received via website, email or social media.