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 November 8, 2018.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Saturday, April 20, through Sunday, May 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. Bicycle and pedestrian comments related to the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, Bike to Work Day and NCTCOG bike survey results were in the majority.

Air Quality

Facebook

1. Air Quality Awareness Week starts next week. Don't forget to take care of the air inside your home. Some great ways to protect your home's air include using non-toxic cleaners, using an air purifier and taking care of indoor plants. – City of Denton Sustainability
Autonomous Vehicles

Twitter
1. A perspective on the @driveai_ pilot in the @CityOfFriscoTx by @RideDCTA one of the five partners in the transportation management association that hosted the pilot. @NCTCOGtrans – Thomas Bamonte (@TomBamonte)

Kudos to everyone on this pilot program! 🏆

I was hoping for a longer pilot period in Frisco because I haven't had a chance to ride one yet. But I just found out that the pilot in Arlington is still ongoing. Better plan a trip soon... – Harshal S Chhaya (@hschhaya)

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter
1. #BikeMonth #BikeToWorkDay is May 17. Are you biking that day? Do you bike most days? – WalkBikeSafeTx (@WalkBikeSafeTX)

NCTCOGTransportation 🤝 @NCTCOGtrans
May we all pay as close attention to the road, bicyclists and pedestrians as we did to this apparent Winterfell Starbucks coffee cup. #MondayMotivaton #GameofThrones
2. #ShapeYourCity – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

NCTCOGTransportation 🙏 @NCTCOGtrans
Provide your input about walking in the DFW region for a chance to win a $100 VISA gift card. Help us develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan to reduce the number and severity of pedestrian crashes and fatalities across the North Texas region. ...

3. Thank you to our local media partners as well as citizen tips related to our bicycle officer being struck by a motorist Sunday. The suspect turned himself in this evening after being contacted by Lyft and seeing news coverage. He's charged with Failure to Stop and Render Aid. – Will Johnson (@ArlingtonChief)

Number of hit-and-run motor vehicle vs cyclist crashes in @NCTCOGtrans over the past 3 years: 2016 - 87; 2017 - 98; 2018 - 106. Not a promising trend. It was as low as 47 in 2011 – Rob Rasmussen, MD, PhD (@rgrasmus)

4. Every week should be Bike to ... Work, Church, the Grocery Store, School, Local Business Week. #BikeToWork – Andrew Wallace (@agwallace92)

NCTCOGTransportation 🙏 @NCTCOGtrans
Did you know 40% of all trips in the U.S. are less than two miles, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get where you’re going? This week is Bike to Work Week. Check out the local Bike To Work Day events happening Friday! bit.ly/DARTbikedayeve... ...
5. #BikeToWorkDay is just hours away now!!! Come by and see us on your commute in to work, and then head over to @fcbrewing after work and join us for the 2nd Annual Bike 2 Work Day Happy Hour from 5:30-8pm!! – BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)

Facebook

1. May is National Bike Month! Get out and ride your bike this month before summer arrives in full force. As part of the celebration in May, don’t forget these special dates: May 8 is Ride Your Bike To School Day, May 17 is Ride Your Bike To Work Day, and May 13-19 is Ride Your Bike To Work Week!

In 2017, the NCTCOG Transportation Department conducted a survey on the topic of biking. You can review the results here: www.nctcog.org/bikesurvey – The Colony Parks & Recreation Department
2. Nice play on "May" NCTCOG Transportation Department! May is National Bike Month - take a moment to drop in a comment that you are biking this month! May 17 is Bike to Work Day - are you biking to work? – Walk Bike Safe Texas

3. Hey followers! National Bike to Work Week 2019 will take place May 13–19. Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 17!

Are you hosting an event or looking for an event? Visit https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth for more information including resources, shareables, and events in your area!

NCTCOG Transportation Department BikeDFW Fort Worth Bike Sharing Fort Worth City Hall (City of Fort Worth) BikeHouston Houston BCycle Houston Bicycle Museum Houston Bikeways Program Austin B-cycle – Walk Bike Safe Texas
4. Continuing with the theme of "With so many reasons to ride, what's yours?", how about some awesome events happening this #BikeMonth we think you might be interested in?!

Week 3 of Bike Month

May 1-31

Our friends at Bike Friendly Fort Worth are encouraging riding to run errands with their BFFW 2019 Errandonnee for the whole month of May!!

National Bike to Work Week is May 13-17 and there are awesome things to do all over the region to celebrate!! Here are just a few of them:

Wednesday, May 15

7pm

Ride of Silence
For 17 years, the Ride of Silence has provided an opportunity for the cycling community to come together to honor the cyclists that have been injured and killed on public roadways. What started as a "one time" event in 2003 at White Rock Lake, Dallas, has grown to include rides in 373 locations world-wide, with 47 US states, 20 countries, and 7 continents participating in this silent ride. This ride is an opportunity to HONOR those that have been injured and killed; to RAISE AWARENESS that we are here; and to ask that we all SHARE THE ROAD.

There are several rides across the DFW region, and you can see all of them at rideofsilence.org. Included are rides in Coppell, Dallas, Fort Worth, Frisco, Garland, Plano, and Sherman. Here are a few of the Facebook events:

Ride of Silence Dallas 2019
Ride of Silence 2019, Frisco Start

Thursday, May 16
4-6pm
JUMP curious? Come out to the Dallas Farmers Market and our friends at JUMP will have some of their e-bikes there to try out, and BikeDFW will be providing the basics of riding safely at the JUMP Urban Biking Basics with BikeDFW!!

Friday, May 17 BIKE TO WORK DAY
7-9am
Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Official DART page), NCTCOG Transportation Department, BikeDFW, area bike groups, and local bike shops invite you to charge up at the following Bike to Work Day DART Energizer Stations:
Akard Station, Centreport/DFW Airport Station, CityLine/Bush Station, Hatcher Station, Farmers Branch Station, Mockingbird Station, Parker Road Station, and Tyler Vernon Station
Free bike safety checks, refreshments, swag, and more!!

7-9am
Our friends at the Friends of Santa Fe Trail are hosting a Bike to Work Day on the Santa Fe Trail Energizer Station at the T intersection of the Santa Fe Trail heading into Deep Ellum. They will have coffee, sweets, and an onsite bike mechanic from Local Hub Bicycle Company for quick fixes!

5:30-8pm
Join us for our 2nd annual Bike 2 Work Day Happy Hour at Four Corners Brewing Co. and celebrate another awesome day riding bikes!! Come hang out with friends and share your commute story!! – BikeDFW

5. It’s #BikeMonth and next Friday the 17th, is #BiketoWork day where Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Official DART page), BikeDFW, NCTCOG Transportation Department will be hosting energizer stations at several DART stations. I’ll be at TylerVernon helping Bike Friendly Oak Cliff here in Oak Cliff! Roll by on your way to work for tacos! Here’s the full list of stations: https://dart.org/riding/bike.asp – Jonathan Braddick
6. This Bike to Work Day, join DART, BikeDFW, the NCTCOG Transportation Department, area bike groups and local bike shops for DART’s annual Bike to Work Day event May 17 from 7-9 a.m. at specific stations across DART’s System. bit.ly/DARTdaily-2VleWWb #DARTBike2Work – Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Official DART page)

7. Tomorrow is #BikeToWorkDay bike people!! We hope you will come by and see us at one of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Official DART page) Stations we will be set up at tomorrow:

Hatcher Station, South Dallas
Tyler Vernon Station, Oak Cliff
Mockingbird Station, Dallas (on the platform AND the trail this year!!)
CityLine Station, Richardson
and Parker Road Station, Plano

Our friends at NCTCOG Transportation Department and DART will be at additional stations across the area, so check out the event for more options.

We hope you will end your #BikeToWorkDay with us at our Bike 2 Work Day Happy Hour at Four Corners Brewing Co. from 5:30-8pm tomorrow evening!! Come celebrate this awesome day with us!! – BikeDFW
8. #BikeToWorkDay Mockingbird Station style...thanks to our friends at velofix, The Lofts at Mockingbird Station, Rush Bowls, KIND Snacks, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Official DART page), and the NCTCOG Transportation Department for helping us make this morning awesome!!!

Be sure and stop by on your commute home today for our Bike to Work Day Happy Hour at Four Corners Brewing Co. from 5:30-8pm!!! – BikeDFW
9. Our friends at the North Central Texas Council of Governments are asking for input about walking in the DFW region -- and will offer survey takers a chance to win a $100 VISA gift card.
– North Richland Hills City Hall

10. Please take the survey! #cedarhilltx – Carolyn Nolte Skeels
11. Would you bike to work (or other places) if you felt safer doing so? Which Denton destinations would you like to bike to but don't feel safe enough to try yet?

#BikeToWorkDay #BikeMonth #BikeEverywhere – Bike Denton

---

Project Planning

Twitter

1. @AnnZadeh @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit Can we do this? This is so cool! – plainy (@plainy)

2. Click here for a list of this week’s closures for the @keep30360moving Interchange Project in #ArlingtonTX ➡️ http://ow.ly/n02E30oECJD – City of Arlington (@CityOfArlington)

---

I already sent it to TPW. 😃 – Ann Zadeh (@AnnZadeh)

Tiny fist pump – plainy (@plainy)
3. Five years after LA spent $1.1 billion widening its notorious 405 Freeway, traffic is worse than ever.

Highway widening doesn't work. This should be a cautionary tale for the Marylands and Texases of the world. @LarryHogan – Streetsblog USA (@StreetsblogUSA)

Can @TxDOT please tell us why this seemingly continues to be their primary plan to accommodate Texas’ continued growth and mobility needs?

It's time for a better way, it's time to invest in more #TransitAlternatives!
Public Meetings & Forums

Twitter

1. The next @NCTCOGtrans meeting is May 13. See http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1102365104652&ca=91307429-5f30-4d7f-bcbc-081214922870 … – ? Carl Seiler (@csxyzzy)

   Thanks for sharing, Carl! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

2. .@NCTCOGtrans wants your feedback! This meeting is an important way to provide your opinion on the transportation planning activities and air quality programs of NCTCOG and RTC. Join them May 13 at 616 Six Flags Dr. in Arlington and share your thoughts! http://bit.ly/2LtTWAY – City of Coppell (@CityofCoppell)

3. At monthly meeting of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). The RTC is the independent transportation policy body of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The RTC oversees the metropolitan transportation planning process. @TrinityMetro @NCTCOGtrans @CityofFortWorth – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
Facebook

1. NCTCOG Transportation Department wants your feedback! This meeting is an important way to provide your opinion about the transportation planning activities and air quality programs of NCTCOG and the RTC. – City of Coppell, TX Municipal Government

Roadway

Email

1. Brandon Keck
Looking for Avg toll rate for Texpress Lanes and was directed here for an answer. Please contact if I can get that information here.

Hi, Brandon

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

Average toll prices for the TEXpress Lanes may range from 15 cents to 35 cents per mile during lighter traffic, and 45 cents to 90 cents during peak rush hour. In the event that the average speed on the TEXpress Lanes slows toward 50 mph, the toll rate will increase in order to manage the congestion and speed to maintain an average of 50 mph.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Kind regards,

Carli

Twitter

1. On this Texas toll road, drivers want to know why they’re paying $15 for just 5 miles

https://www.star-telegram.com/news/traffic/honkin-mad-blog/article229371274.html … @NTExpress @TxDOT @TollTagNews @NCTCOGtrans – Gordon Dickson (@gdickson)

Great article! I’ve never seen it get passed $7 or $8, which I thought was way too high. But $15 is just insane. – Nicholas Sakelaris (@ReporterNick1)
Twitter

1. It’s #GetOnBoardDay! In Texas, we all work hard to improve our transportation as a whole. Always with the ultimate goal in mind of getting ppl where they need to go & improving the quality of life for all Texans. @TxDOTTEXpress @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans @DFWAirport @SAL_FW – NTE (@NTExpress)

2. In case you missed it, from @TrinityMetro, nothing says Texas like #TEXRail and bluebonnets! @CityofFortWorth @CityofNRH @GrapevineTXCity @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

3. Something for @CityOfArlington to keep in mind ... @Uber @NCTCOGtrans #DFWTraffic – Gordon Dickson (@gdickson)
A town of 37,000 - does no one think of riding a bike? On a map, Innisfil looks tiny. – J. Meezy (@fadhero)

A link to this was posted on Transit Intelligence, an online publication geared toward transit industry professionals. It’s well worth a subscription. It’s occupied my virtual coffee table for years and I read to keep up with news about CEO friends. – Susan Ballard (@Susanfballard)

Facebook

1. Your personality is multifaceted — so is public transportation! On this Get On Board Day, find out what combination of public transportation options you are by taking the quiz. https://bzfd.it/2vluv9y. We got bus and scooter! What did you get?? – NCTCOG Transportation Department
I got bus and aerial tram! – Paul McManus

Nice! Hope you’re not afraid of heights! 😜

2. It’s #GetOnBoardDay! In Texas, we all work hard together to improve our transportation as a whole. Always with the ultimate goal in mind of getting people where they need to go & improving the quality of life for all Texans. NCTCOG Transportation Department Texas Department of Transportation Fort Worth City Hall (City of Fort Worth) Trinity Metro DFW Airport Downtown Fort Worth Tarrant Transit Alliance Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce – North Tarrant Express

Twitter

1. Okay, @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGTrans @AnnZadeh I think you should probably hire the FWISD kids that made these projects because I want to ride on these cool trains. Also, look at motorcycle/recycling combo. – plainy (@plainy)
2. So @AlamoAreaMPO and @CAMPOTexas we’re going to be like the Rio Grande Valley and DFW? It’s about overdue that you guys both merge together. @TxDOTSanAntonio and @TxDOTAustin also need to merge together. – Park (@Park)

We love our partners at @CAMPOTexas & @TxDOT! We pride ourselves on a comprehensive, continuous and coordinated planning process. In fact, we were recently commended by the @USDOTFHWA for our collaboration with CAMPO, including a joint study of the IH35 corridor. – Alamo Area MPO (@AlamoAreaMPO)

While this is great and all. Can we be more like @NCTCOGtrans in DFW with a more unified San Antonio-Austin? – Park (@Park)

Even though we don't operate under the same organizational name, we coordinate with all our neighboring MPOs to ensure that our planning work creates regional solutions that make sense. Just because we don't have the same name doesn't mean we're not working as a team! – Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (@CAMPOTexas)

Wouldn't merging MPOs increase your funding percentage to compete with Houston and DFW for dollars? The three Rio Grande Valley MPOs according to the article being discussed decided to merge for increase in dollars. I might as well ask and hopefully debunk that rumor. – Park (@Park)

Facebook

1. Follow NCTCOG Transportation Department to learn more about your local commuting options. – Keep Grapevine Beautiful
We encourage everyone in our region to know your transportation options. If you haven't tried carpooling, biking, walking or taking transit to move about, there's no time like the present! For more info on commute options, visit: http://bit.ly/3P2WCommuteOptions