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 Tuesday, August 20, through Saturday, September 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, there was a large discussion of the pros and cons of electric vehicles on a post regarding the annual National Drive Electric Week event. Aside from this, comments related to transit planning and use were in the majority.

Air Quality

Twitter

1. Stay healthy out there. – Dr. John Biggan (@Biggan4Congress)

Facebook

1. Ozone Action Day – Ozone in the Dallas-Fort Worth area Wednesday is predicted to be at Level Red, unhealthy. Active children and adults and people with lung disease, such as asthma,

Ozone Action Day
Level Red

#driveelectric – Chris Hightower

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter

1. @NorthavenTrail ride from Central to Harry Hines and back. Thanks @DallasParkRec @CityOfDallas @DallasCountyTx @TxDOTDallas @NCTCOGtrans @oncor @cmjsgates @VoteOmarNarvaez @elbagarcia @JJKoch – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

Hope that trail ain’t as bumpy as the new ones poured in East Dallas – Tim Rogers (@timmytyper)
Which trails and which sections? Please be more specific so we can investigate and correct. Thx. – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

Start w that trail that goes from Mockingbird Station to the lake. – Tim Rogers (@timmytyper)

2. North Texans think lower traffic speeds on community roadways are “essential” or “very important” to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety on the road. Like if you agree. See the results of our Bicycle Opinion Survey at http://nctcog.org/bikesurvey. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Twenty’s plenty for any street on which people live. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

3. In 2023, you could bike from Fort Worth to Dallas. Here’s a look at the trail progress: http://bit.ly/2kIVvyh. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)
The trail of the month for September is the Cottonwood Creek Trail. It is an approximately 5-mile linear 2-lane concrete trail that runs north-south through the center of the City of Allen. The trail provides a cross-city, off-street bicycle network that connects to places such as the Village at Allen, the Old Stone Dam and the 1910 Railroad Bridge from the Interurban Railroad. The Cottonwood Creek trail also provides a recreational connection to parks such as Allen Station Park, Ford Park, and access to “The Edge at Allen Station Park” which contain a variety of recreation activities. The trail also connects with the Stacy Trail and the Mustang Creek Trail in the City of Allen. In the future, it will connect to the existing Cottonwood Creek Trail network in McKinney to run north to the El Dorado Pkwy Trail, and south to the Oak Point Park Trail in the City of Parker. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

I walk this trail almost daily when I am working. It is a favorite of mine.. – Kathleen Rice
Cool – Kelly Livingston McGinnis
Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Twitter

1. Nice partnership missing only one thing. EV charging! @NCTCOGtrans Buc-ee’s @TxDOT @NTXTeslaOwners – Rick Bollar (@bollar)

   Yes make it happen please – Brandon (@Brandon75530242)

   I think it would be smart for them to add EV chargers – immtx (@immtx)

2. Registering is cool, exhibiting is cooler than 😎. It’s ice coldWebpack! The only ICE there. 😛 #TexasEV #NDEW2019 – N TX Tesla Owners (@NTXTeslaOwners)
Help your environment and drive clean! Learn all about the benefits of electric vehicles and experience one for yourself at our Drive Electric Week event on September 21. For more information visit DriveElectricDFW.org. #TexasEV #NDEW2019

I see what you did there! 😄 – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

– N TX Tesla Owners
3. @NCTCOGtrans’s Kevin Feldt provides an update this morning to the Surface Transportation Committee on the @HyperloopOne project. – North Dallas Chamber (@NDCC)

Facebook

1. Traditional on-road vehicles, like cars and trucks, contribute to air pollution. A great alternative is an electric vehicle. Have questions about EVs? Come to our EV showcase 9/21! There, you can meet other EV owners and see what it's like to travel in one. Visit dfwcleancities.org/ndew for more information and to register. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

...except that is a lie. Manufacturing and power plants used to charge your piece of CRAP EV is more costly to the economy and in pollution. Keep your damned snake oil. – Phil Neil

2. Want to make the switch to a cleaner and efficient car with an electric vehicle but don’t know where to start? We’ve got you covered. Our Drive Electric Week event is the perfect way to become educated so you can go electric. Visit www.DriveElectricDFW.org for more information. #NDEW2019 – NCTCOG Transportation Department
Project Planning

1. Brendan Keane

With new family communities being built to the south of Fort Worth, proposing a railroad quiet zone at the intersection of Chapin School Road (2871) & Aledo Road. The trains are constant and cause excessive noise pollution and deters families from moving into the new homes. The community thinks this would be a game changer for young families interested in the area!

2. Jodi Wooten

Pleased to see that the expansion of 78 from Wylie to FM 205 has made it even easier to go to Rockwall. This new road is working well for residents to quickly get from Wylie to Rockwall and vice versa if needed and is a big improvement from a few years ago. At one point there was talk of building a bridge between Rockwall and Wylie over Lake Ray Hubbard. However, that would be duplicate roads since Hwy 78 and Hwy 66 across the lake in Rowlett are already in existence.

3. Trey Ingram

This public comment is in reference to Item 3.1 from the 8/23/19 STTC Meeting - "Endorsement of Funding for Preliminary Engineering Study for AT&T Way in Arlington".
I was able to view the electronic attachment for this item and noticed that this proposed highway interchange-style preliminary map does not match the appropriate context for this area of Arlington. The trumpet-style loop is shown to be going through the middle of an existing park and would presumably require re-construction of the Abram Street bridge and shared-use path that were just finished within the last year.

In the nearby vicinity, Stadium Drive was also just reconstructed to be a 6-lane arterial to assist with traffic movement out of the stadium district - negating any sort of need of this highway interchange extension of AT&T Way to Abram Street. There are a plethora of 6 lane roadways going in/out of the stadium district that are not anywhere near capacity on a normal basis - or even during gamedays. Please reconsider doing this study - it is not needed and disrupts an active park, a community center, and adds a contextually inappropriate highway-style connection to a downtown-esque street.

4. Erin Larew

The citizens of Wylie do not want a bridge across Lake Ray Hubbard connecting into East Wylie. Please leave east Wylie and Troy Road alone. If you want a bridge so bad put it in Rockwall county and connect to the Bush. Again all residents of Troy Road and Wylie will fight! And just in case you didn’t get the idea last time we don’t want a bridge across lake lavon either. Thanks so much.

5. Kendra West

I have heard recently that there is a potential for a toll road with a bridge over the North edge of Lake Ray Hubbard that will span from Greenville to 190 in Garland.

It is very important to be aware of the Bald Eagles living and nesting South of 75 and North of Hwy 66. In a matter of a few hrs you can see for yourself the sheer amount of wildlife but our Bald Eagles are very rare and super special to have here in North Texas!!

Please consider this and vote no to any further building of additional roadways. Expand the ones we have already!!

Twitter

1. Michael Morris: Soccer Fields Under I-345 Will Help Bring the World Cup to Dallas – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)
Michael Morris, director of transportation for the @NCTCOGtrans is captive to his #autocentric mindset. To him transportation = highway, 40yrs working with COG & still he insists more highways are the answer.

It's long past time we prioritize #TransitAlternatives! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

Believe it or not NTCOG/Morris is also in charge of the only regional process for air quality planning - done entirely thru the prism of highway funding being threatened, not public health. – Downwinders at Risk (@cleanerair)

2. I'm pretty sure that @NCTCOGtrans, Michael Morris, and @TxDOTDallas are planning for cars and traffic. They consider people and places to be nuisances and obstacles to be overcome in pursuit of their perfect, dystopian "system." – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

Public Meetings & Forums

Twitter
1. Thank you to the Society of Commercial Realtors for inviting me to be a part of the Transportation Panel w/Michael Morris from Reg.Transp Council & Scott Williams from @GrapevineTXCity at today's breakfast. @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @GFWAR @NCTCOGtrans @NCTCOG_Official – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

**Email**

1. Richard Sickler

We need Bussing in N.R.H. and pray that it will happen soon so we can get to our new train and back.

2. Diana Vivas-Monroe

We need better transportation from Fort Worth/Arlington to Alliance. Trinity metro has only one route and it doesn’t run at certain hours/days. The Alliance area has many competitive jobs and we need to take advantage and help our community overcome the lack of transportation. We could incorporate what DART and Uber has (the first last mile) or something even better.

**Twitter**

1. “The future of transportation depends on expanding the capacity of existing networks like public transit, not flashy private options” @NCTCOGtrans @TxDOT – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

2. CMember @carlosfloresfw from @CityofFortWorth hosted Job Fair in @GrapevineTXCity w/ @WfSTarrant & @TrinityMetro for jobs in Grapevine & @DFWAirport area. Fair promoted use of TEXRail & transit to connect folks to jobs. @FTWChamber @GrapevineCoC @NCTCOGtrans @NTxCommission – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
3. At presentation of Transit Moves Fort Worth Transit w/ @TrinityMetro VP/COO of Bus/Paratransit Wayne Gensler & Senior Dir of Planning Kiran Vemuri. Thank you to @CityofFortWorth for support to improve transit/mobility. @Genz26 @FTWChamber @fwhcc @FWMBBC @DTFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

4. Check out The Dash & join @TrinityMetro on 9/23 from 10 am to 1 pm in Crockett Row off West 7th. See you there! @CityofFortWorth @DTFortWorth @CrockettRowW7th @FTWChamber @fwhcc @FWMBBC @VisitFortWorth @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
5. Appreciate the great partnership between @GrapevineTXCity and @TrinityMetro! Great city and a great stop on #TEXRail! @GrapevineCoC @VisitGrapevine @DFWAirport @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @NTxCommission @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

Facebook

1. "Fairgoers can save $27 when buying a combination ticket through DCTA. The $16.50 package covers a local pass on the DCTA system, a pass for Dallas Area Rapid Transit and admission to the State Fair in Dallas." http://bit.ly/2m05PSA – NCTCOG Transportation Department
Plus, for everyone reading this post, DCTA’s A-Train now runs every 30 minutes on weekdays through the early evening hours, allowing for more connections to DART’s Green Line light rail at Trinity Mills Station in Carrollton and making for a terrific and relaxing way to get and from the fair in order to help reduce car traffic, road congestion, and parking hassles! – Paul McManus

2. DART breaks ground on Silver Line along the old Cotton Belt corridor: http://bit.ly/2kuM1qm. – NCTCOG Transportation Department
As DFW continues to grow very rapidly, the Silver Line will be absolutely wonderful in helping to reduce car traffic and road congestion, as well as to help improve air quality and regional mobility! Plus, the Silver Line will also connect to Trinity Metro’s TEXRail in Grapevine! – Paul McManus

Email

1. Jan Kearney

I have an ultra lite travel trailer with 2 axles. I use a pickup truck with 2 axles (not a dually) to tow it. Why are the fees for 4 axles (due to towing a trailer) cost so much more than 2, 2 axles vehicles.

Carli Baylor

Hi, Jan

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department. Can you provide me with a bit more context so I can provide you with the best answer possible?

Are you referring to toll and/or managed lane fees?

Jan Kearney

I'm talking about toll roads in general for example 121 or George Bush or the toll road that goes around Austin

Carli Baylor

Hi, Jan

Please find enclosed below NTTA’s answer to your question. Let us know if you need additional assistance.

Thank you,

Carli

Toll rates on the NTTA System are calculated using an “N-1” multiplier, where N is the number of axles. The base per mile rate applies to two-axle vehicles, and the N-1 multiplier is used to calculate rates for vehicles
with 3 or more axles. For a four-axle vehicle the rate would be three times the base rate (N-1 = 4-1 = 3).

For the customer’s specific question, let’s assume a base two-axle rate of $1.00. For the two-axle vehicle pulling a two-axle trailer, the toll charged would be the four-axle rate of $3.00. Conversely, two 2-axle vehicles would each pay $1.00 for a total of $2.00.

Rates are higher for vehicles with more axles because those vehicles are typically much larger and heavier than passenger cars (e.g. large trucks). The larger vehicles are significantly more wearing on the roadway surface, which increases the ongoing maintenance costs of the facility.

**Twitter**

1. Check out the updated, revised, and interactive Texas SHSP website:

https://texasshsp.com

#VisionZero #EndTheStreakTX – Rob Severance (@ChiefSeverance)

**Facebook**

1. TEXpress Lanes consist of corridors with rebuilt frontage roads, non-tolled highway lanes and tolled lanes, resulting in reliable travel times and less congestion. Learn more and plan your trip at www.TEXpressLanes.com. – NCTCOG Transportation Department
And OWNED BY OTHER COUNTRIES!! – Billy Crouch Jr.