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 Sunday, January 20, through Tuesday, February 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. Transit comments, including the opening and operation of TEXRail, as well as expansion of transit, were in the majority.

Air Quality

Twitter

1. One of the factors sited is commute times. If you’re looking to carpool or bike to work, check out http://www.tryparkingit.com Everyone in NTX can win prizes for driving less and improving #AirQuality if you sign up. @NCTCOGenv @NCTCOGtrans #AirNorthTexas – Green Dallas (@GreenDallas)
Facebook

1. Save the date: NTREG will be honored to have Dr. David Lary, Physics Professor at UT Dallas, speak about his air quality monitoring projects and initiatives at our Feb meeting.

Clean air advocates, EV owners/enthusiasts, and anyone interested are welcome and encouraged to attend and connect with Dr. Lary.

See the event page and discussion there for more information now; additional announcements will follow.

https://www.facebook.com/events/2173781229551118 – James Orenstein

It’s no secret DFW Metroplex air is polluted. According to the American Lung Association, Dallas is the 16th most polluted city in America for ozone alone. [1]

Ozone is a gas. What about particulates in the air? Particulate sources include burning coal, diesel engine exhaust, cement plants, and others. For monitoring this aspect of air pollution, would it surprise you to learn there’s only ONE monitor with publicly available information for all of Dallas.[2] The unit is near Stemmons Freeway and Mockingbird Lane, and supposedly accounts for the entire city. [2]

Our presenter this Saturday is working to change that -- in a big way.

Dr. David Lary, atmospheric scientist and physics professor at University of Texas at Dallas is working diligently to develop monitors that would be used for a new monitoring network. that will help researchers discover the types of particles in the air and their point of origin. The network would show how these levels vary throughout the day. At present, air monitors take measurements in up to two-hour intervals. Dr. Lary's system will test the air every 10 seconds, or faster.

Another reference for Dr. Lary: He recently accepted the GreenSource DFW 2018 Environmental Science and Innovation Award on behalf of the DFW Air Research Consortium, a partnership of local universities, municipalities, nonprofit groups and citizens aimed at monitoring air quality in North Texas. DFW ARC "is now overseeing" the establishment of DFW's first independent air quality network, the first network of its kind in Texas.
Dr. Lary obtained a double Bachelors of Science, one in Physics, and one in Chemistry from King's College, London, England, and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Cambridge, where his thesis dealt with the study of atmospheric ozone.

His background includes work at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, and the Goddard Earth Sciences and Technology Center.

Dr. Lary will speak about air quality monitoring projects he's working on, and those he's preparing to launch.


Aviation

Facebook

Must be getting ready for them to plug into the airplane to charge up the green batteries.
– Herb Ashley

**Bicycle & Pedestrian**

**Twitter**

1. Which agency near you would be the first to erect this sign if they knew about it? Tag them in the reply. – Don Kostelec (KostelecPlan)

@NCTCOGtrans & @TxDOT would consider it if their main goal wasn't already widening every highway in the region and state, respectively. – Andrew Wallace (agwallace92)

**Freight**

**Twitter**

1. The Regional Freight Advisory Committee for @NCTCOGtrans provided an excellent opportunity to work on truck parking solutions along with @TxDOT. – Scott Grenerth (@SGrenerth)
Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Twitter

1. Texas is home to 4 of the nation’s 15 largest cities. We’re working with @NCTCOGtrans to explore how hyperloop could transform what are now separate metro areas into one economic megaregion. Learn more about our progress here: https://hyperloop-one.com/texas-officials-confirm-hyperloop-technology-option-dallas-arlington-ft-worth-high-speed-corridor … – Virgin Hyperloop One (@HyperloopOne)
Correction: Home to five of the 15 largest — Houston (#4), San Antonio (#7), Dallas (#9), Austin (#11), Fort Worth (#15). (US Census Bureau data July 1, 2017) – John R. Kent (@JohnRKent)

Vow many G are you proposing to accelerate at? FT to D is 51km - 6min => avg. speed of 510kph or 317mph. You’d need to get fast quickly and slow down late and hard. How’s your acceleration? – Wenzel Massag (@WMassag)

Dallas to FW would be great. But would it be useful or just a novelty. I dunno. But for sure Dallas to Houston would be a game changer. – Dave Tyler (davetylerdat4)

    Eventually it’d be a network of stops, but your question is valid: What is the smallest distance a Hyperloop is useful for? - Wenzel Massag (@WMassag)

Can’t wait for Hyperloop One to come to Dallas!

    I would love to be one of the first ones to ride it. – Jessie (@SirJessieKing)

2. Don’t forget @CityofFortWorth is right up there! 😇

Look forward to seeing @NCTCOGtrans findings. – The Loop Guys (@loop_guys)
3. I got to see “Bob” at North Central Texas Council of Governments this morning. 🛋️ – Rob Severance (@ChiefSeverance)

Project Planning

Twitter

1. Dallas wants to add another deck park over I-30 http://www.fox4news.com/good-day/dallas-wants-to-add-another-deck-park-over-i-30 ... @NCTCOGtrans @TxDOTDallas @TxDOTCommission @CityOfDallas @DtownDallasInc – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)
2. Vision 2020: Dallas Transit Hub | NBC 5 Dallas-Fort Worth
https://www.nbcdfw.com/traffic/stories/Vision-2020-Dallas-Transit-Hub-505917661.html … via @nbcdfw @CityOfDallas @NCTCOGtrans – Lee M. Klein (@LeeforDallas)
1. Find info on upcoming @NCTCOGtrans public meetings here:
https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/meetings …

Follow the middle link to subscribe to updates via email. #NCTCoG #Transportation #NTx #DFWTransportation – 🤔 Carl Seiler

2. Join us for our Texas Transportation Legislative Update! Hear from moderator Brittney Farr (@dartmedia) and panelists Rebekah Hernandez (@NCTCOGtrans) and Holly Reed (@TexasCentral) on what to expect in the next legislative session. Find out more:
http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eg1zz12u46504d92&llr=8fn9w5iab … – WTS Dallas Ft. Worth (@WTSDFW)

3. opening plenary #FNT19 “we pride ourselves in being a region of choice” @NCTCOGtrans #FocusNorthTexas #FNT2019 – andreea udrea (@andreeaudrea2)

4. Opening plenary at #FNT19 #FNT2019. Panel: Michael Morris @NCTCOGtrans, T.C. Broadnax @CityOfDallas, Todd Plesko @dartmedia, @WalkableDFW, Alexis Jackson @cityofcelina. Consensus on importance of mobility options and mobility challenges arising from poor land use choices. – Thomas Bamonte (@TomBamonte)

   Am I missing something here?! Isn't Michael Morris the crazy pro-highway guy who proposed a couple years ago the idea excavating through Uptown, Dallas with yet another highway?! – Itz Ya Boy (@Tivo_Kenevil)

   I view Morris differently. His primary role seems to be to attract as much transportation funding to North Central Texas as possible. The reason the greatest part of funding he seeks is for highway lanes is because this is mostly what Washington funds. – Ken Duble (@kduble)
Sustainability

Twitter

1. CM Philip Kingston at @CityOfDallas #climatechange symposium: this must be the last year @NCTCOGtrans spends 80% of its budget on roads. #ActOnClimate – Public Citizen Texas (@PublicCitizenTX)

Facebook

1. Check out these two fast buddies, Arlo the Air-madillo and Recyclesaurus Rex. These two are all about making sure Denton is a cleaner safer place to live! Learn more about these two champions at City of Denton Recycles and NCTCOG Transportation Department. #AirNorthTexas #Arlo #SustainableDenton #LearnToConserve – City of Denton Sustainability
Transit

Email

1. Paul McManus

Dear TTP 2050 planning team members,

I’m very interested in attending the Texas Transportation Plan 2050 meeting in Arlington on February 21, but I’ll be unable to attend due to my work schedule. As a result, I wanted to e-mail you some thoughts and suggestions I have regarding this transportation plan.

As a Denton County resident who has had terrific experiences with mass transit, and also a resident who’s very concerned about car traffic, road congestion, and air quality throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area, as well as in all of Texas, I wanted to write to ask you to please place emphasis on improving and expanding mass transit options throughout Texas, including services for Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Trinity Metro, and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) here in the DFW area.
With rapid population growth and an increase in vehicle traffic here in Denton County, as well as throughout DFW and Texas, the availability of effective and extensive mass transit options is critical not only for people who need and want them, but it’s also critical for promoting and advancing economic development, better connecting people to employment, shopping and entertainment centers, as well as reducing traffic congestion, providing better local and regional mobility, promoting the use of mass transit, reducing the stress of having to drive, improving air quality, and improving the overall quality of life for all citizens. My 14-year-old son and I have frequently traveled on DART’s, Trinity Metro’s, and DCTA’s trains and buses, and we’ve had nothing but wonderful experiences in our travels!

I also serve on DCTA’s Citizens Advisory Team (CAT), and I’m also involved with the Fort Worth-based Tarrant Transit Alliance (TTA) non-profit transit advocacy organization. I can honestly say that DCTA, Trinity Metro, and DART are all wonderful transit agencies with people who are dedicated to providing great transit services, as well as expanding transit options throughout DFW.

I appreciate your consideration of my suggestions. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you very much!

2. Silvia

Will there be any transportation services for Crandall and Kaufman? Like bus transportation..maybe adding star transit bus lines to Crandall and Kaufman areas?

Carli Baylor

Hi Silvia,

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

STAR Transit is the public transportation provider in Kaufman County, Rockwall County, city of Seagoville, city of Balch Springs, the city of Mesquite and the city of DeSoto. They operate a couple different types of service.

1) Demand response transportation is available to the general public and must be requested 1-3 days in advance. Riders may have to register with STAR Transit before scheduling a ride. This service is a shared-ride service that picks you up at the curb and drops you off at the curb of your destination. However, it may not be a direct route. Another passenger may be picked up along the way before dropping you off at your destination.

2) Commuter routes provide a fixed route link between two destinations. STAR Transit currently operates a few commuter routes in Mesquite, Balch Springs and Seagoville.
In the last couple years, we have heard that additional capacity for transit is needed in rural Kaufman County. This need was documented and included in our plan Access North Texas that identifies the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes and others with transportation challenges. This plan outlines strategies to address the needs and serves as a guide for agencies that will implement these strategies to improve access to work, medical appointments, education and the community during the next four years.

If you have additional questions about STAR Transit’s service or need assistance scheduling a ride, please contact Valerie Orr at 469-474-2435 or mobilitydpt@startransit.org.

Kelli Gregory, one of our transit planners, is also more than happy to speak with you about any NCTCOG-related questions. I’ve copied her on this email. She can also be reached on her office line at 817-695-9287.

**Twitter**

1. A more longer range vision can be found with @NCTCOGtrans "Plan 2045", which recommends two other rail lines, #11 south to Burleson & Cleburne, and the #7 towards Kennedale, Mansfield and Midlothian. Worth noting though that the NCTCOG visions are far from set in stone. – Fort Worth Urban (@UrbanFortWorth)
North & south parallel to I-35 seem would have most impact, esp connecting #FortWorth to center of towns/cities (FW to #Burleson, #Cleburne, #Denton, #Roanoke) so are more than just rail lines to parking lots but lines to heart of towns/cities. Are those lines/routes feasible? – Andrew Blake (@andrewccblake)

2. Going to be late to work again because #TEXRail is messing up the #TrinityRailwayExpress Schedule. These TEXRail-caused TRE delays need to stop! I’ve had enough! @TrinityMetro @dartmedia @DARTAlerts @TxDOTFortWorth @NTExpress @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit @TrinityMetroAlt – Enrique Durán Junior (@ejr_d)

3. @NCTCOGtrans I couldn’t have said it better. #timetotrain – Linda Ld Thornton, APR (@LindaLdThornton)

4. Folks love #TEXRail! Thank you for riding! #MyTEXRail #TimetoTrain @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @CityofNRH @GrapevineTXCity @TarrantCountyTX @DFWAirport @FTWChamber @VisitFortWorth @grapevinecoc @VisitGrapevine @NETarrant @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – at Intermodal Transportation Center Station (Amtrak, Greyhound, TRE, The T) – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
5. Our client @NCTCOGtrans is extremely supportive of this great transit alternative! – RideShark (@RideShark)

6. You can keep up with transit in Fort Worth and Tarrant County by following Trinity Metro on Twitter: @TrinityMetro. #RideTrinityMetro #TEXRail #TimetoTrain @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @DFWAirport @FTWChamber @VisitFortWorth @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

7. Weeee! We agree! @NCTCOGtrans – Trinity Metro (@TrinityMetro)
8. When you read that #TEXRail ridership has exceeded expectations. Weeee!
http://bit.ly/2sUs8th @TrinityMetro @SAL_FW – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Looks like there is some serious latent demand for better mobility options out there!

Is the COG ready to boost its public #transit investments? – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

9. Let’s keep moving transit forward in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, & North Texas!
@CityofFortWorth @TrinityMetro @TarrantCountyTX @FTWChamber @VisitFortWorth
@DFWAirport @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

10. On #TEXRail today Sat 2/2/19 from @CityofFortWorth to @GrapevineTXCity, @CityofNRH
@DFWAirport & back. Saw plenty of riders! Let’s keep riding! @TrinityMetro
@TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @FTWChamber @NETarrant @VisitFortWorth
@VisitGrapevine @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
Can we get a train from Saginaw to Downtown FW? Would have tons of people off the road #ReadyForChange – IAH (@melis_tx)

@NCTCOGtrans #Mobility2045 plan identifies the following corridors for possibly #transit investments, including #rail.

Funding continues to be one of the most difficult changes.

We too are #ReadyForChange, let your elected officials know that you value & never forget to #Vote! – Tarrant Transit Alliance (@TarrantTransit)

11. Let's keep moving transit forward in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, & North Texas!
@CityofFortWorth @TrinityMetro @TarrantCountyTX @FTWChamber @VisitFortWorth @DFWAirport @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
12. 🎉Congrats to #TEXRail & #TrinityRailwayExpress on their 1st on-schedule weekday morning! 🙌 I hope they continue this morning's operations model 🙌 @TrinityMetro @dartmedia @TxDOTFortWorth @NTExpress @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit @PaulBallard9 #MyTimeToTrain 🚂 – Enrique Durán Junior (@ejr_d)

13. “Livin’ la vida transit” from @CityofFortWorth to @CityOfArlington by taking #TRE at @TrinityMetro ’s ITC Station to CentrePort/DFWAirport Station. We used @ViaPartners to lunch @TX_Live. Last leg w/@ViaPartners to 1 pm RTC mtg @NCTCOGtrans. @TarrantCounty @TarrantTransit – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

14. TxDOT is seeking your input, which will guide the development of Texas Transportation Plan 2050. The plan will include strategies for completing projects and implementing services for all types of transportation. Details on next week’s public meeting here: http://bit.ly/2S2PyXr – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)
Make this a reality!

It’s time to stop expanding our highways & time to invest in quality #TransitAlternatives! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

15. Like... How big is this network? For those of you familiar with Dallas-Ft. Worth, this is these are the same scale.

There are no legitimate reasons we shouldn’t pursue a similar network. @TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans – Loren S. (@txbornviking)
1. More North Texans having the ability to take transit to work is an exciting prospect for us. With 55,000 TEXRail riders in the first 12 days of service, it seems North Texans are also excited. We hope everyone continues to support this awesome alternative! http://bit.ly/2DuKLtK – NCTCOG Transportation Department

We’ve been on several times and loved it every time! Great service and quiet and smooth train!!!! ETA - Enthusiasts of Transit Association! – Curtis Garrison
I hope so, too! We rode it from DFW North Station to the ITC this past Sunday, and it was wonderful! Lots of people on the trains, too, especially between T&P and Smithfield stations! Plus, it’s great to be able to connect to many of Trinity Metro’s bus routes at all four Fort Worth TEXRail stations, too! – Paul McManus

2. TEXRail ridership exceeds expectations http://bit.ly/2sUs8th – NCTCOG Transportation Department

I’ll look for a timetable. Would like to ride to DFW, then just do a turn-around back to FW. – Bunny Lee Ryan

Other

Twitter

1. At @NCTCOGtrans, they are now doing a financial stress test to figure out "when do we potentially run out of cash." – Tom Benning (@tombenning)

2. #NTTS2019 session w/ Hillwood’s EVP Russell Laughin, @NCTCOGtrans’ Director of Transpo. Michael Morris & former Transpo. Comm’r. @Williamwmeadow2 discuss our state/national transpo. story & why history continues to repeat when it comes to finding/securing funding for our roads. – 35W Coalition (@35WCoalition)
3. “It’s always more effective to have more people around the table; more people smarter than you to solve the problem. That’s essentially a public-private partnership.” -Michael Morris @NCTCOGtrans @HillwoodDevelop @Williamwmeadow2 #NTTS2019 – Mosaic Strategy (@mosaic_sp)

4. According to @TxDOT, there were 228 tickets written for Texans going 120 mph or faster between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of last year. I don't know who needs to hear this, but... slow down. http://bit.ly/2MWOUd9 – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Please tell me a ticket at that speed also includes immediate impounding of the vehicle and arrest? – Loren S. (@txbornviking)
@TexasCentral @TXHighSpeedRail Slow down and wait for the train so all of us can go 200mph instead of 20mph on IH-45. – Rob Maxwell (@RobMax17)

Facebook

1. 😄 Loving the North Texas Tollway Authority signs for the Super Bowl. It's a great reminder that if you need assistance, dial #999 http://bit.ly/2Wu7Q7w – NCTCOG Transportation Department

![Tire Flat as a Patriots Football Dial #999](image)

Except for all the drivers taking pictures of the sign (some stopping on the Tollway). Funny until it becomes a dangerous distraction. – Steve Martin

Yes aunt Shirley. 😊😊😊 – Kelly Burgard

Janie Powell, Kari Powell, Kelly Burgard isn’t this funny – Shirley Powell

Construction barrels on left side of road. Not surprised. And by the way, ☹️Toll Roads☺️

– Wm Atkins

2. But really, though. – NCTCOG Transportation Department
We really really really really really really really really really really need to get the NTTA to finish the CTP ramps to I-20. – Jason R. Browder

…I don't get it...

😊 – Phil Neil

3. According to TxDOT, there were 228 tickets written for Texans going 120 mph or faster between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of last year. I don't know who needs to hear this, but... slow down. http://bit.ly/2MWOUd9 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

And use DART’s, Trinity Metro’s, and DCTA’s great train and bus services whenever you can, too, to help reduce car traffic, reckless driving, and potential accidents! – Paul McManus
Actually, we want INCREASE reckless driving while decreasing reckless driving. – Suzi Rumohr

Suzi Rumohr Sorry! Thanks for catching that, and I made the correction! – Paul McManus