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 Wednesday, March 20, through Tuesday, April 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. Air Quality comments were in the majority.

Air Quality

Email

1. James Orenstein

Hello,

I’m writing to ask who is the best contact person for me to find out more about the following, from an agenda information sheet from the agenda for the Denton City Council Committee On the Environment meeting for tomorrow, Mon. April 1 2019 at 2:00 pm (if possible before then):

I am interested in seeing the various air quality monitoring projects I have been somewhat involved in work together (see references below), as well as possibly advocating for monitoring in Duncanville and Cedar Hill (where I live and downwind from the Midlothian cement plants).

“NCTCOG

Staff continues to coordinate with other cities in the region to explore options to increase air quality monitoring regionally and in City of Denton. To support these efforts, Denton has submitted the following requests to NCTCOG for consideration to be included in the FY2020 and FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program for Regional Transportation Planning.

Request 1 – Regional Air Quality Project

We request that NCTCOG serve as the manager/administrator/coordinator of a new regional, non-regulatory, air monitoring network. The network would consist of more numerous monitors than the TCEQ currently manages and would be focused on pollutants that impact quality of life in DFW, including particulate matter, ozone, and/or ozone precursors, much of which comes from the transportation sector. This effort should include coordination of a committee with reps from local governments, academia, healthcare, and advocacy groups, and could be formalized through MOUs/MOAs if appropriate. We understand that similar requests are being submitted by Dallas, Plano and Lewisville.

Request 2 – Regional Sustainability Initiatives
We request that NCTCOG serve as the manager/administrator/coordinator for increased new regional, sustainability efforts. The cities of Denton, Dallas, Plano, and Lewisville recently requested assistance from NCTCOG to provide regional leadership and assistance for Sustainability efforts. We as that as a next step NCTCOG explore opportunities to complete a regional Greenhouse Gas inventory and identify resulting impacts of emissions. With GHG information available for the region, mitigation and adaptation strategies could be identified that would benefit all entities represented by NCTCOG. We believe that these efforts could be included in existing program areas as enhancements to air quality improvement efforts. We understand that similar requests are being submitted by Dallas, Plano and Lewisville.”

https://dentontx.new.swagit.com/events/3496/agenda

PROJECT REFERENCES:

1) Luftdaten Build Your Own PM Monitors (mine is in Duncanville at the border with Cedar Hill):
https://www.meetup.com/TechmillDenton/events/259267642/
http://deutschland.maps.luftdaten.info/#10/32.9816/-97.0752

2) North Texas Clean Air Network, presentation for Dallas QALOC Committee, and by Dr. Lary at Feb 2019 NTREG meeting:
http://www.ntreg.org/downloads.shtml

3) Downwinders At Risk Citizen Science Portable Air Monitor Training:
https://www.greensourcedfw.org/articles/air-monitoring-training-be-held-dallas

Thanks

Twitter

1. One of the top contributors to air pollution is automobile emissions. To reduce your contribution, carpool, walk, take transit (#RideDCTA), or #RideYourBike when possible. – Bike Denton (@bikedenton)

2. Tonight at the @CAMPOTexas meeting, the transportation policy board is spending time talking to @TCEQ on whether the region will reach high enough measures of ozone to join HOU
& DFW in the dangerously unhealthy world of officially poisonous air. – Jay Blazek Crossley (@JayCrossley)


Oh dear, already?! – The Texas Pool (@texaspoolplano)

4. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued an Ozone Action Day for the Dallas-Fort Worth area for April 10, 2019. Please monitor the Twitter page
(@Dallas_Air) and http://AirNorthTexas.org for more information. #AirQuality #OzoneAlert @NCTCOGtrans – Green Dallas (@GreenDallas)

![DFW Ozone Alert](image)

Facebook

1. Last year, the EPA designated these 9 counties as not meeting the air quality standard. We've made lots of progress since the '90s, but we're not there yet. Stay tuned to learn more about ozone basics and visit airnorthtexas.org for updates. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

![Maps of Texas counties](image)

Never trust the UNCONSTITUTIONAL EPA. – Phil Neil
2. Clean Air Action Day is coming up on June 21, 2019! Don't forget to take the pledge. It provides tons of great ideas on how you can make clean air choices. NCTCOG Transportation Department #BeAirAware #CAAD2019 #AirNTX – City of Denton Sustainability

3. Mark your calendars! Clean Air Action Day is June 21st! #AirNTX NCTCOG Transportation Department – Keep Bedford Beautiful

4. Ozone Action Day – Ozone in the DFW area Tuesday is predicted to be at Level Orange, unhealthy for sensitive groups. Children, older adults and people with lung disease, such as asthma, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis, should limit outdoor activity. Current ozone information: http://bit.ly/9nC9vyy. Consider a clean air choice: http://bit.ly/2oAbaPt. – NCTCOG Transportation Department
The important takeaway is:

Why the □ is the armadillo wearing GLASSES?! – Phil Neil

They help improve his vision! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

5. Or take transit! – Tarrant Transit Alliance

6. Tue and Wed are the first ozone days of the year. It'll be tougher on kids, seniors and some of all ages. We are off to a bad start this year -- – Bud Kennedy
7. Great. Earlier every year. – Rick Bollar

8. Tue and Wed are the first ozone days of the year. It'll be tougher on kids, seniors and some of all ages. We are off to a bad start this year -- -- Liveable Arlington
Alternative Fuels

Facebook

1. Great attendance at the South Central Alternative Fuel Corridor Convening. The map below shows the CNG Corridor map. NCTCOG Transportation Department – Texas NGV Alliance

Aviation

Twitter

1. Best Practices for Airport Obstruction Management Guidebook @FAAnews @NCTCOGtrans http://dlvr.it/R2214S – TX Transportation Rsch (@tx_transpo_rsch)

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter

1. Amsterdam has stepped up their commitment to going green by eliminating parking spaces in favor of parks, bike lanes, and bike parking. – GenZe (@RideGenZe)
The ones that cause a problem here are the “weekend cycling 🚴‍♂️ guys & girls whom think they need to ride 2 lanes wide bringing everyone to 10-12 mph in suburban areas & drunks on #limebikes #jumpbikes & #birdscooters in downtown and uptown! Most cyclists don’t cause a issue. – RideshareTexan (@RideshareT)

2. This project is very exciting – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

3. Woohoo! – City of Grand Prairie (@gp_tx)

Facebook

1. Check out the results of the NCTCOG Transportation Department bicycle survey!! – BikeDFW
2. Today, the Regional Transportation Council recognized the mayors of Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving and Dallas for their successful efforts to collaborate and secure funding for the Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Veloweb Trail. Once complete, the regional trail will extend 53 miles from downtown Fort Worth to downtown Dallas and connect with an extensive network of trails in each city. All sections of the regional trail are expected to be complete by 2023. To read more about it, visit: www.nctcog.org/FWtoDALTrail.

For more posts like this and member’s only private discussions, join our Facebook group related to this post ETA – Infrastructure – ETA - Enthusiasts of Transit Association
3. Today, the Regional Transportation Council recognized the mayors of Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving and Dallas for their successful efforts to collaborate and secure funding for the Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Veloweb Trail. Once complete, the regional trail will extend 53 miles from downtown Fort Worth to downtown Dallas and connect with an extensive network of trails in each city. All sections of the regional trail are expected to be complete by 2023. To read more about it, visit: www.nctcog.org/FWtoDALTrail. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Awesome!! – Robert Riggs
Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Twitter

1. Two years ago, we held our Vision for America event, where 11 semifinalists showcased some of the most promising U.S. hyperloop routes. Since then, we’ve made significant progress working with the most forward thinking local governments in the nation. See how far we’ve come: – Virgin Hyperloop One (@HyperloopOne)

Facebook

1. This is a great rebate opportunity for those of you interested in purchasing a new car! – City of Denton Sustainability

2. Looking to purchase a new electric vehicle? Now is the time! The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is still accepting applications to receive up to $2,500 off a new electric vehicle.
vehicle, through 5/31 (or until all rebates have been issued). Act fast, only 85 electric vehicle rebates remain! http://bit.ly/2FllYlE – NCTCOG Transportation Department

EXCEPT Tesla’s, correct? – D’awn James

Hi, D’awn! That’s correct. Teslas aren’t eligible because they aren’t sold through Texas licensed car dealers. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Oh right! Texas law requires car manufacturers to sell their cars to third party dealerships before they can be sold to consumers. Tesla wants to cut out the middle man and that saves Tesla drivers money on the front end 😉 I’m better off without the tax credit and buying straight from Tesla. Thanks for the info! – D’awn James

3. Just two years ago, we held our Vision for America event, where 11 Global Challenge semifinalists showcased some of the most promising hyperloop routes in the U.S. Since then, we’ve made significant progress working with the most forward thinking local governments in the nation. See how far we’ve come:

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) NCTCOG Transportation Department Colorado Department of Transportation Black & Veatch KC Tech Council St. Louis Regional Chamber Mizzou AECOM – Hyperloop One
Email

1. Larry McFarland

   I especially like the web comments page. Cleverly designed to limit input to 500 characters and difficult to view by making the box so small.

   Reflects sadly on you.

   Here’s the full context of the comment.

   Please feel free to contact me for any questions.

   Massive failure best describes the DFW roadway 'improvements' of the last 50 or so years. If you think improving transportation means adding more toll lanes, you might just be nuts. Any 'improvement' that does anything less than double the number of existing highway lanes is a waste of taxpayer money. Millions of wasted tax dollars and millions of wasted man-hours for tax payers subjected to construction delays. Just look at the massive delays on I35 North after a gazillion years of construction. Who in their right mind would destroy a roadway built 50 years ago and replace it with a roadway with the exact same number of main lanes? Or look at the 820 north backup. Two primary lanes, c'mon gimme a break. That was the same number of lanes it had back in the 70's. And that whole 360 – I30 interchange? What a joke. Building a pretty interchange so cars can more quickly be stuck in the backup on either north or south-bound 360. Makes me laugh every time I drive thru there and stare in amazement at the boondoggle.
So why did it take 40 years to build 360, and build it to handle capacity from the 1960’s? And that’s still a mess, but somebody surely claimed credit for a massive success.

Pretty much every roadway construction project is a dismal failure in the eyes of everyone except the people who made money off the project. If you think you’re doing a good job, then it might just reflect your ability to make accurate assessments and indicate a perfect opportunity to find a new job.

2. Richard Schumacher

NCTCOG should neither advocate for nor help fund the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau. If Mr. Morris thinks otherwise he must explain why that is an appropriate use of transportation resources.

Twitter

1. Has anyone ever attempted to calculate how much economic damage @NCTCOGtrans and @dartmedia have done to @CityOfDallas? What about the number of needless deaths and permanent injuries which are a product of the outdated, dangerous transportation networks they have constructed? – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

Strong Towns @StrongTowns
"In any other field, if a CEO continued to implement solutions to problems that evidence shows don’t work, that CEO would be canned. But in the upside-down world of transportation planning, the opposite happens.”...

Are we going to add the injuries & death(s) from these silly scooters too?? – I PROBABLY DON’T LIKE YOU (@Dallas014)

Good point. The region’s terrible infrastructure is causing needless injury to them, as well. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

I almost stepped in front of one Saturday walking out of House Of Blues – East Dallas Brian (@BeavisImposter)

Written

1. Attachment 2

Public Meetings & Forums

Twitter

1. From @trtcmobility: Join the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (TRTC) on Wed, 4/3, 8:30 am, Fort Worth Central Station for latest on @TrinityMetro & #TEXRail w/Bob Baulsir, Sr
2. 04/10 3:00pm: @CTEDD 2nd Panel w/ prof. @dgchatman > @wursterlife, @Planit_Doug >@RichardsonEDP @txplanning , Chris Hillman > @thecityofirving ,Honored 2 have Dr.@VistaspKarbhari welcome guests @ULINTX @COMTO_National @TexITE @NCTCOGtrans @UTAcappa RSVP: https://cteddlecture2.eventbrite.com – z-ahoura (@ahoura_z)
Transit

Email

1. Jerry Speight

We have a non-profit organization in Greenville, TX., the Hope Center of Greenville. We have a partnership with Paris Junior College to conduct GED classes with us and currently have about 40 students. We also have free computer skills classes (for the past 10 years) which has students from youth up through age 75. Many of these need transportation.

Our local transportation service, the Connection, located in Greenville, is totally out of the question in affordability for 99% of our people needing to get to and from classes.

After finding out the great public transportation service provided in Paris, TX., I wanted to reach out to find out who I need to speak with to try to get some help with our local service.

Example: We need some local bus stops that would have regular pick-up and drop-off service during the day. We need reasonable ticket prices (such as in Paris, $.50 tickets and free senior tickets).

Our people can’t afford a $4.00 one way ticket! We have no regular bus stops in the city. People must schedule rides 24 hours in advance.
Please advise what we can do to improve this public service in Greenville.

Hi Jerry,

Thank you for your email and sharing your concerns about public transportation in Hunt County. The Senior Center Resources and Public Transit (SCRPT) serves as the rural transit district for Hunt County, and therefore receives state funding from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for rural transit services. SCRPT provides demand response service for the general public through its transportation program, The Connection. Demand response service is a non-fixed route system of transporting individuals that requires advanced scheduling by the customer. Since it's not a fixed route system, the advanced scheduling is needed in order for SCRPT to create each day's unique "route". However, this system can be inconvenient for last-minute ride requests or for individuals on limited incomes.

From your description, it sounds like Paris, TX has a highly subsidized fixed route system that operates within their city. TxDOT and SCRPT would be the best agencies to contact to discuss potentially creating a subsidized fixed route like Paris' in Greenville. I've included recommended contacts below.

Sunil John
Public Transportation Coordinator
TXDOT
214-320-4467
Sunil.John@txdot.gov

Danny Allembaugh
Executive Director
Senior Center Resource and Public Transit
903-454-1444 ext. 18
td@scrpt.org

If NCTCOG can be of further assistance, Kelli Gregory, one of our transit planners, would be happy to answer any questions. She is copied on this email.

Kind regards,
Twitter

1. When can we get some public #transit options? @dartmedia @TrinityMetro @CityOfArlington.

Sure would be nice to have regular #bus or #rail options for @dallascowboys games at @ATTStadium & future @Rangers at @GlobeLifeField. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

They would never give up that parking revenue. My family has one parking spot for each cowboy game and it costs $120. – Chris Greer (@greer_tcu)

The poison of our #autocentric culture. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

Would sure help with public safety too. – Sean Crotty (@SeanCrtt)

I think Arlington needs a reality check... – Jeriat Gillum (@Jeriat817)

Written

1. Attachment 1

Other

Twitter

1. On April 26 join @NCTCOGtrans and partners for EarthxTransportation: Sirens, Schools and Shippers -

Efficiency Solutions for Fleets Serving Our Communities, a half day workshop @earthxorg #CleanCities – Oklahoma Clean Cities (@OKCleanCities)

Also check out https://www.dfwcleancities.org/earthxworkshop for additional details – Oklahoma Clean Cities (@OKCleanCities)

2. "...The mossback idiots go to the COG because they can't get their way downtown anymore...." http://www.dallasobserver.com/news/smelly-deal-for-klyde-warren-deck-park-expansion-11617089 ... via @dallas_observer @KlydeWarrenPark @NCTCOGtrans – FairParkRising (@FairParkRising)
3. The Open Streets experience takes place on April 7th. Join in the fun! @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @nearsouthside @UrbanFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantCountyTX @VisitFortWorth @FTWChamber – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

Facebook

1. Searched "golden treasure" on Google Maps today and look what came up! 😍 – NCTCOG Transportation Department
Fell for it. – Suzi Rumohr

Suzi, for what it's worth, I know you're not the only one. Happy April Fools' Day! –
NCTCOG Transportation Department

Written
1. Attachment 3