PUBLICATIONS 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 Monday, May 20, through Wednesday, June 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, regional trails and NCTCOG bike survey results were in the majority.

Air Quality

Twitter

1. What will you do to positively impact air quality on Clean Air Action Day this Friday? Take public transit? Walk to work? Carpool? @NCTCOGtrans #AirNTX – Denton County, Texas (@DentonCountyTX)

Facebook

1. Suggested Actions for Clean Air Day
North Texans can participate in Clean Air Action Day on June 21 by doing at least one thing to help improve air quality. This special day is held each year to help raise awareness for the problems of air pollution and the different ways that people can work toward making the air cleaner. This is an important way to help preserve the planet and make it better for both ourselves and future generations to live on.

People can share their plans on Clean Air Action Day, on social media by using #CAAD2019 and tagging NCTCOG Transportation Department to qualify for a chance to win a prize.

Clean air choices for June 21

-Carpool or vanpool
-Use mass transit
-Bike or walk
-Telecommute
-Attend meetings remotely
-Take lunch to work or summer activities
-Maintain consistent driving speed by avoiding quick accelerations and hard braking
-Reduce idling
-Combine trips or drive less
-Report smoking, polluting vehicles (#SMOKE)
-Stay up-to-date on regular vehicle maintenance and state emissions and safety inspection
-Consider an electric or other alternative fuel lawn mower
-Switch to energy efficient light bulbs
-Pursue energy-efficient home improvement projects
-Choose a clean vehicle option if purchasing a new vehicle (electric, hybrid, natural gas, propane, biofuels, SmartWay)
-Use a vehicle-approved biofuel in your car (E85 and B20)
-Call for an alternative-fueled or hybrid vehicle if going to the airport or around town
-Buy local or at places where less driving is required
-Encourage someone else to make clean air choices on 6-21-19
-Tell a friend about Air North Texas and options that help improve air quality in the region
- Sign up for air pollution alerts
- Commit to making clean air choices the entire ozone season
- Create an account and log commutes at TryParkingIt.com

Talking a walk in nature is also a great way to celebrate Clean Air Day 2019. We only have one planet, and this is a good time to reaffirming our commitment to protecting Mother Earth and making sure that the air that we breathe is as clean and healthy as possible.

For more information and help in implementing these actions, visit AirNorthTexas.org. – Natural Awakenings Dallas Metroplex Magazine

2. Clean Air Action Day is on Friday, June 21st. Pledge to do simple things to positively impact air quality - such as bicycling, walking to work or taking public transit. Log your alternative commutes at www.tryparkingit.com. NCTCOG Transportation Department #AirNTX – Denton County, Texas
Bicycle & Pedestrian

Website

1. Morgan Nichols

This trail will add tremendous benefit to our community.

Twitter

1. 12 county survey results "help guide future bicycle plans and projects that affect bicyclists" – TX Transportation Rsch (@tx_transpo_rsch)

NCTCOGTransportation @NCTCOGtrans
The type of bike facility design, location and traffic volumes influence North Texans’ comfort bicycling. They feel safest riding on an off-street path or a wide bicycle lane separated from traffic.
Check out our bike survey: nctcog.org/bikesurvey. #BikeMonth

2. Great day for @DallasParkRec Trail System. Acquired easements for @NorthavenTrail bridge over @TxDOTDallas 75, and grants from @NCTCOGtrans for SOPAC, @dartmedia Cotton Belt Veloweb, KCS Trail, @MLineTrolley @CityOfDallas – at Dallas City Hall Fitness Center – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)
Congrats @LeeforDallas Thanks for making this happen! – Will Dawson (@will_dawson)

3. The Walnut Hill NA has begged D13 Gates to paint a simple cross walk at Royal and Rosser for kids to get to withers elem and access the NH Trail but she won’t budge. Sad we cannot take baby steps. – Tom Collier

4. The type of bike facility design, location and traffic volumes influence North Texans' comfort bicycling. They feel safest riding on an off-street path or a wide bicycle lane separated from traffic. Check out our bike survey: http://www.nctcog.org/bikesurvey. #BikeMonth - NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)
Can you survey @TxDOT employees about their lack of understanding of who funds their roads? It’s hard to get safe facilities when their starting point is biased and uninformed. – Don Kostelec (@KostelecPlan)

5. ENTER TO WIN! Provide your input about walking in the #DFW region by taking the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Survey @ http://bit.ly/2EZkeoV & you may win a $100 VISA gift card. This survey is part of @NCTCOGtrans & @TxDOT. View additional details at http://bit.ly/2EZkeoV – City of Grapevine (@GrapevineTXCity)
6. Pedestrians - avoid distractions and make sure you don't walk and text. Texting is a major
distraction and could cause you to short step a curb or walk into a sign. #WalkSafe #BeSeen
http://ow.ly/NH9c30dQSzw – WalkBikeSafeTx (@WalkBikeSafeTX)

@TxDOT @NCTCOGtrans stop building signs and poles in the middle of sidewalks –
Rob Rasmussen, MD, PhD (@rgrasmus)
Facebook

1. Walking In DFW! Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Survey -

NCTCOG Transportation Department (North Central Council of Governments) and TxDOT are launching a public opinion survey for the Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP). We invite you to take the survey at bit.ly/2JvKRFM.

Responses will assist in the PSAP’s development by providing feedback about the user experience and desire regarding pedestrian accommodations in the region and help guide future policies and programs.

Participants who submit their name and email address on the last page of the survey will be entered to win a $100 VISA gift card. Visit bit.ly/2wcbqHm to view contest rules. Photo Credit: Mike Reyher – City of Grapevine Texas
2. Spring is the most popular time of the year for bicycling in North Texas. But more than 80 percent of bicyclists rode during summer and fall 😊 What is your favorite season to ride? Do you have a favorite place to ride in North Texas? Check out the results from NCTCOG Transportation Department's Bicycle Opinion Survey at www.nctcog.org/bikesurvey – Plano Parks & Recreation
3. National Trails Day is Saturday, June 1! Use our trail brochure to plan your trip: http://bit.ly/DFWTrailBrochure. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Plus, if you're going to the A-Train rail trail event this Saturday sponsored by DCTA and several Denton County cities, you can get free A-Train rides all day Saturday just by saying the phrase “Trails Day” to any A-Train staff member! – Paul McManus

Did not know that, Paul. Thanks for sharing! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

4. Check out all of these great public trails throughout DFW! – City of Denton Sustainability
5. Today is National Trails Day!!! Get outside and enjoy the local beauty!! Our lake parks may be closed but use this trails map to discover something new. Don’t forget to pack sunscreen & a reusable water bottle. ☀️ 🌿 🌺 – Keep Grapevine Beautiful

6. Lack of various types of bicycle facilities, including connections between bike lanes and trails, are the top obstacles to bicycling. What improvements are needed for you to bicycle more? Check out the results from our Bicycle Opinion Survey: www.nctcog.org/bikesurvey. – NCTCOG Transportation Department
Takeaway: build bike lanes separated from traffic. Riding on Dallas roads is mostly pretty dangerous – Scott Frisby

Not what is pictured! – Mark Lanier

**Project Planning**

**Email**

1. **Jeff Sawyer**

   I have lived in Heatherwood subdivision 14 years. We already have a noise pollution nuisance with Lake Forest that didn't exist when I chose this neighborhood to raise a family. Please don't compound this already unbearable noise by adding an unnecessary bypass that will do nothing but enrich those receiving the construction contracts and those with the inside information on what parcels of land to grab for an insider trading windfall.

2. **Michael and Barbara Steele**

   Dear Mr. Morris and Ms. Wilson,

   I am writing this with regards to the environmental impact issue with our community.

   We moved out to this beautiful country area 18 years ago to escape the rat race of being to close to town. In preparation for our retirement home, we planted trees which have matured beautifully and updated the interior of our home. Yes, I said our "home". It's not just a house, it's our home where we planned to retire and spend our golden years. We live at the end of a very quiet culdesac. Our neighbors who live at the end of our street are also planning on spending their golden years here. They put in a pool and we all have gardens. TXDOT is talking about bringing in a bypass within feet of of our street and a cemetery and destroying our peaceful way of life and our retirement years.

   Within the past few years 380 has become congested because the City of Princeton continues to sell building permits. For them it's all about collecting the tax dollar not about quality of life.

   Please help us in keeping 380 on 380 and preserving our peaceful way of life.

3. **Rachael Chilton**

   Dear Ms. Wilson,

   I'm a concerned N. McKinney resident that would be adversely affected by a 380 bypass on either Bloomdale or Wilmeth. I ask you to please make sure 380 stays on 380.

   Thank you for your consideration.

4. **William R Hester II**

   I live about 200 feet from Wilmeth allowing 380 to move to that location would destroy our peace, rest, and my home values. It would force me to move. I have a disabled wife and two disabled children. This location would be an incredible hardship to our family.
Please keep 380 on 380, we know it will be a hard process but with the growth we have had there it will be worth it in the long run. Doing the right thing is not always doing the easiest thing.

Resident and home owner since March 2004

5. John Helmer

Dear Mr. Morris,

Regarding the McKinney 380 Bypass, I think the key fact is to know what percentage of drivers are passing through without visiting local businesses. If that number is over 50%, we need a bypass with limited stops. Transient traffic should be able to circumnavigate the business district without contributing to local congestion. That idea may conflict with impacted property owners but would benefit the community and region as a whole.

Just my opinion.

Michael Morris

As part of our standard analysis package when we get to the environmental process, we will run a “selected link analysis” which will give us the origin-destination trip table which will answer the question you are asking. We will run it at several locations. It will also answer questions like the need for frontage roads or not on any by-pass.

6. Andy Mondy

I’m a huge fan of improving US 380 within its current footprint. I live and work in McKinney. The congestion on 380 has increased significantly and it needs to be improved. I don’t think a bypass would solve the issue and I wouldn’t want my home and land to be destroyed by a highway.

7. Kristen and Mike Johnson

Hello Mr. Morris and Ms. Wilson,

We live in Erwin Farms and some of the proposed bypasses do not solve the 380 issues and impact our home. As long time Plano residents, we chose to move to McKinney in 2009 due to it being “unique by nature.” We have commuted to Dallas for work because we choose to live here. We are concerned that 380 decisions are making our beautiful city like the others, avoiding fixing the issues and just building roads and becoming a concrete jungle. We want to protect beautiful Erwin Park, residents quality of life and the “unique by nature” city. We want to find a reasonable and viable solution to traffic issues. We appreciate your support on the most reasonable solution to fix 380 on 380. Please let us know how we can help. Thank you very much!
Twitter
1. From @txdot to @HouPublicWorks to @cityofmanor to @sanantoniotci to @austinmobility to @ElPasoTXGov to @NCTCOGtrans, every government must deal w/ the mistakes of high speed design & develop speed management strategies akin to drunk, distracted programs. – Vision Zero Texas (@VisionZeroTexas)

Public Meetings & Forums
Twitter
1. REMINDER: Please join us for tomorrow's TRTC meeting. @NCTCOGtrans Director of Transportation Michael Morris and transportation program managers will discuss the status of RTC mobility actions impacting the TRTC area. – TRTC (@trtcmobility)

2. At FW Central Station for monthly mtg of @trtcmobility. Special guests: Michael Morris & team at the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). Update on mobility projects in western part of Metroplex. @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantCountyTX @TxDOTFortWorth – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

3. Thank you to @NCTCOGtrans for speaking at yesterday's meeting! If you'd like to see the presentation, please click the link below. – TRTC (@trtcmobility)
4. @NCTCOGtrans will host a public meeting on June 10 on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals and Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. This is an important way to get public opinion about transportation planning activities and air quality programs. http://nctcog.org/input – City of Coppell (@CityofCoppell)

5. @TrinityMetro 53rd General Assembly Meeting North Central Texas Council of Governments. #TEXRail being recognized with a CLIDE (Celebrating Leadership In Development Excellence) Award. @NCTCOGtrans @CityofFortWorth @CityofNRH @GrapevineTXCity @DFWAirport @NCTCOG_Official – at Hurst Conference Center – Trinity Metro (@TrinityMetro)
1. REMINDER: Join us tomorrow for our monthly meeting. Our guest speakers, NCTCOG Transportation Department Director of Transportation Michael Morris and transportation program managers will discuss the status of RTC mobility actions impacting the TRTC area. – Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition

2. The NCTCOG Transportation Department will be hosting a public meeting on Monday, June 10, about the 2020-2022 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goals and Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. This meeting is an important way to gauge public opinion about the transportation planning activities and air quality programs of NCTCOG and the RTC as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. – City of Coppell, TX Municipal Government
3. The RTC meeting will begin at 1 pm today. Want to watch the meeting live? Visit http://nctcog.org/video and click "live." – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Seeing this, I tuned in and find that innovation is still the rule! Being gone from the region for almost 10 years, I still miss being part of such exciting work and advancements!!! – Cinde Weatherby

Old habits die hard, Cinde. Thanks for tuning in! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Transit

Twitter
1. @TrinityMetro CEO Bob Baulsir thanks community supporters and @NCTCOGtrans - and talks about this innovative transit option. #TheDash @BZPFortWorth @UNTHSC @KimbellArt @themodernfw – Trinity Metro (@TrinityMetro)

2. Thank you and @NCTCOGtrans for providing the funds to residents and visitors to @CityofFortWorth for the buses and charging station. I. Can't. Wait. #DashForward – Linda Ld Thornton, APR (@LindaLdThornton)

3. Exciting to see new services from @TrinityMetro and partners. – Tarrant Transit Alliance (@TarrantTransit)
4. Great day to showcase The Dash, @TrinityMetro’s first electric bus, at today’s Regional Transportation Council (RTC) mtg. It will connect @DTFortWorth to W 7th, Cultural District, @DickiesArena & @UNTHSC. Thank you RTC and all partners. @NCTCOGtrans @CityofFortWorth – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

Will there be any chance to check it out before September? – Tarrant Transit Alliance (@TarrantTransit)

And we are testing The Dash and will work with TTA on a chance to check out the bus with TTA members – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

We hope so! We are working on plans for an open house for the public before we open. We will keep you updated! – Dickies Arena (@DickiesArena)

5. The Dash! – Linda Ld Thornton, APR (@LindaLdThornton)

6. From @TrinityMetro : #TEXRail was honored w/CLIDE (Celebrating Leadership in Development Excellence) Award from @NCTCOGtrans. Recipients were chosen by some of nation’s top urban planning experts. https://ridetrinitymetro.org/texrail-honored-with-nctcog-clide-award/ … @CityofFortWorth @GrapevineTXCity @CityofNRH @DFWAirport – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
Facebook

1. The Heartland Flyer, the passenger train that provides rail service from Fort Worth to OKC, was named 20 years ago! How did it get its name? 😊 http://bit.ly/2Fugdt5. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

2. Soon you’ll be able to ride TEXRail from Fort Worth all the way to Plano. Here’s how: http://bit.ly/2Wte6jL – NCTCOG Transportation Department
So a one seat ride or not? The article said not. Would be nice if so. Transfers kill ridership. – Chris Wyatt

Gonna be a transfer, but it'll be like transferring at Trinity Mills: TEXRail on one platform, DART Cotton Belt on the other.

Not sure Trinity Metro or DART would want their trains going on the other's rails (even though it's all owned by DART). – Eddie Sigala

I'm ready to ride – Bessie Robertson

3. Look who's here! It's The Dash! It will connect Downtown Fort Worth to the museum district and Dickies Arena. Service is set to begin September 22.

Trinity Metro Downtown Fort Worth – NCTCOG Transportation Department
We can’t wait to ride the Dash! We just rode TRE to the Amtrak Heartland Flyer 20th Anniversary event Friday then TEXRail back and the Dash would have been great to take a ride when we had a late lunch! ETA - Enthusiasts of Transit Association! – Curtis Garrison

Plus, for everybody reading this post, The Dash will also connect to the TRE, TEXRail, and several other Trinity Metro bus routes at Central Station in downtown Fort Worth as well! – Paul McManus

Other

Email

1. Sherry Berman

Good Afternoon,

We live in Timberlake Subdivision in Southlake, Texas. The front of our neighborhood has an entrance exit onto 1709. When exiting our neighborhood we not only have to watch for 3 lanes of traffic going east on 1709, we then have to watch for ongoing traffic moving west try to make a Turn so that they now can go east. The traffic is so great on 1709, getting out of our neighborhood at peak times is a bit difficult then you have cars from the east deciding they need to make a U-turn. You never know if they are making a left or making a U-Turn. It ends up being a waste of time because you sit there waiting to see what they are going to do, if you go then they hit you and it is your fault for going. It is a dangerous and frustrating situation and just does not make a whole of sense to a someone that is not in the traffic industry. This whole concept just does not seem safe on such busy roads. No response needed, just an FYI to think about

Twitter

Thoughts?
More people will die across the state because of this.

Red light cameras save lives.

IIHS studies found that the introduction of red-light cameras reduced violations by 40%. The cameras reduced red-light-running crash fatalities by 21%. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

In those cities that turned off their cameras, the rate of fatal crashes involving a driver who sped through a red light was 30% higher per capita than if the cameras had remained functional – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

They may be annoying, but red-light cameras save lives: IIHS
Disabling red-light cameras leads to an increase in automotive crash and fatality rates, according to a new IIHS study.

cnbc.com

-fatal red light-running crashes in dropped 35% in 2004-08 versus 1992-96, compared to a drop of just 14% in the cities w/o red light cameras

https://www.autotrader.com/car-reviews/study-confirms-red-light-cameras-save-lives-78310 ... – Loren S. (@txbornviking)
- the overall rate of fatal crashes at intersections w/ signals dropped 14% in the cities w/ cameras versus 1992-96, but actually went up 2% in cities w/o cameras – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

Red light cameras save lives. Banning them means more people WILL die.

More dead mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends.

Blood on the hands of @GovAbbott and those who voted to make this happen. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

Nearly 4,000 people died on Texas roads last year. You’d think we’d be trying to bring that number down, not implementing policies guaranteed to increase it.

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

2. 60years of wonderful! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

3. I was a (crash) investigator in 1997 when NHTSA kicked off the “Crashes Aren’t Accidents” nationwide campaign. Texas subsequently changed the ‘A’ Word to “crash” on report forms. Drunk, drugged, and distracted drivers don’t have accidents – they CRASH.

#CrashNotAccident – Rob Severance (@ChiefSeverance)
I worked for a PI attorney for a year. The two things I learned: carry as much personal injury and uninsured motorist insurance as you can afford, it probably won't be enough; "accidents" rarely are, the vast vast majority are caused by one party being negligent for even a sec. – Deadpurl (@knitonepurrtoo)

Facebook
1. Closing out the 2019 Traffic Safety Conference #TSC19 with sobering statistics reminding us of our ultimate goal of zero deaths in our roadways. #EndTheStreak #RoadToZero

Please, share these #EndTheStreak resources from Texas Department of Transportation
https://www.txdot.gov/inside…/media-center/…/end-streak.html

Please share:
Houston TranStar
HGACmpo
Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)
NCTCOG Transportation Department – Texas A&M Transportation Institute
2. It's official: Red-light cameras are out (though some may hang around awhile). Thoughts? [https://www.star-telegram.com/.../state.../article230697554.html](https://www.star-telegram.com/.../state.../article230697554.html) – NCTCOG Transportation Department

#Vision_n+1 – Michelle Whalen Agriesti

Too bad! I had heard that one of the leading causes of ER visits had been people running red lights, now we may see a return... please slow down out there, we'll all get to Saturday night at the same time anyway... AND, watch out for bicycles... please! – Howard Maher

3. The commute home can be stressful. Lighten it up by changing the Waze navigation app to Cookie Monster's voice for the day! – NCTCOG Transportation Department
This is greatness! Didn’t know it was an option. – Kelli Gilbert-Brosig