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, November 20, through Thursday, December 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, comments related to transit use, access and expansion were in the majority.

Air Quality

Twitter –
1. @CityOfDallas receives #AirNorthTexas award from @NCTCOGtrans for contributions to air quality. @AdamMcGoughD10 @DavidBlewettD14 – Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

Aviation

Twitter –
1. #drones 📈 – TX Transportation Rsch (@tx_transpo_rsch)
Bicycle & Pedestrian

Facebook –

1. BFSD was invited by NCTCOG Transportation Department BPAC Meeting to talk about our Earn-A-Bike program. Thanks for the opportunity! – Bike Friendly South Dallas

Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Email –

1. Ernest Stokely

I would urge planners to consider the rapidly emerging technologies of autonomous vehicles (although I have done research during my working career in computer vision and remain
skeptical of this technology), private options like Lyft and Uber, and rethinking bicycle and scooter transportation. My sense is there will not be a single technology that will dominate our solution. The next technology to add to this list may be just on the horizon. Please do not put all of your eggs in one basket. Each of these may require restructuring of lanes on existing roads and may impinge on the right-of-way of private autos. I find this option to be an acceptable tradeoff in helping to alleviate our traffic problems, but it will need to be sold to an auto-centric public.

**Facebook –**


Texas is the future of transportation innovation. Giddy up! – Kevin V. Williams

2. The future may be approaching sooner than most think. With hyperloop, commuters can "fly" few feet above the ground from Fort Worth to Laredo in under one hour.

NCTCOG Transportation Department wants to land a deal with Virgin Hyperloop One to build their first U.S. certification center in North Texas.

North Central Texas Council of Governments – Fort Worth Business Press
Project Planning

Email –

1. **Bob London (See attachment #1)**

Thank you continually seeking feedback on future transporation infrastructure.

Currently east bound traffic on Park Blvd. terminates at FM 2514 in St. Paul. Collin County is developing plans to extend Park Blvd. eastward from FM 2514 to Hwy. 78 in Wylie to relieve the traffic backup at Brown St.in Wylie. This is the main route for traffic around the southern end of Lavon Lake.

The St. Paul Town Council passed a resolution in October 2019 in support of a plan to improve traffic flow when the Park Blvd. extension is built by Collin County (see attached resolution and Exhibit). It is hoped that TxDot and Collin County will coordinate their plans for TxDot's widening of FM 2514 and Collin County's extension of Park Blvd. and adopt the plan that is endorsed by the town's resolution to alleviate the congestion of cars wanting to travel east on Park to get to Hwy 78 around the lake.

Fax –

1. See attachment #2

Twitter –

1. Much of the sentiment from South Dallas community members is “Why do we have to be burden with longer travel times “?! Which I truly understand. I use 345 daily to get from 30 to 75.
   – Dominique P. Torres (@attorneytorres)

   TxDot’s CityMap study showed that replacing I345 with boulevards actually increased travel speed. DM me and I’ll send you the relevant page. – Wick Allison (@wickallison)
What about just building cancer covered mini soccer fields sponsored by @RoyceWestTX son in a no bid contract and @NCTCOGtrans Michael Morris? – GerrardGerrard 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆 (GerrardGerrard7)

I don't believe in No Bid Contracts and I don't understand what if anything was bid on or received actually contracts. That's not my concern at this moment. – Dominique P. Torres (@attorneytorres)

Public Meetings & Forums

Twitter –

1. #InlandPortSymposium3 .@NCTCOGtrans @dartmedia @DRC @WFSDallas @startransit @Chase supporting @jwprice99 & @atkins_tennell leading the initiative since 2006 “Location is nothing without access!” Workforce has to get to jobs! Shoutout @ChaseGiving4 #MichelleThomas 4Sponsorship – Laurie Larrea (@lblarrea)

Facebook –

1. Honored to be part of yesterday's Southern Dallas Inland Port Symposium III at UNT Dallas. Along with representatives from Dallas Regional Chamber, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (Official DART page), STAR Transit, NCTCOG Transportation Department, and Southern Dallas Link, Michelle participated in a panel discussion where she got to share about the service On the Road Lending currently provides. We were also able to share our mission at an exhibitor table -- manned by Shaylon and Manny. We appreciate the opportunity to talk about how we're making affordable, reliable transportation a reality! – On The Road Lending
Transit

Email –

1. Ernest Stokely

Sirs/Madam:

I have lived in the DFW metro since 1959 (with a short period living in another state), and have watched the region grow into an unmanageable sprawl where private automobiles have always been heralded as the primary mode of transportation, and public transportation has never been a priority for the region. We are now reaching a situation of near gridlock in the far north Dallas and Plano/Frisco area, not unlike many other parts of the metro area. I strongly support public investment in public transportation as a way to alleviate unsustainable automobile transportation in the region.

First, let me mention needs and issues. There are very few crosstown public transportation routes in the area of Dallas where I live (Far North Dallas). To get to a DART train, I must drive at least 15 minutes to the Red Line or the Green Line. The bus system in Dallas is useless, as far as I am concerned. The hub-and-spoke system means it takes hours to get anywhere using a city bus. One must first get to the hub and then go out from there. In my opinion it is a system of very last resort, and the ridership reflects this. In my neighborhood there is stiff opposition to the Cotton Belt expansion of DART. I find this extremely short-sighted of my neighbors. I strongly support this addition, although it will not totally solve the crosstown deficiency of public transportation in my area. At least it is a start.

Lack of planning got us into the mess we are in. I hope your efforts will pay off by mid-century. One answer in the mix might be to curb unbridled, ever-expansive suburban development. Dallas and surrounding cities have historically handed urban development over to land developers who build subdivisions, take the money, and run. That leaves us tax payers holding the bag for infrastructure, including transportation. Perhaps including governmental incentives to developers to increase density around rail lines and other sources of public transportation would be helpful to include in your mix of solutions.

2. D'Lynn McCoppin

I don’t see anything about transportation improvement for those with special needs. We have no transportation in our community for those that do not drive. SPAN does not pick up except for medical visits here.

What can be done to help with this?

Thanks!

D’Lynn,
Thank you for reaching out to us about transportation needs in Lake Dallas.

As mentioned, Span does operate in Lake Dallas but is part of their Lake Cities service area. This project was originally funded through NCTCOG’s 2017 Call for Projects and allows Span to provide services for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, which includes those with special needs. These services used to only include medical trips. However, as of early December, Span has expanded its services to include all types of trips for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Please view the flyer attached, as it has additional information.

If you would like more details about transit options in the Lake Cities area, please feel free to contact Laura Joy, Mobility Manager at Span, via their main line (940)382-2224 or email at lauraj@span-transit.org.

We recognize there is still additional demand for transportation services in the area. In coordination with a wide range of stakeholders, we document in Access North Texas the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes and others with transportation challenges within our 16-county region and outline strategies to address those needs for the next four years. The Lake Dallas area, when compared to the region, has been identified in the plan as having higher percentages of persons below the poverty line and individuals with disabilities. Therefore, through strategies outlined in Access North Texas, we will continue to support projects that establish or enhance transportation services in Lake Dallas.

Thank you for voicing your concern. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Twitter –

1. There's no place like home for the holidays. Make your trip home easier with @TrinityMetro TEXRail. For more information, please visit https://ridetrinitymetro.org/texrail/ @CityofFortWorth @CityofNRH @GrapevineTXCity @NCTCOGtrans @DFWAirport @TarrantCountyTX – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
Facebook –

1. DART’s Silverline to come in 2022: http://bit.ly/37MrFwG – NCTCOG Transportation Department

For everybody reading this post, the Silver Line will run from east Plano to DFW Airport and also connect with Trinity Metro’s TEXRail at both DFW North and DFW Airport Terminal B stations! – Paul McManus

Other

1. We want to know: What’s the best part of Thanksgiving to you? Check the comments for my answer! 😊 – NCTCOG Transportation Department
DESSERT. 🍪😊منهجações 🎃 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Spending precious time with my son, his wife and the rest of the gang! ❤️ – Laura Bergstrom

Fried turkey, Cranberry sauce, Apple pie, Peach cobbler, banana pudding and football. – Archie Nettles Jr.

2. Truck drivers and children get joy out of the "Trucker Salute" tradition, but according to this article, it's one that's dying.

Tell us: Did you ever give the "Trucker Salute?" http://bit.ly/2P5hACi – NCTCOG Transportation Department

We did it all the time. (To slow moving trains also). – Bill Johnson

ummm, I didn't realize only kids are supposed do this. Sorry. Not sorry 😊 – Elizabeth Corazon

On the surface this sounds like indirectly incentivizing people to make solo car trips to this area instead of carpooling, walking, biking, or taking transit. Not good for road congestion or air quality when driving alone is easiest or cheapest option.

Were there tons of empty spaces when it was metered during the day? If there were only 1-2 empty spaces every block or so, then meters are likely not the cause of declining business sales. – Suzi Rumohr

Suzi Rumohr take your socialism and SHOVE IT. Americans are not sheep to be herded on to mass transit. – Phil Neil

But, it's still great to take Trinity Metro's Route 2 or The Dash buses to and from the W. 7th St./Crockett Row area whenever you can to help reduce car traffic, road congestion, and parking hassles! Plus, both of these bus routes also connect to both the TRE and TEXRail at Central Station in downtown Fort Worth! – Paul McManus