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 Friday, September 20, through Saturday, October 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 development and use were in the majority.

Air Quality

Twitter –

1. Big win for Dallas over NYC, thanks to @NCTCOGtrans, Michael Morris & @TxDOTDallas! – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

Will miniature soccer fields under highways reverse the trend? – GerrardGerrard ⚽⚽⚽⚽⚽⚽ (@GerrardGerrard7)

Alternative Fuels

Facebook –
1. Thank you to our attendees and co-hosts (NCTCOG Transportation Department DFW Clean Cities, Atmos Energy and Applied LNG) for today’s meeting and tour of Applied LNG’s liquefaction plant. Support those who support us! – Texas NGV Alliance

**Bicycle & Pedestrian**

**Email –**

1. Jessica Lewis

Would like to see better pedestrian crosswalk signals at Marine Creek Parkway & College Dr. My son has already been hit by a vehicle trying to cross from Terrace Landing to the high school. And on another date another student was hit. Police reports were done in both occasions. Drivers are not paying attention when driving from the high school and making a left turn. Surely we do not need an actual death for something to be done.

2. Jim F. Chadwell, Ed.D.

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD is the 2nd fastest-growing ISD in Tarrant County and the 6th fastest-growing ISD in DFW, yet our roadway infrastructure is severely insufficient to accommodate this growth. With few sidewalks, poorly-lit roadways, and roads with inadequate space for pedestrians, students are faced with hazards every day. Our community expects well-planned streets and sidewalks to keep children safe. I am happy to discuss infrastructure priorities for the next 5 years. Thank you.

**Twitter –**

1. We are soon to have 50+ miles of trails connecting Dallas to Ft. Worth! Civic activism pays off! – Wylie H Dallas (Wylie_H_Dallas)
Facebook –

1. There are many reasons to participate in Walk to School Day tomorrow. Reason #1: It can help students live healthy lifestyles! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

And also help reduce car traffic, too! – Paul McManus

You beat us to that message, Paul, but you’re absolutely right! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

3. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava designed the Margaret Hunt Hill bridge, which opened in Dallas, TX in 2012.
He also designed the double archway "hike and bike" bridges that still haven't opened yet, right?

What's going on with THAT "Margaret"? – David Smith

Hi, David! Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the $115 million hike and bike bridge was scheduled to open two years ago. It remains closed because the engineering firm in charge of construction insists the bridge, whose two grand arches soar hundreds of feet above the barren, mostly dry river bed below, is too wobbly for people to walk on or ride their bikes across safely. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Well, if you're familiar at all with the floodplain you know that it is not barren. Trees line both sides of the river in many areas. (How many trees were cut down for the bridges to be built?)

And the vast majority of the upper Trinity watershed drains through that section of the floodplain. You may remember there was a significant construction delay in 2015 (?) due to the excessive rainfall in May that year.

But to the gist of the matter, it sounds like the bridges were not designed well, were not constructed well and now we are stuck with an unusable pair of bridges.

That's too bad. – David Smith

David Smith you should google and see articles from Dallas News, etc that cover this in detail. It's a bit complicated and not exactly the designers fault. We have discussed this in one of our Facebook groups ETA - Enthusiasts of Transit Association – Curtis Garrison

4. The 23rd Annual Walk to School Day was a hit! More than 95 schools in the DFW region joined the thousands of students walking to school across the country. Pictured here are students from Daggett Middle School walking alongside Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price.
For resources on how to keep the momentum going, visit www.nctcog.org/saferoutestoschool. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

This is wonderful! – Paul McManus
We think so, too! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

**Innovative Vehicles & Technology**

**Twitter**

1. Thanks for the glimpse of the future of transportation at today's #driveelectricweek event, @NCTCOGtrans & @NTXTeslaOwners! #NDEW2019 – CoServ (@CoServ_Energy)

Woot! #TheFutureIsHere – N TX Tesla Owners (@NTXTeslaOwners)
2. We were excited to see nearly 200 electric vehicles, including the Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Volt and Bolt and the Harley-Davidson Livewire electric motorcycle this past weekend at our annual NDEW event! Check out this article on how it went: http://bit.ly/2mLt2bF. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

What's all the stuff in the trunk? – Ryan Scanlan (@DVTOC) (@Xenius101)

Just a different approach to electric cars. If you look at GM, BMW and Tesla they all have a different approach to making an electric car. We hypothesize they will all be similar to a Surf board with a body setup just from the benefits of low gravity and maximized cabin space. – N TX Tesla Owners (@NTXTeslaOwners)
I think it's more old school thinking. They're still trying to share tech from last century with tech from next century. – Ryan Scanlan (@DVTDC) (@Xenius101)

It is a classical approach to automobiles, yes. – N TX Tesla Owners (@NTXTeslaOwners)

Facebook –

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Awesome! Looking forward to the State Fair meet. – Ralph C. Quinones-Alvarez
Nice write up. Rick you got some good quotes in the article. – Joe Busch

Project Planning

Email –

1. Virgil Niekamp
Please fix the traffic flow through the Alliance Corridor already. Please and thank you.

2. Larry McFarland
If you are planning anything less than doubling the number of public lanes then you are wasting the time and money of hundreds of thousands of people every day. It doesn't take a study to determine where the problem highways are located, just use your smart phone app to see the red roads. Red means problem.

Adding a lane to a road is not an improvement. We have plenty of government workers who can plan for traffic conditions as of 1980, but apparently not many who can plan for traffic today, let alone some distant point in the future.

Adding two toll lanes to a right of way that could contain four non-toll lanes is underutilizing our limited roadway area. What a waste.

I'm really sad for you if this is the best you can do with the public roads we are subjected to.

3. Charles Peterson
In planning transportation projects, adequate money should be earmarked for maintaining striping on existing roadways. Many major arteries, particularly in Fort Worth, have worn out pavement markings that make driving treacherous at night and in rainy weather. Most of Beach Street between 28th Street and North Tarrant are prime examples. Markings on Heritage Trace Parkway are nearly worn out. There are many other examples. Even freeway markings are suspect in places.

Twitter –

1. This is the proposed location of the soccer club under I-345 being proposed by @SenRoyceWest and @NCTCOGtrans boss Michael Morris. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)
What a cruel joke....tear down that highway! – larry (@larry_htx)

Michael Morris and his 30yrs stint at NCTCOG are indeed jokes.

And we’re stuck with fiscal & health burdens for it. 😒 – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

2. Another incredibly dumb, supremely wasteful project, courtesy of @NCTCOGtrans. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

I can’t say if planning for high speed rail between Dallas and Fort-Worth is the RTC’s worst idea ever but only because the RTC has so many bad ideas.

**Public Meetings & Forums**

**Twitter –**

1. Our ‘TREC Talks’ series continues October 7 with @NCTCOGtrans’s Michael Morris – TREC Dallas (@TRECDallas)
2. Join us October 7 for the next installment of our “TREC Talks” series with @NCTCOGtrans’s Michael Morris http://ow.ly/6q4k50wtr3g – TREC Dallas (@TRECDallas)

3. We'd like to thank @NCTCOGtrans Director Michael Morris for meeting with our members yesterday as part of our TREC Talks event series! – TREC Dallas (TRECDallas)

4. At the monthly meeting of the Regional Transportation Council in Arlington. @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
Transit

Email –

1. David Paul

I think there needs to be more transportation to south FW. As FW grows, you have failed to expand the number of bus stops and the regions you go and pick up for public transportation. Not sure if this is the venue for road construction but I think better timelines and better expectation of results needs to be communicated to everyone involved because it seems like road construction is being done but conclusion is not better than before so seems like a waste of funds.

2. Charles Peterson

I am not privy to ridership statistics on Fort Worth buses or on the new train to the airport, but i see the buses and trains frequently and there are never more than a couple of passengers on them-usually none. Transportation that doesn't transport anyone is a waste of money and is definitely not “green.” Someone needs to rethink existing and future projects for viability.

Twitter –

1. Check out The Dash - the new electric bus from @TrinityMetro that connects @DTFortWorth to @CrockettRowW7th, the Cultural District, & new @DickiesArena Runs every 15 minutes. Free thru 10/31 https://dfw.cbslocal.com/2019/09/20/opt-for-the-dash-for-quick-trips-via-electric-bus-in-fort-worth/. @CityofFortWorth @VisitFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans @Genz26 – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
2. On Monday evening, @TrinityMetro Pres/CEO Bob Baulsir briefed the @CityofNRH Mayor, Council, staff, & public on #TEXRail & transit. Great partner in @CityofNRH! Appreciated the warm welcome. @NETarrant @NCTCOGtrans @DFWAirport @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @Bob10481548 – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

3. Kudos to Elizabeth Espino for taking #TEXRail on her own to DFW Airport at Terminal B. I am a proud transit spouse :) @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @CityofNRH @GrapevineTXCity @DFWAirport @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit @TarrantCountyTX @DFWAirport – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)
4. @TrinityMetro Mercantile ZIPZONE is expanding its service area so you can travel to & from TEXRail’s Mercantile Ctr St from even more places. Here is link for info: https://ridetrinitymetro.org/services/zip-zone/ @CityofFortWorth @MercantileFW @FTWChamber @NCTCOGtrans @fwhcc @FWMBCC @TarrantTransit – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

Thanks for sharing! I'll definitely try this out since I work within the Mercantile ZIPZONE 🚄👥 – Matthew Loos, PE (@MatthewLoosPE1)
5. Excited to hear update on high speed rail this morning with @trtcmobility at Fort Worth Central Station. @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans @FTWChamber @fwhcc @FWMBC @TarrantTransit – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

6. It’s Texas-OU weekend! The State Fair continues. Ride Trinity Railway Express (TRE) to get there! http://trinityrailwayexpress.org/statefair/ @TrinityMetro @RideDCTA @dartmedia @CityofFortWorth @CityOfDallas @NTxCommission @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL_FW)

Facebook –

1. We enjoyed attending the launch of the new Dash service! Be on the lookout for bright red buses that can get you from Sundance Square, to the popular W. 7th area, museums and the new Dickies Arena! Take advantage of FREE rides from now through Oct. 31! – NCTCOG Transportation Department
Plus, for everybody reading this post, The Dash also connects to both the TRE and TEXRail at Central Station in downtown Fort Worth! – Paul McManus

2. It’s opening day of the State Fair of Texas! Ride DART (or connect to it via the TRE) and be dropped off at one of two gates. Easy, air-conditioned travel without the hassle of finding parking and navigating through traffic! For more info, visit: http://bit.ly/StateFairTransit. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Plus, if you’re coming from Denton County, you can take DCTA’s A-Train and connect to DART’s Green Line light rail at Trinity Mills Station in Carrollton! – Paul McManus

3. When Cady Heron was asked how many rides she could take with a regional pass. #MeanGirlsDay – NCTCOG Transportation Department
But you will still be limited to where the mass transit will take you, and WHEN it will take you there.

Mass transit will ALWAYS SUCK. Get a car and go where you want, when you want, because you want.

We’re Americans, not some backwater European h*llhole (or worse). – Phil Neil

Email –

1. Danielle Tucker
more local contractors selected for work on projects, at least be from the 12 counties, not saying people cannot learn, but we have resources here local that can complete the work and know of all the businesses and vendors.

2. Diana Marie Iverson
I would like to see police officers in the evening for personal safety!

3. Lynn Marie Fox
I would like the hours expanded to include evening and Sunday hours for church attendance.