Entertainment and Tourism Are Strong Economic Generators

Roadway Congestion Is Among the Challenges

Sports and entertainment for all—coupled with virtually every aspect of tourism have tremendous economic impact on the region. In fact, the Dallas/Fort Worth Area Tourism Council estimates the area has more than 15 million visitors every year, and that number is growing.

According to its most recent statistics, the DFW area generates more than one third of the state’s nearly $50 billion in overall tourist spending; that’s $16.6 billion. Moreover, nearly $1 Billion in local and state taxes are generated.

With the explosive growth throughout the region, traffic congestion, along with its air quality impacts, continue to create bigger and bigger challenges, according to Arlington economic development leaders.

The Metroplex is home to five major league sports teams including Dallas Cowboys™ football; Dallas Stars™ hockey; Dallas Mavericks™ basketball; and AT&T Stadium™ (above); Globe Life Field™ (right); American Airlines Center™ (below)

League of Women Voters Encourages Citizen Input

Encouraging public involvement is the quest of the League of Women Voters, founded in 1920. In June, the League’s Tarrant County Chapter (LWVTC), in collaboration with the Dallas Chapter, sponsored a virtual presentation and discussion of Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study.

“LWVTC has a history of seeking collaboration between governmental entities, community entities and the public,” said Peggy Hendon, chapter project manager.

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Let Your Voice Be Heard!
Let’s Talk About Travel Across DFW. We Want Your Feedback!
www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs

SUMMER 2021 Calendar

July 8
Regional Transportation Council

July 12
Stakeholder - White Lake Hills Neighborhood Assn.

July 20
Stakeholder - Bike DFW

August 10
Stakeholder - NAACP of Arlington

August 12
Stakeholder - Sierra Club of Tarrant County

September 2
Stakeholder - East Fort Worth Business Association

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North Central Texas Council of Governments

District Director

District Director
Entertainment... (cont.)

FC Dallas™ MLS soccer, and Texas Rangers™ baseball. Destination DFW in its online assessment of the economic impact of sports, tourism and conventions made note that AT&T Stadium seats 80,000 persons with a retractable roof with one of the largest flat-screens in the world; its price tag was $1.2 billion.

Business tourism is also big business in the DFW metroplex. The publication reports the Dallas Convention Center is one of the largest in the state. The Fort Worth Convention Center covers 14 blocks and has 253,225 square feet of exhibit space.

In fact, the DFW metro area ranks sixth in the country for convention and meeting participants with more than 3.8 million people attending more than 3,600 conventions here each year.

Entertainment and Tourism Corridor Along I-30

Possible Station Locations Studied

Before the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study began, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) funded the Arlington High-Speed Rail Station Area Planning Study. It was to be a part of the Dallas-Fort Worth Core Express service, focused on assisting Arlington in creating a second urban center in the city to generate additional economic development activity and support its Entertainment District activities.

Important to reaching consensus on the station areas were a series of meetings and outreach efforts with major stakeholders. Those included the City of Arlington, transit agencies, and private businesses.

This midpoint station along the corridor would not only serve Arlington, the self-described “Entertainment Capital of Texas,” but also connect a high-speed system to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport through a future rail or automated transportation system for passengers. The planned connection point would allow convenient travel between the planned high-speed transportation systems in Texas and the state’s largest and busiest airport.

Arlington Station Preliminary Locations

Citizen Input... (cont.)

president. “We are proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

“The League advocates for the inclusion of communities in governmental decision-making through public presentations allowing for comment from stakeholders who will be impacted by those decisions,” she continued.

“Often communities are not aware of possible changes around where they live and work. It’s likely they are not given a seat at the table during the planning process,” Hendon explained.

“We are encouraged by the efforts being made by the Council of Governments to actively seek out public comment, and we appreciate its willingness to give public presentations even before the project is fully scoped and the environmental assessment of the proposed project would begin,” Hendon said. “This is an excellent example of coordination.”

The League looks forward to following the development of the high-speed transportation concept and its potential to help reduce pollution, conserve energy, and positively impact the economy in North Texas.

More Information at nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs
The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), as a steward of public funds and an advocate for sustainable communities, continues to reach out to the public about the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study, now wrapping up the first of two phases.

“During this first phase, it’s been important for us to talk with as many organizations and advocacy groups as possible. Not only do we recognize the positive impact of public transit but we also respect the opinions of the stakeholders in the study area,” said Dan Lamers, Senior Program Manager and the study’s project manager.

The following are among the most frequently asked questions about the proposed high-speed connection between Downtown Dallas and Downtown Fort Worth.

**In the Community**

We need input from everyone to explore all possibilities to make this project a reality! NCTCOG wants very much to reach out to all interested groups in the study area. We look forward to arranging presentations and/or participating in any upcoming events already scheduled where we can share information and collect input on the study. Please contact us today with your suggestions on groups which need to hear from us. Together, we can ensure all stakeholders’ voices are heard.

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