TO: Regional Transportation Council
(Primary and Alternate Members)
Mayors, City Managers
Surface Transportation Technical Committee
County Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs
Medical Examiners and Transportation Providers

FROM: Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation

SUBJECT: Postponement Announcement for the May 2020 Traffic Incident Management
Executive Level Course

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the North Central
texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) developed Traffic Incident Management (TIM)
Training courses to initiate a common, coordinated response to traffic incidents that will build
partnerships, enhance safety for emergency personnel, reduce upstream traffic accidents,
improve the efficiency of the transportation system, and improve air quality in the Dallas-Fort
Worth region. In 2018, the 16-county Dallas-Fort Worth region experienced 122,126 total
reportable crashes, of which 42,510 were injury crashes, and 678 were fatal crashes. These
statistics prove that training for agencies responsible for managing and clearing traffic incidents
is extremely important and have demonstrated the ability to improve responder and motorist
safety and to significantly reduce the length and size of roadway closures.

Since February 2003, 116 classes have been offered at the first responder level to 3,240
students in the areas of police, fire, department of public safety, towing, EMS, Mobility
Assistance Patrol, transportation agencies, and media representatives. Additionally, since
February 2005, 29 classes have been offered at the executive level to 1,027 decision and policy
makers. For your reference, summaries of the regional attendance levels for the First
Responder and Manager Course and the Executive Level Course can be found on NCTCOG’s
Traffic Incident Management Training web page https://www.nctco.org/TIM.

Although the NCTCOG TIM training has been very successful, it can be even more successful
with the assistance and continual involvement of decision makers such as you. In order to have
compliance at the first responder level, it is of vital importance that agency decision makers
have an understanding of what is required of all responders during an incident; this includes
police officers, fire fighters, tow truck operators, roadway construction crews, and mobility
assistance crews, etc. Understanding the importance of incident management training, the
Texas Commission on Fire Protection passed Rule 435.29 in July 2015, which requires
completion of a minimum four-hour Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Traffic Incident
Management program or equivalent program for all certified firefighters before December 1,
2020. Additionally, TCOLE incorporated a four-hour TIM training component into the Basic
Peace Officer Course curriculum for new cadets/recruits effective April 1, 2020. It is important
to note that the NCTCOG TIM Training Course is equivalent to the course offered by FHWA.
Course participants can also earn continuing education credit for Texas Commission on Law
Enforcement, Track Type II Fire, and Texas Department of State Health Services for EMS.
The Executive Level Course provides you with an overview of the two-day First Responder and Manager Course. Additionally, the Executive Level Course includes a preview of the updated ANSI vest standards. Those agencies that have participated in the training prior to 2013 are strongly encouraged to attend again, as major course updates have occurred since then, as well as updates to legislation and best practices. Important to note is that agency attendance at the NCTCOG TIM training, between 2013 to the present is a scoring component in the 2020 Incident Management Equipment Purchase Call for Projects (CFP).

In a previous memo dated March 6, 2020, you were invited to attend the upcoming Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course scheduled for Thursday, May 7, from 10 am to 12 pm in the NCTCOG Transportation Council Room (616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint II, Arlington, Texas). Due to concerns and restrictions related to COVID-19, the May 7th training has been postponed until further notice. Please contact Barbara Walsh at bwalsh@nctco.org if you have any questions regarding this postponement.

Michael Morris, P.E.

CF: bw

cc: Natalie Bettger, Senior Program Manager, NCTCOG
Assistant Fire Chief John Glover, Town of Flower Mound Fire Department
Lieutenant Daniel Plumer, Dallas County Sheriff's Department