



A monthly update on activities of the Regional Transportation Council and the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department

## May 2017

### Calendar

**May 3, 8:30 am**  
**TRTC**

Fort Worth Intermodal  
Transportation Center  
1001 Jones St.  
Fort Worth, TX 75093

**May 5, 11 am**  
**DRMC**

North Texas Tollway Authority  
5900 W. Plano Parkway  
Plano, TX 76102

**May 11, 1 pm**  
**Regional Transportation Council**  
Transportation Council Room  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76011

**May 26, 1:30 pm**  
**Surface Transportation**  
**Technical Committee**  
Transportation Council Room  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76011

**May 31, 10 am**  
**35W Coalition Annual Meeting**  
Courtyard Fort Worth  
at Alliance Town Center  
3001 Amador Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76244

### **Bike to Work Week begins May 15**



Pedaling to work may be easier than you think, and the week of May 15-19 is a good time to find out if it is for you. That's when the North Central Texas Council of Governments, its regional transportation partners and groups

across the country will celebrate Bike to Work Week.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit, NCTCOG and Richardson Bike Mart are partnering for the second annual DART Bike to Work Challenge this month. The Denton County Transportation Authority is holding a separate event, the 2017 Bike Everywhere Challenge, which also runs through May 31.

Both offer participants who log their bicycle commutes throughout May on [www.tryparkingit.com](http://www.tryparkingit.com), the region's alternative commute website, an opportunity to win prizes in exchange for demonstrating their cycling dedication. May is recognized as Bike Month.

On Bike to Work Day, scheduled for May 19, "energizer stations" staffed by DART and the other partners will be at select transit stations in the DART service area from 7-9 a.m. to provide refreshments and information to cyclists and transit passengers.

DART and DCTA allow bicycles on buses and trains, which makes it easier for residents who live several miles from work. They can use their bikes as "first- and last-mile" connections to transit. For tips on how to load and unload bicycles from transit vehicles, as well as more information about the Bike to Work Challenge and Bike to Work Day visit [www.dart.org/bikes](http://www.dart.org/bikes). For more information on the Bike Everywhere challenge, visit [www.bikedcta.net](http://www.bikedcta.net).



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or [bwilson@nctcog.org](mailto:bwilson@nctcog.org). Visit [www.nctcog.org/trans](http://www.nctcog.org/trans) for more information on the department

## **Driverless shuttle pilot program to roll out of Arlington Entertainment District**

Not looking forward to that long trek from the parking lot to the ballpark this summer? As part of an innovative transportation pilot program, visitors to Arlington's Entertainment District may soon be able to catch a free ride on a driverless shuttle to help make getting from their vehicles to the stadium venues more convenient. The Arlington City Council has approved a one-year lease agreement with EasyMile of Toulouse, France, for the use of two low-speed, autonomous shuttles. As early as June, the City will begin offering free shuttle rides on pre-programmed routes along select Entertainment District off-street trails during AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park in Arlington events. This pilot program will allow Arlington to test the application of autonomous shuttles in a real-world setting.

"The City seeks to position itself at the forefront of the connected and autonomous vehicle technology movement," Community Development and Planning Director John Dugan said. "The pilot project will allow us to see how this driverless vehicle system really works and to look at the overall picture of how these vehicles could enhance the City's transportation options."

Although the EZ10 shuttles will run autonomously, they will always have an operator on-board. The vehicles can hold up to 12 passengers and will have a maximum speed of about 20 miles per hour as they travel on select pathways, not city streets, during the pilot program.

In February, the community and media were invited to ride in a battery-powered, driverless shuttle during a demonstration of the EasyMile technology at the Arlington Convention Center. Arlington City Council members were among some of the first riders.

"The Arlington City Council is really interested in putting new technologies to work," Dugan said. "People shouldn't be afraid to engage with this technology and try the shuttles out."

Driverless vehicles are one of the many options being explored by the Council-appointed Transportation Advisory Committee, which is expected to present recommendations on how to address Arlington's transportation needs to City Council later this year.

— Written by City of Arlington

## **Smart Cities Summit set for May 16 at UTD**

Cities interested in taking advantage of smart cars and infrastructure have many opportunities to do so as they look to build modern transportation networks in smart cities. The deployment of these technologies could improve the efficiency, reliability and safety of transportation systems in North Texas as part of a smart city strategy.

But questions remain. NCTCOG is partnering with transportation providers, technology firms and educational institutions to co-sponsor the Texas Smart Cities Summit on May 16. This one-day gathering at the University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson will bring together industry leaders to help municipalities begin or accelerate their blueprints for integrating automated vehicle technologies into their smart city initiatives. To register, visit [www.smartcitiesntx.com](http://www.smartcitiesntx.com). Enter the code "NCTCOG" for a discounted admission of \$99.

## **EPA honors NCTCOG with 7th SmartWay award**

NCTCOG has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency for the seventh time as a recipient of the SmartWay Affiliate Challenge. This honor was presented for NCTCOG's efforts to reduce truck emissions and improve the efficiency of freight movement.

NCTCOG and the American Trucking Associations are the only affiliates recognized each of the seven years of the challenge's existence (2007 and 2012-17).

The SmartWay Affiliate Challenge is a national initiative developed by the EPA to acknowledge organizations contributing to a clean energy economy by reaching out to inform and educate businesses, their communities, truck drivers and other stakeholders about steps they can take to reduce freight emissions and their other environmental impacts.

Staff sought to accelerate the adoption and market penetration of SmartWay-verified technologies by promoting financial assistance through which these technologies may be incentivized and providing application assistance to drivers at no cost.

## **New proposed rate structure for street lighting**

Oncor Electric Delivery has filed an Application for Authority to Change Rates, commonly known as a rate case, with the Public Utility Commission of Texas that could pave the way for more efficient lighting in public spaces.

The proposed rate case introduces changes that would impact solar and light-emitting diode street light projects in the Oncor service territory, which includes the NCTCOG region.

The revised street lighting rates, to accommodate LEDs, are likely in response to municipal demand, as many cities have been requesting this option for several years. If adopted, the expanded rate options may make it easier for cities and other Oncor customers who own street lights to realize cost savings associated with switching to more energy-efficient LED street lighting without having to install a separate meter.

Dallas and other cities in North Texas and across the State are turning to LED lighting and solar technologies as more efficient and environmentally friendly options.

For more about this case, visit [www.puc.texas.gov](http://www.puc.texas.gov) and search "docket No. 46957." You may also contact NCTCOG staff at 817-695-9226 with questions.

## **Need to replace a diesel vehicle or equipment?**

The EPA opened the a funding opportunity through the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program in April.

NCTCOG is trying to determine if there is a demand for these funds in the North Texas region. Based on prior years, grant funding is expected to pay for 25 percent of the cost of replacing a current heavy-duty diesel vehicles or non-road equipment.

If you own a diesel vehicle or equipment and are interested in this opportunity contact NCTCOG staff at 817-695-9249 or [AQgrants@nctcog.org](mailto:AQgrants@nctcog.org). For more information on this opportunity, visit [www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding).

The deadline to apply for assistance through this program, which is open to public-sector entities is June 20. Funding is expected to be awarded in late 2017.

## Transportation Resources

### Facebook

Facebook.com/nctcogtrans

### Twitter

Twitter.com/nctcogtrans

### YouTube

YouTube.com/nctcogtrans

### Instagram

Instagram.com/nctcogtrans

### Publications

NCTCOG.org/trans/outreach/publications.asp

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## Partners

**Dallas Area Rapid Transit**  
DART.org

**Denton County  
Transportation Authority**  
DCTA.net

**North Texas Tollway Authority**  
NTTA.org

**The Fort Worth  
Transportation Authority**  
FWTA.org

**Texas Department  
of Transportation**  
TxDOT.gov

## By the Numbers

7

Number of times NCTCOG has been recognized as a SmartWay Affiliate Challenge honoree. Only one other organization shares this distinction, according to the EPA.

# PUBLIC *Involvement*

## **NCTCOG to discuss transportation alternatives**

NCTCOG invites residents to provide input about proposed projects that could improve bicycle-pedestrian access to schools and other parts of the region during public meetings in May.

Approximately \$23 million in Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program projects are recommended and will be presented to the public at 6 pm May 9 in Richardson, 2:30 pm May 10 in Arlington and 6 pm May 15 in North Richland Hills. Staff members will also outline:

- The process to select approximately \$345 million in federally funded projects
- An overview of the schedule for Mobility 2045, the next metropolitan transportation plan
- Activities completed as part of Joining Forces: Aligning Community and Military Missions. This is a regional joint land use study initiated to help military installations and surrounding communities cooperate for mutual benefit.

Information on Clean Air Action Day and auto occupancy detection technology will also be available. Watch the Arlington meeting live by clicking the “live” tab at [www.nctcog.org/video](http://www.nctcog.org/video). A recording of the presentations will be available at [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input).

## **Fleet discounts on alternative fuel vehicles**

North Texas public fleets have an opportunity to get substantial discounts on alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) for next year. Find out how at the Fleets for the Future Bootcamp from 10 am to 2 pm May 24 at NCTCOG’s Arlington offices, where you can also learn how your fleet can participate and benefit from this unique regional procurement process. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 17 to [bmuller@nctcog.org](mailto:bmuller@nctcog.org) or 817-695-9299 to ensure an accurate head count for lunch orders. Learn more at [www.nctcog.org/f4f](http://www.nctcog.org/f4f).

Prepared in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation and the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the opinions, findings and conclusions presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration or the Texas Department of Transportation.