



November 2016

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

DART Blue Line extended to Education Corridor

Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Blue Line was extended by three miles with the opening of two new stations at Camp Wisdom and the University of North Texas at Dallas on October 24. This provides DART rail customers access to UNT - Dallas.

Calendar

November 2, 8:30 am TRTC

Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center
1001 Jones St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102

November 4, 11 am DRMC

North Texas Tollway Authority
5900 W. Plano Parkway
Plano, TX 75093

November 10, 1 pm
Regional Transportation Council
Transportation Council Room
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

December 2, 1:30 pm
Surface Transportation Technical Committee
Transportation Council Room
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

Become an I-30 Insider, earn rewards



NCTCOG graphic

North Texans who commute on Interstate 30 between Dallas and Fort Worth can become I-30 Insiders and earn rewards for trying alternative commutes. Registration is easy at www.i30insider.com.

Rewards can be earned through April 28, 2017, while supplies last. The purpose of I-30 Insider, a pilot program funded through the federal Value Pricing Pilot Program, is to encourage alternative commuting modes like carpooling, telecommuting or compressed work week along a test corridor through the use of incentives.

By choosing an alternative commute, drivers can help improve air quality and traffic congestion by reducing the number of single-occupant vehicles on the roads during rush hour. After registering with Try Parking It, the Dallas-Fort Worth region's commuter ride-match and trip-logging website, users should join the I-30 Insider Challenge. Commuters will earn points for logging alternative commutes along I-30 during morning, and evening peak periods, and points will accumulate to be exchanged for gift cards to restaurants, retail stores, online retailers and more.

Find carpool matches at www.TryParkingIt.com. Those using the TEXpress Lanes on I-30 can receive rush-hour toll discounts with a TollTag and the Drive On TEXpress app. North Texas commuters who don't use I-30 or can't switch to an alternative commute are eligible to be entered into a drawing for a \$250 Amazon gift card when they register for Try Parking It and take a survey on the I-30 Insider website.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

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

\$1.4M federal grant to boost region's transit-oriented development planning

North Texas' efforts to improve transit-oriented development have received a \$1.4 million boost. The Federal Transit Administration awarded the North Central Texas Council of Governments a planning grant to help the region enhance accessibility to 28 Dallas Area Rapid Transit stations along the system's Blue and Red lines.

NCTCOG is leading the effort, partnering with Dallas, Garland, Plano and Richardson in addition to DART. Various Red and Blue Line stations were eligible for this grant, as they are required to be part of an FTA Capital Investment Grant (see Figure 1).

The grant will focus on "last mile" accessibility to transit and parking needs around the stations. For example, filling in missing sidewalks and making pedestrian crossings safer can make it easier for pedestrians to access rail stations. The outcome should be a better understanding of the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure needs at each station and a plan to address them.

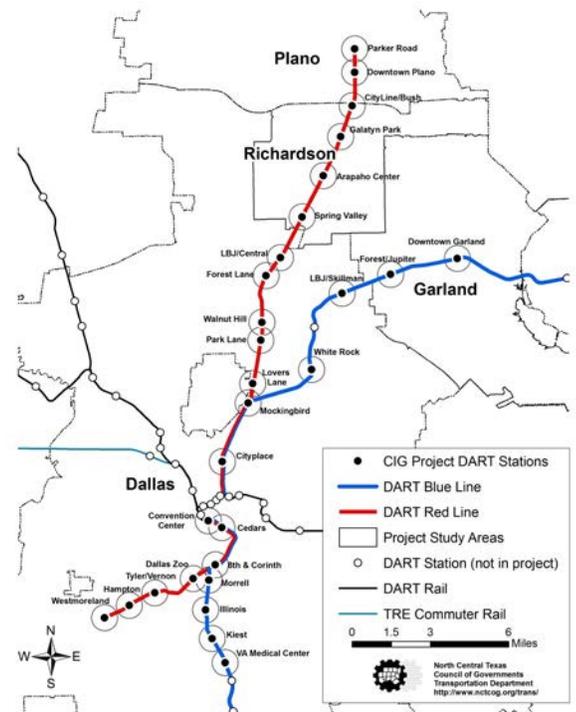
The second element of the plan is a study at select transit-oriented developments to help planners understand how parking is utilized. The results can inform local policies on parking provisions and allow better management of the parking supply in support of transit-oriented land uses. Additionally, stations may have opened with abundant parking, some of which could be redeveloped to offer TOD.

A third component of the plan is a survey, which will be sent to residents and employers and seeks information on transit use in the study area, as well as residents' transportation preferences. The study tasks are expected to be completed in two years. The results aim to inform future policies and investment in infrastructure, mixed-use development and improved transit connections for bicyclists and pedestrians. The study's transit station areas are economically diverse and include some of the original DART stations, which provide opportunities to learn from TOD success stories and replicate them in other transit station areas in the regional rail system.

This grant could help the region improve access to transit, jobs and educational institutions for residents who depend on public transportation to get to work, medical appointments and other needs. It could also benefit people who prefer transit and active transportation options as alternatives to driving alone.

For more information, visit www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/tod.

Figure 1: Station Study areas



NCTCOG graphic

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

DFW's NDEW event an electrifying success

The regional National Drive Electric Week event was a major success, gathering EV owners, enthusiasts, industry professionals and those who were simply curious to celebrate EVs in North Texas.

The event drew 128 electric vehicles in one place, topping last year's total of 116 and setting the Texas mark for the second year in a row.

State Rep. Giovanni Capriglione and Regional Transportation Council Member Mike Taylor spoke about the impact of electric vehicles on the regional economy and on air quality, and 12 public, nonprofit and industry exhibitors displayed their vehicles and talked with approximately 350 attendees. Several of those exhibitors also provided opportunities to win extended experiences with EVs — a weekend each with the Nissan LEAF, Chevy Volt, and BMW i3 and 24 hours with a Tesla Model S.

This event was the largest outside of California, and the fourth-largest by attendee registration in the nation. Visit the [Facebook album](#) at <http://bit.ly/2f6hmlM> for photos of the event.

Don't miss out on alt fuel funding from TERP

Time is running out to apply for many of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Texas Emissions Reduction Plan funding opportunities.

Open opportunities include three programs scheduled to expire in the next year, meaning that this may be your last chance to transition your fleet to alternative fuel vehicles (through the Texas Clean Fleet Program or the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program), build or expand a natural gas fueling facility (through the Clean Transportation Triangle Program).

More information about these funding opportunities is available at www.nctcog.org/aqfunding or www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp.

NCTCOG offers FREE application assistance and will help guide applicants through the TERP application process. Contact NCTCOG staff members at 817-695-9249 or at aggrants@nctcog.org for help.

Remember SmartWay this holiday season



With so many choices to be made this holiday season, consider using the services of commercial companies affiliated with SmartWay.

This program encourages freight carriers, shippers and logistics providers participating to practice shipping strategies that are more sustainable. The SmartWay brand sends a clear signal to suppliers, customers and the general public about a company's environmental commitment. Since 2004, SmartWay partners have saved over 7 billion gallons of fuel, lowered fuel costs by \$24.9 billion and reduced carbon emissions by 72.8 million metric tons.

To find companies that participate in SmartWay, visit www.epa.gov/smartway. Additional information about NCTCOG's SmartWay efforts can be found at www.nctcog.org/smartway.

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

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

128

The number of electric vehicles that gathered at this year's National Drive Electric Week Event in Grapevine. This was the second consecutive record established at the event.

PUBLIC *Involvement*

Public meetings: 10-year project list, outreach

Residents are encouraged to provide input on a series of transportation topics during public meetings in November.

The regional 10-year plan project list and public involvement techniques will be presented at 6:30 pm Nov. 7 in Richardson, 2:30 pm Nov. 9 in Arlington and 6:30 pm Nov. 15 in Fort Worth.

Progress made during the 2016 ozone season, which ended for North Texas on October 31, and conformity approval for Mobility 2040, the region's long-term transportation plan, will also be highlighted.

For more information on presentation topics or to watch a video recording of the Arlington meeting, visit www.nctcog.org/input.

Fact sheet: Automated vehicles

With the ever-growing population of North Texas, and an increasing number of vehicles in the region, solutions are needed to make roads safer and more efficient for daily commuters.

Automated vehicle technology has seen substantial advancements over the years, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments intends to play a significant role in the deployment of this technology in North Texas.

NCTCOG has published a new automated vehicle fact sheet, which is available online. This fact sheet includes information about autonomous vehicles, benefits of this technology and NCTCOG's role in its deployment in the region.

For more information on this subject, visit www.nctcog.org/factsheets.

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.