

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, January 11, 2024
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

1:10 – 1:15

2. **Approval of December 14, 2023, Minutes**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Gyna Bivens, RTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the December 14, 2023, meeting minutes contained in [Electronic Item 2](#) will be requested.

Background: N/A

1:15 – 1:20 3. **Consent Agenda**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5

3.1. Emergency Funding: Backstop Funding for Agile Curriculum Development Program

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request ratification of emergency funding authorization in the amount of \$200,000 for the Agile Curriculum Development Program to backstop federal funding and avoid project implementation delays.

Background: In September 2021, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) accepted a grant award from the Department of Defense (DOD) for the Agile Curriculum Development Program, in the amount of \$880,000 (\$800,000 federal funds and \$80,000 local match provided through RTC Local funds). The grant terminated on November 30, 2023, and NCTCOG has been working with DOD to document project success and justification for continuation of the project. It is anticipated that DOD will grant an extension in the next few months. In the interim, DOD has

communicated their desire to avoid project implementation delays and has requested that NCTCOG and subrecipient partners continue project activities. Staff requests ratification of emergency funding authorization for RTC Local funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 as a backstop to fund staff and subrecipient efforts as the grant amendment is being processed or in the event DOD does not approve an extension. RTC Local funds will be returned upon a DOD grant time extension.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

1:20 – 1:35

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Status of TxDOT Rule Making
2. 2024 Theme Relating to TxDOT Partnership
3. Analysis of Dallas High-Speed Rail Tunnel Request and Other Options
4. Status of Consultants for Transit 2.0
5. Broadband as a Transportation Service: Four Proposed Elements
6. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
www.nctcog.org/aqfunding
7. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>
8. January Online Input Opportunity Notice ([Electronic Item 4.1](#))
9. December Online Input Opportunity Minutes ([Electronic Item 4.2](#))
10. Public Comments Report ([Electronic Item 4.3](#))
11. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 4.4](#))
12. Recent Press Releases ([Electronic Item 4.5](#))

1:35 – 1:50

5. **Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation Program**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) submission of a 2023 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovative (ATTAIN) Program application.

Background: In November 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an announcement for the ATTAIN program proposals that deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on

investment. USDOT will provide funding of up to \$12 million per project with a required 20 percent non-federal match. [grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/351055) is a copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the grant program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, as well as the application requirements. Applications are due to the USDOT by February 2, 2024. Staff will provide a summary grant and provide an overview of the application. More information is available in [Electronic Item 5](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Roadway

1:50 – 2:05

6. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. Staff will provide details highlighting grant requirements and potential candidate projects.

Background: In November 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced availability of \$1.5 billion toward the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2024 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program, targeting strategic capital investments for surface transportation projects that will have significant local or regional impacts. As a supplement to specific program details provided by staff, additional information like the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), application requirements, analysis tools, and other relevant data can be accessed at <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>. Applications are due to the US DOT by February 28, 2024. For regional agencies planning to submit their own candidate projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at nallen@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Bike/Ped

2:05 – 3:05

7. **Air Quality Workshop**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 60

Presenter: Chris Klaus, Vivek Thimmavajjhala, and Savana Nance, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An air quality workshop will be held tying critical transportation and air quality initiatives together.

Background: There are five components to the workshop. They are listed below.

State Implementation Plan Updates (TCEQ has lead):

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has proposed the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Severe Area State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The attainment date for severe areas is July 20, 2027, with a 2026 attainment year. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff is reviewing and preparing comments, which will be highlighted for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) members at the workshop. Public comments close on January 16, 2024.

Update on Particulate Matter Standard:

On January 27, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published proposed rules regarding reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM). Anticipating final rules in the future, NCTCOG staff will highlight proposed rule changes, possible impacts to the region, and efforts to remain in attainment with the PM standard.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Results:

NCTCOG staff will provide the Council with a summary of the North Central Texas 12-County Metropolitan Planning Area 2019 Inventory of Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and an overview of the inventory expansion. This Greenhouse Gas Inventory adds to the Ozone precursors and criteria pollutant inventories. It helps and supports the multipollutant comprehensive approach within the 12-county region to mitigate regional pollutants that pose substantial risks to the future health and well-being of the area.

Dallas Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan:

NCTCOG is leading a collaboration with local governments across the region to develop a Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan, which will outline measures to reduce emissions of ozone-forming pollutants, fine particulate matter, and greenhouse gases (GHG) in all 16 counties of the NCTCOG planning area. The first major deliverable due to EPA under the CPRG is a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which must be submitted by March 1, 2024. This plan must include a GHG emissions inventory and a quantified list of measures that can be implemented to improve air quality. Upon plan submittal, NCTCOG intends to coordinate a regional grant proposal requesting funding from the EPA CPRG Implementation Grants program, which can be used to help pay for implementation of measures included in the PCAP. The Implementation Grants application is due by April 1, 2024. A preliminary list of measures for inclusion in the PCAP will be presented, along with information on how measures are being prioritized, for review and feedback.

Federal Highway Greenhouse Gas Performance Measures:

On November 22, 2023, the Federal Highway Administration released its final rule establishing for the measurement and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with transportation. Similar to already existing federal performance measures on safety, transit, roadway reliability, etc., it requires State departments of transportation (TxDOT) and metropolitan planning organizations (the RTC) to establish declining carbon dioxide (CO₂) targets for the GHG measure and report on progress toward the achievement of those targets. NCTCOG staff will provide a summary on the rule and upcoming schedule.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

8. Progress Reports

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance ([Electronic Item 8](#))

9. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
10. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.
11. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for **1:00 pm, Thursday, February 8, 2024, in the Transportation Council Room.**