

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, September 25, 2026

North Central Texas Council of Governments

**1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connections Password: rangers!)**

- 1:30 – 1:35** 1. **Approval of August 28, 2026, Meeting Summary**
 ☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
 Presenter: Kelly Porter, STTC Chair
 Item Summary: Approval of the August 28, 2026, meeting summary contained
 in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.
 Background: N/A
- 1:35 – 1:40** 2. **Consent Agenda**
 ☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
- 2.1. **Endorsement of Collin County Rides Funding Update**
 Presenter: Gypsy Gavia, NCTCOG
 Item Summary: Surface Transportation Technical Committee
 endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council's
 (RTC) approval to utilize up to \$98,887 in remaining
 previously approved RTC Local funds to extend the Collin
 County Rides program through Spring 2027, to ensure
 Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) can
 continue transit service for seniors and individuals with
 disabilities for residents in Allen and Fairview will be
 requested.
 Background: The Collin County Rides program provides transit service
 to seniors and individuals with disabilities to residents in
 Allen and Fairview. On July 13, 2023, the RTC approved
 up to \$300,000 in RTC Local funds to support the first
 year of service under DCTA, the current provider, with
 subsequent operations to be funded through the Federal
 Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of
 Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program and
 local match from the participating cities. Only a portion of
 the first year RTC Local funding was expended. DCTA
 has coordinated service agreements with Allen and
 Fairview, and Federal Section 5310 funding is now being
 programmed directly to DCTA to support ongoing service.
 However, due to timing of federal funding availability, a

funding gap is expected in early 2027. The RTC approved on September 11, 2026, to utilize the remaining \$98,887 as needed in previously approved RTC Local funds to extend the project to a Phase III until Spring 2027. No new funding is being requested. More details can be found in Electronic Item 2.1.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

1:40 – 1:50

3. 2027 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region (Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plus)

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview and request action to open the 2027 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas region, including eligibility, criteria, and schedule.

Background: Approximately \$60 million is anticipated to be available to fund active transportation projects in the large Urbanized Areas of the North Central Texas region. Eligible applications under this program include the construction of on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities and Safe Routes to School plans. Staff will present a program overview for the Call for Projects, area of eligibility, required documentation, and schedule. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. Fiscal Years 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Saving Transportation Competitive Grant Program

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amelia Hayes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request the Surface Transportation Technical Committee's (STTC) recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a candidate project to be submitted for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Competitive Grant Program. Applications are due to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) by October 9, 2026.

Background: In August 2026, USDOT announced the FYs 2024-2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications

for the PROTECT competitive grant program, with nationwide availability of \$787 million. The PROTECT Program provides funding to plan for and make surface transportation more resilient to current and future weather events, natural disasters, and changing environmental conditions. Available at <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/grant-toolkit/promoting-resilient-operations-transformative-efficient-and-cost-saving>, is the FYs 2024-2026 PROTECT NOFO that describes application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements, and available technical assistance during the grant solicitation period. A presentation specifying key PROTECT details, along with information supporting the proposed STTC action, is included in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Request to Use Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for Air Quality**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Vivek Thimmavajjhala, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of proposed investments in air quality modeling infrastructure and staff training to enhance regional air quality planning capabilities. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds in the amount of \$365,000 will be requested to establish modeling capabilities, acquire necessary resources, and provide technical training to support future air quality analyses related to transportation planning, air quality conformity, and emissions reduction efforts. In addition, staff will request to use RTC Local funds in the amount of \$55,000 to cover the administrative costs related to the modeling part of the Rider 7 Local Air Quality Planning Grant - fine particulate matter (PM2.5) funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Staff will also seek approval to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and update any administrative and/or planning documents as needed to incorporate the project.

Background: North Central Texas ozone values have been trending upward and exceeding State Implementation Plan (SIP) model predictions. Explanations provided by the TCEQ have generally been qualitative and have not included targeted diagnostic or sensitivity modeling to identify the specific

drivers of elevated pollutant levels. Establishing an in-house modeling capability would allow staff to conduct independent, transparent, and regionally focused air quality analyses to better evaluate meteorological drivers, emissions trends, chemical regime shifts, transport and background contributions, and other factors influencing ozone concentrations. The requested funding would support a Linux-based modeling infrastructure with the necessary modeling software, compilers, and pre-and post-processors, along with hands-on technical training on the modeling software and emissions processors. This capability would enable staff to set up and execute model runs; test assumptions underlying SIP modeling, evaluate potential emissions-control strategies, and provide modeling assistance to other regions when appropriate. The TCEQ administers funds for local air quality planning activities under Rider 7 of the agency's legislative appropriation, and this funding can be used for various PM2.5-related activities including modeling. Staff will conduct the modeling of the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and if approved, use RTC Local funds to cover the administrative costs. More details can be found in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:10 – 2:20

6. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of current transportation items will be provided.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

1. North Central Texas Council of Governments 60th Anniversary
2. Dismissal Papers Filed to the District and Appellate Courts
3. Status of Texas Department of Transportation Signature on Three-Party Agreement
4. Regional Transportation Council Meeting Rescheduled to November 5, 2026
5. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 6.1)
6. Three Additional Railroad Grade Separations: Grant Award \$189,840,698; Total Project Cost - \$237,300,873

- Dallas – Westmoreland Road @ Union Pacific Railroad/Dallas, Garland, Northeastern Railroad - Grant Award - \$89,828,698
 - Fort Worth – NE 23rd Street/Decatur Avenue @ Union Pacific Railroad/Burlington Northern and Santa Fe/Fort Worth & Western Railroad/TEXRail - Grant Award - \$75,821,000
 - Terrell – Las Lomas Parkway @ US 80/ Union Pacific Railroad - \$24,191,000
7. Dallas Area Rapid Transit \$70 Million Light Rail Replacement
 8. Interstate Highway 635 East Phase Three \$1.7 Billion (Managed Lanes)
 9. Irving Summit Funding Presentation (Electronic Item 6.2)
 10. The Importance of Independent Air Quality Analysis

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:20 – 2:30

7. Access North Texas 2026 Update

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Evan Paret, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on the 2026 Access North Texas Update, including a brief overview of outreach efforts and a summary of developed regional goals and strategies. The plan outlines strategies to address transit needs and serves as a guide to improve access to work, medical appointments, education, and the community during the next four years.

Background: Access North Texas is the regional public transportation coordination plan for the North Central Texas region. The purpose of the Access North Texas plan is to identify the public transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, individuals with limited financial resources, and others with transportation challenges. The plan also specifies strategies to address identified transit needs, eliminate gaps in service, and avoid duplication of transit services. Additionally, regional projects funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program must align with strategies in this locally developed plan. Since Spring 2024, staff have coordinated with a wide range of stakeholders, transit users, and other members of the public to document these transportation needs and develop strategies to better serve these populations with public transportation. Federal guidelines require this region to update the plan every four

years, and the previous plan was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council in 2022. The draft 2026 Access North Texas plan document will be available at www.accessnorthtexas.org for public input in October 2026. More information is available in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:30 – 2:40

8. Role of Surface Transportation Technical Committee: Upcoming Regional Transportation Council Bylaws

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Michael Morris and Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will initiate a conversation regarding the most appropriate role for the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC). The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Bylaws are under review, and we wish to be considerate of the Committee's interest.

Background: The RTC Bylaws are reviewed for possible revisions every four years. It is proposed that the STTC officers will no longer be selected by the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board, but by the RTC. The STTC structure will be reviewed in the Bylaws in order to meet the needs of both the STTC and RTC. Committee discussion will be requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:40 – 2:50

9. Briefing on 2027 Strategic Transportation Funding Program

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed on the 2027 Strategic Transportation Funding Program and the process for submitting project funding requests for consideration.

Background: Staff will brief the Committee on the process for submitting projects for consideration for federal and regional transportation funding. The goal of this program is to fund the next increment of projects from Mobility 2050 and recommendations from other planning studies, along with giving an opportunity to agencies that earned Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle Transportation Development Credits to submit project ideas. More details on the funding initiative can be found in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:50 – 3:00

10. **Fast Facts**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Brief staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material as provided.

1. *Charles Marsh* – Submittal Deadline for Transportation Improvement Program Modification Requests for the First Quarter Cycle 2027
2. *Joaquin Moreno* – Fall 2026 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement – November 5, 2026 (Electronic Item 10.1)
3. *Kyle Hoener* – Training for Safe Routes to School Planning (Electronic Item 10.2)
4. *Lori Clark* - Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee Information (Electronic Item 10.3)
5. *Travis Ripley* – Correspondence to the Environmental Protection Agency (Electronic Item 10.4)
6. *Analisa Garcia* – 2026 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 10.5)
7. *Bill Prieto* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 10.6)
8. *Elizabeth Sin* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
9. *Elizabeth Sin* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)

10. Written Progress Reports:

- Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.7)
- July - August Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.8)
- August Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 10.9)

11. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

12. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on October 23, 2026**.