

**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Minutes — January 22, 2026

Transportation Council Room | 616 Six Flags Drive | Arlington, Texas

The NCTCOG Executive Board meeting was conducted as a videoconference meeting that was live broadcast at <https://nctcog.swagit.com/live>. The presiding officer, President Johnson, was present at the physical location, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas, which was open to the public during all open portions of the meeting.

President Johnson called the regular meeting of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board to order at 1:02 pm on January 22, 2026. Todd Little took attendance and determined that a quorum was physically present.

Members of the Board Present:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Victoria Johnson | 9. Darrell Hale |
| 2. Jennifer Justice | 10. Rick Horne |
| 3. Brandon J. Huckabee | 11. Clay Jenkins |
| 4. Chris Hill | 12. Cara Mendelsohn |
| 5. Christopher Boedeker (V) | 13. Bobbie Mitchell |
| 6. David Bristol (V) | 14. Tim O'Hare |
| 7. Carlos Flores | 15. Kameron Raburn |
| 8. T.J. Gilmore | |

Members of the Board Absent:

1. Bowie Hogg
2. Gary Hulseay
3. Mitch Little

Members of the Staff Present:

Todd Little, Monte Mercer, Susan Alvarez, Tim Barbee, Doni Green, Michael Morris, Maribel Martinez, Phedra Redifer, Randy Richardson, Christy Williams, Jerri Watson, Ken Kirkpatrick, James Powell, Michael Bort, Tom McLain, Kelly Schmidt, Prit Patel, Christy Martinez, Emily Beckham, Lori Clark, Shala Geer-Smith, Caroline Vandergriff, Chris Klaus, Heidi Garbe, Jessie Shadowens-James, April Leger, Kevin Moyer, Emily Dryden, Jennifer Oliver

Visitors Present:

Glen Whitley, Retired – Former Tarrant County Judge; Lauren Trimble, Dallas County

REGULAR SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Johnson opened the meeting for public comment and asked whether anyone present wished to speak. Former Tarrant County Judge, Glen Whitley, offered remarks regarding Item 14: *Status Report on Regional Transportation Council Partnership Letter and MPO Planning Agreement Roles and Responsibilities*.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Items 1 - 13 were posted on the agenda as Consent Items.

Item 1 Approval of Minutes - November 20, 2025

Item 2 Resolution Authorizing Submittal of a Law Enforcement Training Grant Renewal Application to the Criminal Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

Board authorization was requested for the submittal of a Law Enforcement Training Grant renewal application to the Criminal Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). Staff reported that the North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Police Academy has provided law enforcement training since 1968 and is seeking continued funding to support the expanded regional training initiative. The grant, estimated at \$120,000 for the period of October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, would fund an additional Police Training Coordinator position, allowing the Academy to continue offering an extra Basic Peace Officer Course annually and increase recruit capacity.

Item 3 Resolution to Accept and Approve the Quarterly Investment Report

Board acceptance and approval was requested for the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended December 31, 2025. The report is required by the Investment Policy and Public Funds Investment Act and shows an average rate of return, cumulative transactions and beginning and ending balances for the quarter.

Item 4 Resolution Authorizing TXShare Contracts for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses, Related Accessories, and Services

Board authorization was requested to enter a five-year contract for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBAs), related accessories, and services through the NCTCOG TXShare cooperative purchasing program. Staff reported that Request for Proposals (RFP) 2025-124 was issued, with two responsive proposals received and evaluated by representatives from the Cities of Frisco, Plano, and Stephenville. Based on the committee's evaluation, contracts are recommended for award to Heat Safety Equipment, LLC and DiVal Safety and Supplies for all listed service categories, including SCBAs, accessories, replacement parts, accountability systems, and testing services.

Item 5 Resolution Authorizing TXShare Contracts for 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fee Audit and Compliance Services

Board authorization was requested to enter into contracts for 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fee Audit and Compliance Services through the NCTCOG TXShare cooperative purchasing program. Staff reported that Request for Proposals (RFP) 2025-118 was issued, with six responsive proposals received and evaluated by representatives from the Brazos County Emergency Communications District, McLennan County 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance District, and the North Central Texas Emergency Communications District. Based on the committee's evaluation, contracts are recommended for award to Just Communications, Inc., dba Digital Direction for all service categories, and to Rolka Loube Saltzer Associates, LLC for Service Category 1.

Categories are listed below:

- Service Category 1: 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fee Audit and Compliance
- Service Category 2: Other Ancillary Goods or Services

Item 6

Resolution Endorsing Submittal of Texas Regional Broadband Program Grant Application, Authorizing an Additional Staff Position and Receipt of Funds from the Texas Association of Regional Councils

Board authorization was requested for the submittal of the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP) grant application and for the addition of a staff position supported by funds received from the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC). The TRBP, administered by TARC in partnership with the Texas Broadband Development Office, supports statewide broadband planning, digital opportunity strategies, and implementation, with each Council of Governments serving as a regional coordinator. Following the November Executive Board meeting, staff received final confirmation of NCTCOG's allocation, with an application deadline of January 16, 2026. Under the program, each of the 24 COGs is eligible to receive approximately \$107,000 annually for three years, contingent upon meeting program deliverables and reporting requirements. Participation requires the designation of a Regional Digital Access Specialist to lead stakeholder engagement, regional collaboration, data collection, digital opportunity planning, and implementation activities—roles that are especially critical for North Central Texas given ongoing broadband availability, affordability, and digital readiness challenges in rural and smaller communities. The position will also support North Central Texas Economic Development District (NCTEDD) functions, including grant assistance and development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). While the grant provides approximately \$60,000 annually toward personnel, market conditions indicate that a competitive salary may be up to \$90,000 (\$150,000 including benefits). As proposed, roughly 70 percent of the position's cost will be funded by the TRBP grant, with the remaining 30 percent supported by the NCTCOG General Fund as additional funding options are explored.

Item 7

Resolution Authorizing Cooperative Contracts for Title III-Funded Meals

Board authorization was requested to enter into cooperative contracts for the provision of Title III-funded Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals. Staff reported that, as the designated Area Agency on Aging, NCTCOG receives federal and state funding to support regional nutrition services and provides technical assistance and oversight to its twelve nutrition subrecipients. Because several subrecipients purchase meals but lack the capacity to conduct a federally compliant procurement, NCTCOG conducted a regional procurement in October 2025 on behalf of interested subrecipients. Two proposals were received, deemed responsive, and evaluated by NCTCOG staff. Based on the committee's review, cooperative contracts are recommended for award to Trio Community Meals and Golden Roots Meals for terms of up to five years. Staff noted that subrecipients will purchase meals directly from the selected vendors and that NCTCOG will incur no expenditures.

Item 8

Resolution Endorsing Amended Agreement for Receipt of Funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Board endorsement was requested for an amendment to the existing agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for local air quality planning activities funded under Rider 7. Staff reported that NCTCOG, as the regional entity eligible to conduct PM2.5 inventory, monitoring, and modeling activities, previously entered into a not-to-exceed \$488,995 agreement approved by the Executive Board in March 2024 and executed in August 2024. TCEQ later notified NCTCOG of additional available funding for the FY 2026–2027 biennium and requested execution of an amendment by December 31, 2025. To avoid loss of funds, the Executive Director executed the amendment under the Annual Fiscal Program's delegated authority. The amendment provides an additional \$660,933.27, bringing the total agreement amount to approximately \$1,149,928.27. No local match is required. Consultant assistance will be pursued and Executive Board approval of that contract will be requested at a later date.

- Item 9 **Resolution Authorizing Amended Agreement with the University of Texas at Arlington to Support Department of Defense Agile Curriculum Program**
Board authorization was requested to amend an existing agreement related to the Department of Defense (DOD) Industry Resiliency–funded Agile Curriculum Development Program. Staff reported that NCTCOG received DOD funding to develop a program framework, in partnership with defense manufacturers, universities, and community colleges, to expand the regional pipeline of qualified applicants for Aerospace and Defense manufacturing careers. Agreements with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), Tarrant County College, and Dallas College were approved by the Executive Board on December 1, 2022. Due to the program’s shift toward advanced Cyber Security degree pathways—curricula not offered by Tarrant County College—the Board approved in March 2024 the reallocation of \$100,000 from that college’s agreement to UTA, increasing UTA’s contract to \$400,000. Authorization was requested to amend the UTA agreement again to reallocate funding from Dallas College and add an additional \$72,000, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$472,000 in DOD funding. Dallas College has indicated it cannot participate in the final program year. This amendment is contingent upon the DOD extending the current grant through June 30, 2026.
- Item 10 **Resolution Authorizing Agreements with Transportation Authorities for Travel Demand Management Event Support**
Board authorization was requested to enter into agreements supporting regional trip reduction activities. Staff reported that NCTCOG, Trinity Metro, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) have long partnered to implement trip reduction strategies, including operating the Vanpool Program, maintaining and marketing the Try Parking It website, and conducting educational outreach events. In January 2022, the Regional Transportation Council approved Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funding for region-wide employer trip reduction initiatives as part of the Congestion Management Planning and Operations Program. For Fiscal Year 2026, NCTCOG will continue coordinating trip reduction events with the three transportation authorities. Staff requested Executive Board approval to enter into agreements with Trinity Metro, DART, and DCTA for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 each, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000. Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds, matched with Transportation Development Credits in lieu of local match, will be used.
- Item 11 **Appointments to the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) and Election of Officers**
Board authorization was requested to approve appointments and officers for the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC). The RAAC, which supports NCTCOG in its role as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), is composed of 28 members with two representatives from each of the 14 counties in the service area. With 13 current vacancies, NCTCOG solicited nominations from county judges, subrecipients, and staff. Nominees presented for appointment included: Ami Jane Vo (Denton County); Waynetta Dennis (Ellis County); Peggy Green (Erath County); Mel Birdwell (Hood County); Whitney Clotfelter (Johnson County); Allen Sparkman (Palo Pinto County); Linda Authier (Parker County); Karen Kiser and Patty Stern (Rockwall County); Juhree Knowles (Somervell County); and Shelby Hicks (Wise County). Staff also noted that, in accordance with RAAC bylaws, the AAA convened a nominations subcommittee, which recommended officers for Calendar Year 2026: President Karen Kiser (Rockwall County), Vice-President Lynda Sloan (Navarro County), and Secretary Dani Muckelroy (Ellis County). A brief summary of RAAC responsibilities and a membership chart were provided.

Item 12

Appointments to the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee

Board approval was requested to appoint the following members to the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee (CJPDC).

Officers				
Name		Title	Agency	County
Ms. Felicia	Oliphant	First Assistant District Attorney	Rockwall County District Attorney's Office	Chair – Rockwall County
Ms. Kelly	Pickens	Councilmember	City of Corinth	Vice Chair - Denton County

Proposed New Members:				
Name		Title	Agency	Committee Status / County
Ryan	Bristow	Deputy Director of Administrative Services	Dallas County Juvenile Department*	Proposed new rep for Dallas County Juvenile Department
Richard	Brooks	Chief of Police	Aubrey Police Department	Proposed New Member – Denton County (Nominated by Charles Kreidler, Aubrey City Manager)
Cindy	Burnette	Director of Forensic Healthcare & Violence Intervention Department	Texas Health Resources	Proposed New Member – Tarrant County (Nominated by Anne Smith, Texas Health Resources Foundation)
Colleen	Campbell	CEO	Emily's Place (Victim Services agency)	Proposed New Member – Collin County (Self-nominated)
Melissa	Carr	Behavioral Health Program Manager	City of Mesquite (also provides services to Sunnyvale, Seagoville, and Balch Springs)	Proposed New Member – Dallas County (Self-nominated)
Chawn	Gilliland	Criminal Investigator	Parker County District Attorney's Office	Proposed New Member – Parker County (Nominated by Jeff Swain, Parker County District Attorney's Office and Kathryn Thompson, retired Executive Director of Parker County Children's Advocacy Center / past CJPDC member)
Scott	Ho	Captain	Eules Police Department	Proposed New Member – Tarrant County (Nominated by Chief Gary Landers, Eules Police Department)
Kristen	Howell	CEO	Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas (Victim Services agency)	Proposed New Member – Denton County (Self-nominated)

Sharon	Johnson	Department Chair of Public Safety Professions / Criminal Justice Degree Program Coordinator	Weatherford College	Proposed New Member – Parker County (Self-nominated)
Sammy	Knapp	Constable, Precinct 3	Collin County	Proposed New Member – Collin County (Self-nominated)
Kristen	Ostertag	Executive Director	Women In Need (Victim Services agency)	Proposed New Member – Hunt County (Self-nominated)
Kyle	Taliaferro	Assistant Chief of Police	Allen Police Department	Proposed New Member – Collin County (Self-nominated)

*Per CJPDC policies, these agencies shall have a permanent representative.

Reappointments				
Name		Title	Agency	County
Mr. Shade	Boulware	Assistant Superintendent of Leadership	Corsicana ISD	Navarro County
Mr. Jon	Ciarletta	Lieutenant	Trophy Club Police Department	Denton County
Mr. Dan	Harris Jr.	Chief of Police	Stephenville Police Department	Erath County
Mr. Patrick	Wiginton	Assistant Chief of Police	Granbury Police Department	Hood County
Mr. Edward	Wright	Assistant Chief of Police	North Richland Hills Police Department	Tarrant County

Item 13

Appointments to the North Central Texas Economic Development District Board (NCTEDD)

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda for Individual Consideration by Mayor Raburn.

Upon a Motion by Mayor Raburn (seconded by Commissioner Mitchell), the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda Items as posted with the exception of Item 13.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

Item 13 Appointments to the North Central Texas Economic Development District Board (NCTEDD)

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda for Individual Consideration by Mayor Raburn.

Board authorization was requested to appoint the following individuals to the North Central Texas Economic Development District Board (NCTEDD).

Three-Year Term Appointment Request	Board Category
Judge Frank New, County Judge	Rockwall County
Jessica Rogers, Director of Economic Development, City of Fort Worth	>500,000 Population
Hillary Cromer, Economic Development Director, City of Alvarado	<30,000 Population
Gabby Everett, Director of Business Operations and Strategy, BioLabs	Principal Economic Interest

Additionally, Mayor Raburn requested to make some additions to the Ellis County seat and the <30,000 Population as follows:

- **ELLIS:** Kyle Kinateder, President and CEO, Midlothian Economic Development – **fill empty Ellis County seat**
- **<30,000 Population:** Julie Pierce, President, Ennis Economic Development Corporation, who vacated this position. This seat will now be filled by: **Miriam Castillo, Economic Development Director, City of Ennis**

Exhibit: 2026-01-13-EDO

Judge Boedeker and Mayor Bristol joined the meeting virtually.

Upon a Motion by Mayor Raburn (seconded by Judge Jenkins), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the appointment as amended.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Item 14 Status Report on Regional Transportation Council Partnership Letter and MPO Planning Agreement Roles and Responsibilities

Ken Kirkpatrick, General Counsel, presented a status report on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agreement Roles and Responsibilities. He explained that this information item provides context for Item 22 later in the agenda regarding legal assistance related to RTC responsibilities. Staff reviewed three items from the January 8, 2026 RTC meeting: the RTC Partnership Letter to NCTCOG President Johnson, Mayor Bristol's letter to RTC Chair Bailey, and the MPO Agreement Roles and Responsibilities. The RTC approved the Partnership Letter requesting a meeting with the Executive Board to discuss the shared responsibilities of both bodies in carrying out MPO functions and expressing interest in participating in the selection process for a new Transportation Director. Mayor Bristol's correspondence on this matter was also provided. At the same meeting, the RTC requested NCTCOG General Counsel to review key statutory provisions, agreements, and foundational documents related to RTC responsibilities and to provide a written report and presentation to both the RTC and Executive Board. Staff provided an initial briefing on the MPO Planning Agreement, executed in September 2018 between TxDOT, NCTCOG, and the RTC, which outlines the roles and responsibilities for the federally required metropolitan planning process. The Agreement has been extended through September 30, 2027, and a new agreement will need to be executed prior to that date to ensure continued eligibility for transportation planning funds.

Exhibit: 2026-01-14-EDO

This was an informational item and did not require a vote.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

Item 15 Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Granicus, LLC for Agenda Management Software

Jon Blackman, Assistant Director of Administration, requested Board authorization to enter a contractual agreement with Granicus, LLC for agenda management software. Staff reported that the current process for developing, reviewing, approving, and publishing Executive Board agendas is heavily manual, relies on multiple departments, and is spread across several disconnected systems, resulting in increased workload and duplication of effort. Agency Administration and Information and Innovation Services worked with the Executive Director's Office to evaluate potential solutions and, after reviewing available vendors over several months, recommend Granicus' Legistar platform. The cloud-based system will streamline agenda creation, meeting minutes, voting, search, archiving, and public access, while meeting ADA and Texas Open Meetings Act requirements. The proposed contract is for a three-year term through January 2029, with an optional two-year renewal for a total potential term of five years. Implementation is expected to begin immediately upon approval, with staff training, configuration, refinement cycles, and phased deployment leading to an anticipated rollout in late Summer 2026. Granicus is available through OMNIA Partners cooperative contract #159768. The contract with Granicus, LLC is for a term of up to five years and an amount not to exceed \$415,000.

Exhibit: 2026-01-15-AA

Upon a Motion by Judge Hill (seconded by Judge Huckabee), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 16 Resolution Adopting FY 2027 Criminal Justice Policies and Procedures

Kelly Schmidt, Criminal Justice Program Administrator, requested Board approval to adopt the FY 2027 Policies and Procedures recommended by the Criminal Justice Policy Development Committee (CJPDC). As part of the Statement of Work (SOW), NCTCOG is responsible for reviewing and scoring criminal justice grant applications from local agencies and is required to adopt Policies and Procedures that guide the application process and define committee responsibilities. The most significant changes include replacing the Truancy Prevention grant category title with the new Youth Diversion title; adding language regarding grant application workshop notification and attendance; increasing suggested funding limits for the Criminal Justice Program – Justice Assistance Grant category; and incorporating language to address personnel overtime projects. Other revisions include updates to grant period timeframes and date revisions.

Exhibit: 2026-01-16-CJ

Upon a Motion by Judge O'Hare (seconded by Councilmember Justice), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 17 Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Alvarado for Grant Administration Services

Prit Patel, Senior Economic Development Manager, requested Board authorization to enter an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the City of Alvarado for management and administration of a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. Staff reported that the City has allocated approximately \$50,000 for NCTCOG to provide project management and financial management services, including record keeping, reporting, reimbursement processing, invoice review, and liaison support to the EDA. The City of Alvarado received a \$1,400,000 EDA grant to construct and install approximately 1.5 miles of new wastewater infrastructure, a project expected to create around 330 jobs, retain 180 jobs, and leverage an estimated \$30 million in private investment. The City requested that NCTCOG, through the North Central Texas Economic Development District, administer the grant on its behalf. Staff noted that the NCTCOG region was designated an Economic Development District by EDA in December 2016, and NCTCOG regularly supports local organizations in securing and administering EDA funding.

Exhibit: 2026-01-17-EDO

Upon a Motion by Commissioner Mitchell (seconded by Mayor Gilmore), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 18 Resolution Recommending General Assembly Enactment of the Amended Bylaws of the North Central Texas Council of Governments

Ken Kirkpatrick, General Counsel, presented the proposed Amended Bylaws for Executive Board consideration. He noted that President Johnson appointed a Bylaws Review Committee last year to conduct a comprehensive review of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' Bylaws and recommend updates to reflect current laws and organizational practices. The Committee, chaired by Councilmember Jennifer Justice and including Councilmember Victoria Johnson, Judge Chris Hill, and Mayor Kameron Raburn, met throughout the fall with support from NCTCOG staff to evaluate potential revisions. The recommended amendments focus on nominating committee composition, procedures for filling Board vacancies, Board member indemnification, Board terms, Officer duties, and Officer succession. The Committee also reviewed Board composition and determined that the existing population categories continue to provide fair representation based on current and projected growth through 2035.

After Board discussion, the following questions were raised:

- Mechanics around Board appointment – General Assembly practice to defer to dedicated cities/counties
- Non-elected concern for Past President (if for removal/criminal action/etc.)
- Vacancy – deference or exemption for dedicated seats since Mayor/Judge/governing body makes appointment (e.g., City of Dallas)
- Maximum four (4) terms – (appropriateness of length of time; consecutive or sequential limitation)

The Board requested the Bylaws Review Committee to reconvene to consider those questions.

Exhibit: 2026-01-18-EDO

No action was taken on this item.

Item 19 Resolution Authorizing Agreements with Subrecipients of the North Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Call for Projects

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, requested Board authorization related to the implementation of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Community Program grant. Staff reported that NCTCOG was awarded the maximum grant amount of \$15 million in 2023 to deploy approximately 100 electric vehicle (EV) charging ports on public-sector properties and to retain a consultant team—referred to as the "Deployment Dream Team"—to support implementation. Of the award, \$3,037,884 was dedicated to Phase 1 activities, including staff time and consultant services, which proceeded following Board authorization in April 2025. The remaining \$11,962,116 is allocated to Phase 2 EV charging station deployment. Phase 2 was initiated through a Call for Projects opened July 25, 2025, and closed October 31, 2025. A total of 109 site applications were received from 36 public agencies, requesting more than \$18.6 million, exceeding available funding. Staff recommended awarding 55 sites to 31 applicants within the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), with a waitlist established for eligible but unfunded applications, and noted that costs may shift as charging vendors are procured. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved these recommendations on January 8, 2026. One application was received from outside the MPA for Erath County; because FHWA funding obligations for Erath, Somervell, and Palo Pinto Counties remain pending, the RTC approved use of RTC Local Funds for the Erath County site, with FHWA funds to be substituted if later obligated. FHWA CFI funds will support up to 80 percent of deployment costs and 20 percent of operations and maintenance, with the private-sector vendor(s) providing the remaining shares. Agreements with selected charging vendors will be brought to the Board at a later date. Staff noted ongoing coordination with TxDOT to ensure complementarity with the State's NEVI Formula Program investments. TxDOT's plan is available at <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/statewide/texas-electric-vehicle-planning-03-22-22.html>.

Exhibit: 2026-01-19-TR

Upon a Motion by Councilmember Mendelsohn (seconded by Commissioner Mitchell), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 20 Resolution Approving Submittal of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 National Railroad Partnership Program Applications to the Federal Railroad Administration

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, requested Board approval for the submittal of Fiscal Year 2024–2025 National Railroad Partnership Program (NRPP) applications to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The FRA announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity in September 2025 for the \$5.07 billion NRPP, which funds projects that address state-of-good-repair needs, enhance passenger rail performance, or expand intercity rail service, with applications due February 6, 2026, across Project Planning, Project Development, and Final Design/Construction tracks. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is requesting NCTCOG apply under both the Planning and Development tracks for the East Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Corridor Improvement Project in Dallas, a \$9 million effort to complete planning and design for TRE double-tracking across the IH 35E Stemmons Freeway bridge and to reconstruct and grade-separate the Market Center Boulevard crossing. The NRPP request will seek up to \$7.2 million in federal funds (80 percent), matched with \$1.8 million in RTC Local funds (20 percent), with the city of Dallas and DART identified as implementing agents. RTC also seeks NCTCOG's application under the Final Design/Construction track for the \$54 million Prairie Creek Road Grade Separation Project, which will construct a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad corridor and request \$32.898 million in federal funds to complement previously committed federal, local, county, and UPRR contributions. The RTC approved submittal of these applications on December 11, 2025. NCTCOG will coordinate with FRA on fund transfer mechanisms and work closely with implementing agencies, railroads, and funding partners to support project delivery.

Exhibit: 2026-01-20-TR

Upon a Motion by Councilmember Mendelsohn (seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Flores), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 21 Resolution Authorizing a Contract with HNTB Corporation to Conduct a Feasibility Study for the Extension of the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority M-Line Trolley

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, requested Board authorization to enter a contractual agreement with HNTB Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$530,000, to conduct a feasibility study for a potential 1.5-mile extension of the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority (MATA) M-Line Trolley. Staff noted that the Regional Transportation Council programmed funding for planning and engineering support for this effort, and the Executive Board previously approved the study of possible streetcar extensions on March 28, 2024. The consultant team will evaluate alignment options, operating scenarios, implementation and operating costs, potential funding sources, and an implementation strategy and schedule. The project is funded with Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds and Transportation Development Credits in lieu of match. NCTCOG issued a Request for Proposals on May 2, 2025, receiving five submissions; three firms were interviewed, and the Selection Committee recommended HNTB Corporation.

Exhibit: 2026-01-21-TR

Upon a Motion by Councilmember Mendelsohn (seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Flores), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 22 Resolution Approving NCTCOG General Counsel to Conduct Legal Review and Authorizing Funding for External Legal Assistance for Regional Transportation Council Support

Michael Morris and Ken Kirkpatrick presented this item at the request of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). Staff noted that a presentation on this matter was provided to the RTC at its January 2026 meeting. At its January 8, 2026, meeting, the RTC authorized NCTCOG General Counsel and outside legal counsel to review key statutory, regulatory, and contractual documents in preparation for upcoming agreement deadlines. If, during this review, the General Counsel determines that the RTC and Executive Board are not aligned in a manner that creates a conflict of interest under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, General Counsel will notify the RTC Chair, Transportation Director, Executive Board President, and NCTCOG Executive Director in writing. In such an event, the RTC Chair would authorize an amount not to exceed \$50,000 in RTC Local funds for the selection of external legal counsel.

In response to Board member questions, Ken Kirkpatrick noted that the RTC could engage external legal counsel without requiring Executive Board approval and NCTCOG would serve as its fiscal agent and payment function with RTC funds for these services.

Exhibit: 2026-01-22-TR

Upon a Motion by Mayor Bristol (seconded by Commissioner Hale), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board tabled this item. No action was taken.

Item 23 Resolution Accepting the Report from Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P. for the Transportation Department's Agreed Upon Procedures

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, reported that the accounting firm of Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P. completed an external review of Transportation Department consultant and subgrantee contracts exceeding \$250,000 that closed during Fiscal Year 2024. The review, required under the Transportation Department's Contractor Procurement Procedures—approved by TxDOT as the Metropolitan Planning Organization's procurement policies—found no exceptions in any area examined. The engagement included financial and non-financial testing to verify adherence to invoice and contract compliance procedures. Eleven contracts were selected from a random sample of twenty contracts that concluded in FY2024, including three funded in whole or in part by TxDOT, six funded through the Federal Transit Administration, and two funded through the Environmental Protection Agency. Reviewers evaluated seven procedural areas: allowable profit verification, DBE participation, verification of final work product prior to final payment, documentation of expenditures against budgets, overhead rate verification, determination of allowable costs, and timely payment. Communications from the reviewer's report, included as Attachment 1 to the resolution, confirmed no exceptions in all seven procedural areas for FY2024.

Exhibit: 2026-01-23-TR

Mayor Raburn left the meeting and did not return.

Upon a Motion by Judge O'Hare (seconded by Councilmember Justice), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

Item 24 Possible Consideration to Take from Table Item 15 of the October 23, 2025, Executive Board Meeting: Resolution Authorizing a Contract with HNTB Corporation to Complete Step 1 of the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program for the Fort Worth to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, requested Board authorization to take from the table Item 15 from the October 23, 2025, Executive Board meeting. Upon motion by Councilmember Mendelsohn and second by Councilmember Justice, the item was removed from the table. Staff reviewed the procedural history, noting that the item had been tabled at the October 23, 2025, meeting pending consideration by the City of Dallas. On November 13, 2025, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), through Agenda Item 7, voted to request that the Executive Board and Project Team proceed with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program for Step 1: Scope of Work Development for the Fort Worth to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor. The Executive Board had previously been briefed on the item on September 25, 2025, and the FRA transmitted a grant amendment on October 14, 2025, extending the \$500,000 award through April 30, 2026. Staff provided background on NCTCOG's successful inclusion of the Fort Worth–Houston (via Dallas) corridor in the FRA Corridor ID Program, which positions the corridor for future federal funding opportunities and complements the ongoing FTA-led NEPA process for the Dallas–Fort Worth segment. NCTCOG issued a Request for Proposals on October 25, 2024, received three proposals, and interviewed all firms; the Selection Committee recommended HNTB Corporation. Step 1 of the Corridor ID Program is fully funded by the FRA with no local match and will produce a scope, schedule, and budget for Step 2, which will develop a Service Development Plan. Staff proposed that the HNTB agreement be co-terminus with the FRA grant. The RTC requested Executive Board approval, in its role as fiscal agent, of a contract with HNTB Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Exhibit: 2026-01-24-TR

Councilmember Mendelsohn made a motion to amend the resolution subject to the City of Dallas Council's Resolution No. 26-0265, seconded by Judge Jenkins. The resolution, as amended, passed with Judge O'Hare, Judge Huckabee, Judge Hill, and Commissioner Hale voting no.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Item 25 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Little presented the Executive Director's Report by introducing two new staff members to the Executive Director's department: (1) Caroline Vandergriff – Public Affairs & Communications Officer and (2) Shala Geer-Smith – Administrative Program Coordinator. Additionally, he provided an update on the recruitment process for the Director of Transportation position.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Item 26 Attendance and Calendar

The Board was provided with a Calendar of meeting and a record of Attendance.

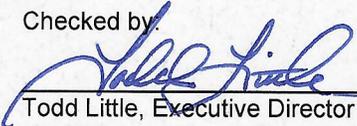
President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:56 pm.

Approved by



Victoria Johnson, President
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Councilmember, City of Burleson

Checked by



Todd Little, Executive Director
North Central Texas Council of Governments