



August 2025

Local Motion is a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department.

RTC approves \$3.5 million for Heartland Flyer



The trains will keep a-rollin' between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City after the Regional Transportation Council stepped forward with an emergency funding commitment for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer.

The RTC approved \$3.5 million in Regional Toll Revenue funds in July, covering Texas' portion of the service for one year. The Amtrak line, which has operated between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City since 1999, faced the possibility of being discontinued after the Texas Department of Transportation's funding request was not included in the state's final budget. The 206-mile route is jointly funded by TxDOT and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments will seek reimbursement from the state of Texas and initiate a ridership campaign reducing the need for a subsidy. The RTC's funding decision was made to extend service long enough to develop a plan to fund service for a second year, which would allow the Texas Legislature to consider the measure again during its 90th Session in 2027.

This service is crucial for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, as it could serve to alleviate traffic congestion along the busy Interstate Highway 35 corridor between Texas and Oklahoma. Many fans are expected to visit multiple cities, and Amtrak is one option for them to travel around the country. The Heartland Flyer began service in 1999 and has seen recent gains in ridership, increasing by approximately 14% in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024. In FY 2024, the Heartland Flyer served more than 80,000 passengers, up from 63,000 in FY 2022.

This is the second time in recent months the RTC has stepped in with funding to keep the Heartland Flyer operating. In January, the RTC approved up to \$100,000 in Regional Toll Revenue funding to cover a potential shortfall through the end of the fiscal year.

NCTCOG seeks public input on Amtrak funding, safety initiatives Aug. 11



The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) invites the public to provide input on recently proposed initiatives, including funding to continue Amtrak service between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City and expansion plans for the Multimodal Delivery Project, during a hybrid public meeting at noon on Monday, Aug. 11.

The meeting will be held in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG offices, located at 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington. Those unable to attend in person can view the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogAug25. Residents can also participate by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 11270. Public comments will be accepted until Sep. 9.

Topic of the month

An eye on back to school safety



The start of the new school year is right around the corner, which means children will soon be back on the roads during peak hours heading to and from school by foot, bike, bus or car. While many students walk and bicycle to school daily, even

those commuting by bus or car could use a safety reminder, since they must walk from the pick-up/drop-off zone to the school building.

Most school-age pedestrian fatalities occur during drop-off (6–7 a.m.) and pick-up (3–4 p.m.), according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. To help keep students safe, the [Look Out Texans](#) safety campaign reminds all road users to stay alert and be especially mindful of students on or near the roadway.

Drivers:

- Always observe reduced speed limits in school zones and residential areas.
- Stay alert – children may enter the roadway suddenly.
- Avoid distractions, especially mobile phones, to help prevent crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Never pass a stopped vehicle or bus waiting for pedestrians. Students crossing the street in front of a bus or car may not be visible to you, which could result in a tragic crash.

Parents, Guardians and Teachers:

Help educate students about how to safely walk or bike near roadways. Kids learn through experience, so it is essential we all serve as role models for safe habits while traveling along our streets.

The Look Out Texans campaign offers [resources](#) with straightforward safety tips. For example, pedestrians of all ages should look both ways before crossing the street. It may seem intuitive to confirm that vehicles have stopped and are allowing for a safe crossing, but it can save your life or prevent a serious injury.

Why It Matters:

Unfortunately, fatal crashes involving drivers and people walking or bicycling in North Texas have increased over the past several years. Understanding how pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers should interact is crucial for the safety of our families, friends and neighbors. For even more tips on back to school safety, read August's [Topic of the Month](#) story.

North Texas students encouraged to walk (and roll) to school Oct. 8



Last year, North Texas students celebrated Walk & Roll to School Day by participating in and promoting active alternatives to getting to school.

North Texas students are encouraged to do some strollin' and rollin' this fall. October 8 marks National Walk & Roll to School Day, a day that invites students of all ages to walk or bike to school with friends and family.

Started in 1997, Walk & Roll to School Day raises awareness of safe, healthy ways for children to get to school. By involving children, parents, school staff and public officials, the event creates a fun community experience for the journey to and from school. It's also an opportunity to get some fresh air, enjoy a bit of exercise and learn about pedestrian and bike safety.

Walking and biking to school offers a multitude of benefits. It helps reduce traffic congestion and air pollution near schools, strengthens community relationships, and fosters healthy habits for children.

For schools interested in hosting an event, NCTCOG will provide free event promotion and planning resources! For more information, visit [NCTCOG.org/wtsd](https://www.nctcog.org/wtsd) or email Devia at djoshi@nctcog.org.

Though Walk & Roll to School Day happens only once a year, NCTCOG hopes parents will help their children choose active ways to get to school year-round.

\$12M available to help expand EV charging



NCTCOG has opened a funding opportunity intended to help the network of electric vehicle chargers across Dallas-Fort Worth grow to meet demand. The North Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Call for Projects will solicit projects to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations accessible to the public.

Up to \$12 million in grant funding is available for the purchase and installation of publicly accessible EV charging stations in the NCTCOG 16-county region. The emphasis is on filling gaps in the existing infrastructure network and achieving more equal access to charging stations for all drivers in or moving through the region.

NCTCOG was awarded these funds by the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Grant Program.

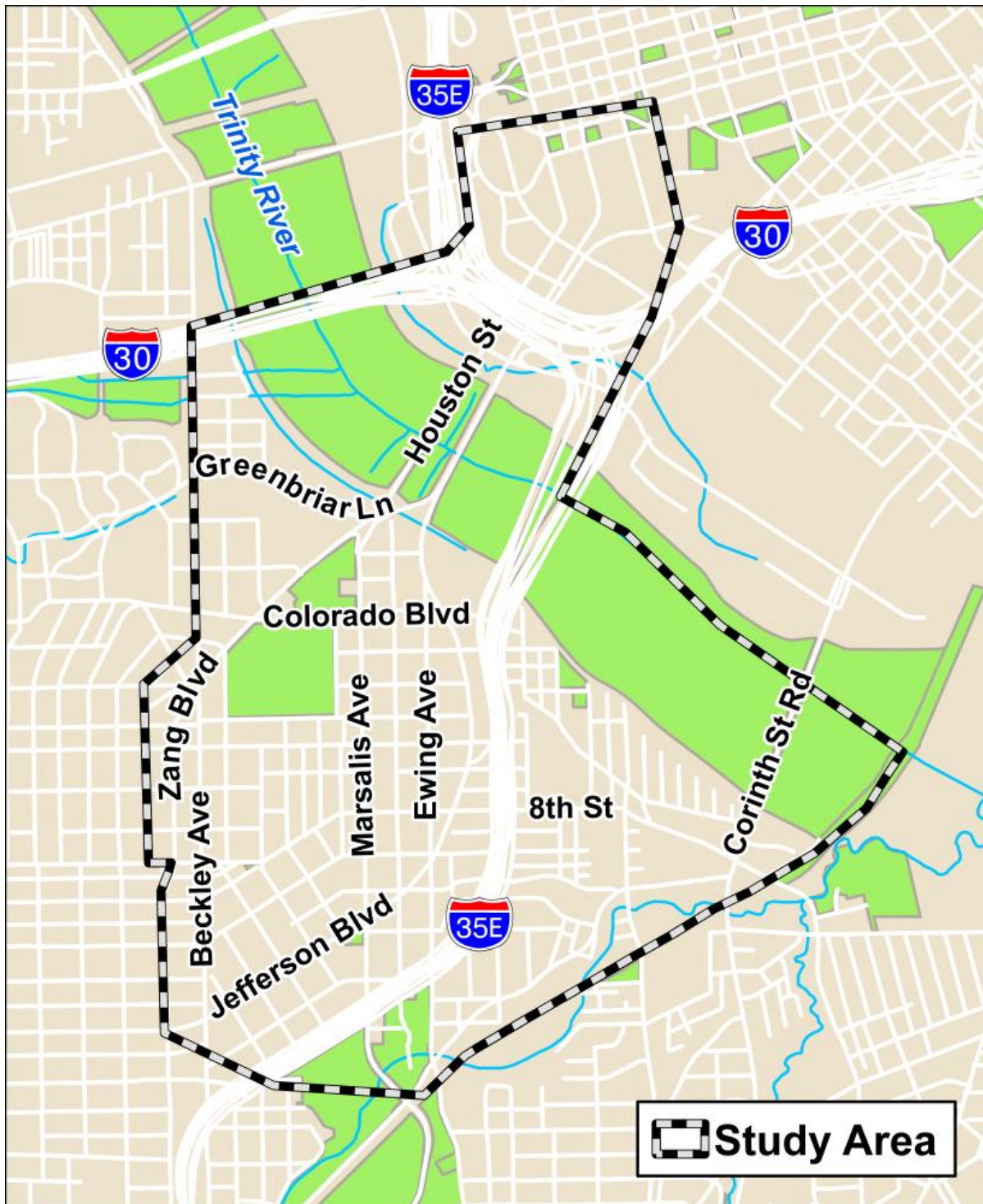
Eligible applicants are public sector agencies (e.g. local governments, transit agencies, school districts, public college and university campuses) in the 16-county NCTCOG region. All sites will be built on properties owned by public sector agencies, including

parks, community centers, libraries, multi-use service centers, sports stadiums and transit stations.

A third-party consultant is available to provide free assistance to public agencies in developing their applications and help coordinate efforts between awarded applicants, utilities, NCTCOG, and awarded EV charging station vendors. NCTCOG will also host several identical workshops to provide additional program details.

Additional details are available at [NCTCOG.org/evcharginggrant](https://nctcog.org/evcharginggrant). Public agency applications must be received “in-hand” to NCTCOG by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, 2025. Members of the public who wish to provide input for the project can do so at PublicInput.com/nctcogevcharging.

Recommendations for transportation improvements to Oak Farms area to be presented at virtual meeting



NCTCOG will present the final recommendations for transportation improvements near the former Oak Farms Dairy site during a virtual public meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 12. The virtual public meeting can be viewed at PublicInput.com/oakfarms.

The project team will update the community on how planners will conclude the study and how the public's feedback has been incorporated into the final recommendations for transportation enhancements designed to improve safety, mobility and accessibility in the Oak Farms area.

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

--Imagery provided by Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Getty Images and NCTCOG.

Sent on behalf of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) by [PublicInput](#)

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