

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

Minutes — September 26, 2024

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, Vice 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.

Vice President Johnson called the regular meeting of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board to order at 1:00 pm on September 26, 2024. Mike Eastland took attendance and determined that a quorum was physically present.

Members of the Board Present:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Victoria Johnson | 9. Brandon J. Huckabee |
| 2. Jennifer Justice | 10. Todd Little |
| 3. Bill Heidemann | 11. Cara Mendelsohn |
| 4. David Bristol | 12. Bobbie Mitchell |
| 5. Carlos Flores | 13. Tim O'Hare |
| 6. T.J. Gilmore | 14. Kameron Raburn |
| 7. Bowie Hogg (V) | 15. Nick Stanley (V) |
| 8. Rick Horne | |

Members of the Board Absent:

1. Chris Hill
2. Clay Jenkins
3. Victoria Neave Criado

Members of the Staff Present:

Mike Eastland, Monte Mercer, Susan Alvarez, Doni Green, Michael Morris, Maribel Martinez, Phedra Redifer, Randy Richardson, Jerri Watson, Ken Kirkpatrick, James Powell, Michael Bort, Tom McLain, Todd Tanner, Tim Howell, Dan Kessler, Richard Michael, Lisa Sack, Jason Smith, Crysta Guzman, Ernest Huffman, Ezra Pratt, Lori Clark, Emily Beckham, Whitney Vandiver, Brandon Wheeler, Kristen Torres

Visitors Present:

none

REGULAR SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Johnson opened the meeting for public comment and asked if there was anyone present wishing to speak. There being no one, she proceeded with the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Items 1 - 14 were posted on the agenda as Consent Items.

Item 1 Approval of Minutes

- Item 2 **Resolution Authorizing a Contract Extension with Wise County Committee on Aging for Title III Federal Services**
Board authorization was requested to extend the current contract with Wise County Committee on Aging for Title III nutrition and transportation services until December 31, 2024. The existing contract expires on September 30, 2024, and the extension will enable staff to issue a new Call for Projects, evaluate the proposals, and obtain Board approval to enter into agreement(s) with the successful applicant(s).
- Item 3 **Resolution Authorizing Contracts for Road and Highway Asset Management**
Board authorization was requested to enter contractual agreements with Blynco, Inc., GoodRoads, Inc., and Vialytics Americas, Inc. to provide Road and Highway Asset Management Software Services for maximum five (5) year terms through the North Central Texas Council of Governments' TXShare cooperative purchasing program. The contracts will retain the services of firms that leverage machine-learning in a secure communications environment. A Request for Proposals was issued and received four (4) submissions. Following evaluation by a committee comprised of NCTCOG staff and the City of Fort Worth, contracts with the selected firms are recommended award.
- Item 4 **Resolution Endorsing the FY25 Contract Renewal Amendment with the State Energy Conservation Office**
Board endorsement was requested for a one-year, \$250,000 contract renewal amendment with the State Energy Conservation Office for Fiscal Year 2025. The contract will be funded through a \$50,000 (20%) local match of in-kind and cash match contributions and will be jointly executed by the Environment and Development Department and the Transportation Department.
- Item 5 **Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Highland Economics LLC for the Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure Project**
Board authorization was requested to contract with Highland Economics LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$132,000, in environmental economics consulting services to support the expansion of the integrated Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) project in the upper Trinity River Basin. This joint effort between NCTCOG's Environment and Development and Transportation departments is funded by the Texas General Land Office at a project cost of \$3,973,930. The work will assess the cost-benefit of using nature-based solutions integrated into the transportation infrastructure to mitigate future flood risk.
- Item 6 **Resolution Endorsing Grant Application Submittal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Composting Food Waste Reduction Grant Opportunity**
Board endorsement was requested for a grant application submittal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Composting Food Waste Reduction Grant Opportunity between NCTCOG and the City of Dallas for approximately \$300,000 in funding. These funds will be incorporated into the appropriate fiscal year(s) budget. Required local match funds in the amount of \$75,000 will be provided by the regional participants. This project aims to collect commercial food waste, process and compost it, then redistribute the compost to local urban agricultural producers and community gardens. This opportunity also supports a commitment made to host the 9-game 2026 FIFA World Cup Series with broadcasting and ancillary team support. As part of this commitment, the region has been challenged by FIFA to implement environmentally sustainable actions that drive lasting, systemic change to support the games.
- Item 7 **Resolution Authorizing FY2025 Purchase of Computer Hardware, Software, and Information Technology Contract Services for the Agency**
Board authorization was requested to approve the purchase of computer hardware, software, and related services in the FY2025 Information Technology Infrastructure and Services Purchase Plan in the amount of \$3,473,000.

Item 8

Resolution Endorsing Submittal of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program Application to the Federal Railroad Administration


Board endorsement was requested for submittal of the FY 2023-2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program application to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in the amount of \$20,000,000, as detailed in Attachment 1. In collaboration with the FRA and partner agencies, staff will identify the most efficient approaches to allocate the available funds to the region. The intention is for TxDOT to serve as the implementing agent for the Ennis Avenue/UPRR Grade Separation project.

Attachment 1

PROJECT			COST / FUNDING STATUS						
TITLE	NEW	E / W	NON-FEDERAL			FEDERAL			TOTAL COST
			NCTCOG City / County	Other Public	Private (Rail) *	NCTCOG	Other	RCEP Grant	
SUBMITTED BY NCTCOG									
Ennis Avenue (Business US 287)	Yes	East	\$7,000,000 ¹	\$12,360,000 (TxDOT) ²	\$2,000,000 (UPRR)	\$21,440,000 ³	\$2,000,000 (TxDOT) ⁴	\$20,000,000	\$64,800,000

* Railroad contributions to be confirmed.

1. City of Ennis - \$7M (+ \$5M NCTCOG loan to be repaid by the City, not counted in total)
2. State matching funds and State right-of-way (ROW) funds
3. Category 2 & Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds
4. District Discretionary (Category 11 funds)


 Railroad Crossing Elimination Program
 1

Item 9

Resolution Authorizing a Contract with AVI-SPL for the Purchase, Maintenance, and Monitoring of Audio/Video Equipment in the Transportation Council Room

Board authorization was requested to enter a contractual agreement with AVI-SPL for the purchase of audio/visual equipment, including ongoing support for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$260,000. The source of funds is RTC Local with no local match required. The equipment will replace older equipment in the Transportation Council Room utilizing video streaming services for various meetings.

Item 10

Resolution Authorizing Purchase and Placement of Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives in Fiscal Year 2025

Board authorization was requested to enter into agreements with various multimedia outlets for the purchase and placement of education campaigns initiated in Fiscal Year 2025 for Transportation Department Initiatives in an amount up to \$1,779,750, as reflected in Attachment 1.

Attachment 1

Purchase and Placement of Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives for FY2025					
Program Name	Funding Source	Funding Amount	Match Source	Match Total	Total
Public Involvement	TPF/STBG/EPA/RTR/RTC Local/FHWA/Private	\$ 359,500	TDCs/Local/Private	71,550	\$ 385,750
Drive Aware North Texas (SAFETY)	STBG	\$ 300,000	TDCs	60,000	\$ 300,000
Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety (Look Out Texans) (SAFETY)	STBG	\$ 405,000	TDCs	81,000	\$ 405,000
Unmanned Aircraft Safety (SAFETY)	RTC Local	\$ 4,000	N/A	-	\$ 4,000
Freight North Texas (SAFETY)	STBG	\$ 150,000	TDCs	30,000	\$ 150,000
Congestion Management Program (CONGESTION RELIEF)	STBG	\$ 250,000	TDCs	50,000	\$ 250,000
Ozone Season Emissions Reduction Campaign (Air North Texas) (AIR QUALITY)	STBG	\$ 205,000	TDCs	41,000	\$ 205,000
Car Care Awareness (AIR QUALITY)	STBG	\$ 40,000	TDCs	8,000	\$ 40,000
Flexible Funding*	STBG/CMAQ/TPF/FTA/RTR/LOCAL/RTC LOCAL/FHWA	\$ 40,000	TDCs/TBD	10,000	\$ 40,000
OVERALL TOTAL		\$ 1,753,500		351,550	\$ 1,779,750

- Item 11** **Resolution Approving an Agreement with the City of Fort Worth to Implement Broadband Technology Along the East Rosedale Avenue and East Lancaster Avenue Corridors**
Item 11 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Councilmember Mendelsohn for Individual Consideration.
- Item 12** **Resolution Authorizing Use of Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for North Texas Advanced Air Mobility and Uncrewed Aviation Systems**
Board authorization was requested for use of \$1,700,000 in Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds to support ongoing efforts in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and Uncrewed Aviation Systems within North Texas. The funds were approved by the RTC at its September 12, 2024, meeting. This funding will enable continued collaboration with regional airports, local jurisdictions, and other partners to further the deployment of AAM operations in the North Texas area.
- Item 13** **Appointments to Department of Environment and Development Advisory Committees**
Board approval was requested to appoint advisory Councils and Committees to the Public Works Council, Regional Codes Coordinating Committee, Resource Conservation Council, and the Water Resources Council.
- Item 14** **Status Update on NCTCOG Regional SolSmart Designation**
Item 14 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Vice President Johnson for Individual Consideration.

Upon a Motion by Judge Little (seconded by Mayor Heidemann), the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda Items 1 – 10 and 12 – 13 as posted. Exception items: Item 11 was pulled by Councilmember Mendelsohn and Item 14 was pulled by Vice President Johnson for Individual Consideration.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

- Item 11** **Resolution Approving an Agreement with the City of Fort Worth to Implement Broadband Technology Along the East Rosedale Avenue and East Lancaster Avenue Corridors**

Item 11 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Councilmember Mendelsohn for Individual Consideration.

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, requested Board approval to enter a contractual agreement with the City of Fort Worth. The agreement would implement broadband technology along the East Rosedale Avenue and East Lancaster Avenue corridors, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds. This funding would be matched with \$600,000 in Regional Transportation Council Transportation Development Credits.

Mr. Morris explained that the project has three key components:

1. Providing equal internet access as a Travel Demand Management Tool
2. Including a planning and design phase to identify infrastructure needs and service subscription offerings within the corridor
3. Focusing on expanding digital navigation training services to help residents develop skills for using this new service.

Councilmember Mendelsohn expressed her disagreement with the use of Transportation funds for a broadband project. Councilmember Flores stated that the City of Fort Worth was in favor of this pilot project.

Exhibit: 2024-09-11-TR

Upon a Motion by Councilmember Flores (seconded by Commissioner Mitchell), the Board approved the resolution as presented, with Councilmember Mendelsohn, Judge O’Hare, and Judge Huckabee voting no and Mayor Raburn abstaining.

Item 14 Status Update on NCTCOG Regional SolSmart Designation

Item 14 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Vice President Johnson for Individual Consideration.

Susan Alvarez, Director of Environment and Development provided an update on SolSmart, a national solar energy designation program. SolSmart is led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

The program has two key components:

1. SolSmart provides no-cost technical assistance to help local governments adopt best practices for expanding solar energy use in their communities.
2. The program recognizes and celebrates these solar-friendly communities with SolSmart designations at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels.

As a result of its solar efforts and resources, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has recently been upgraded to a regional Silver SolSmart designation.

Exhibit: 2024-09-14-ED

This item was a status report and did not require a vote.

Item 15 Conduct a Public Hearing Regarding the Annual Fiscal Program for FY2025 and Consider a Resolution to Approve and Adopt the Annual Fiscal Program

Randy Richardson, Director of Administration, reminded the Board that the Finance Committee had been provided an in-depth presentation of the proposed budget at last month's meeting and that the Board was given a less detailed briefing at the regular meeting on that same day. He then provided an overview of the revenue sources and expenditures associated with the proposed FY 2025 Annual Budget of \$329,801,532. Vice President Johnson then opened the public hearing. There were no public comments or questions, and the public hearing was closed. The Board was requested to adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Program.

Exhibit: 2024-09-15-AA

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

Item 16 Resolution Authorizing Amendment to the Contract with HNTB Corporation to Complete the National Environmental Policy Act Process for the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, requested to amend the contract between NCTCOG and HNTB Corporation. The amendment would add \$1,650,343 in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds to the current \$12,099,657 contract, for a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$13,750,000. This includes \$2,750,000 in Regional Transportation Development Credits in lieu of local match. This additional funding will enable HNTB to conduct advance engineering on an alternative route to the west of downtown Dallas.

The additional funds will ensure sufficient resources are available for NCTCOG's contract with HNTB to complete the National Environmental Policy Act process for a high-speed rail corridor between Fort Worth and Dallas. HNTB has committed to maintaining a 31.3 percent Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal.

Exhibit: 2024-09-16-TR

Upon a Motion by Councilmember Justice (seconded by Mayor Heidemann), the Board approved the resolution as presented, with Judge Little, Mayor Raburn, Judge O'Hare, and Judge Huckabee voting no.

Item 17 Status Report on Metropolitan Planning Organization Revolver Funds and Regional Transportation Council Local Pool

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, presented a semi-annual status report on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Revolver Funds and Regional Transportation Council Local Pool. A summary of the status of the Permanent MPO Revolver, the Temporary MPO Revolver, and the RTC Local Fund Pool is detailed in Attachment 1 below.

Attachment 1

Permanent MPO Revolver Balance (as of 9/6/2024)	\$ 5,195,618
Permanent MPO Revolver	\$ 15,000,000
From Dallas County	\$ 5,623,000
From City of Dallas	\$ 4,377,000
From DART Funding Partnership (\$10M total, split between Primary and Temporary MPO Revolver)	\$ 5,000,000
Permanent MPO Revolver Interest	\$ 308,359
Interest Earned	\$ 308,359
Permanent MPO Revolver Utilization (as of 9/6/2024)	\$ 10,112,742
Temporary MPO Revolver Balance (as of 9/6/2024)	\$ 10,343,961
Temporary MPO Revolver Receipts	\$ 10,000,000
DART Funding Partnership (\$10M total, split between Primary and Temporary MPO Revolver)	\$ 5,000,000
DART Funding (\$40M total, split between Temporary MPO Revolver and RTC Local Fund - received 2/20/2024)	\$ 5,000,000
Temporary MPO Revolver Interest	\$ 343,961
Interest Earned	\$ 343,961
Temporary MPO Revolver Utilization (as of 9/6/2024)	\$ -
RTC Local Fund Pool Balance (as of 8/2/2024)	\$ 106,489,974
RTC Local Fund Receipts	\$ 95,000,000
DART Funding (\$40M total, split between Temporary MPO Revolver and RTC Local Fund - received 2/20/2024)	\$ 35,000,000
Collin County Funding (received 2/29/2024)	\$ 60,000,000
RTC Local Fund Interest	\$ 11,489,974
Interest Earned (includes interest earned from Historical RTC Local receipts)	\$ 11,489,974
Committed Funds	\$ -
Historical RTC Local Fund Pool Uncommitted Balance (as of 9/6/2024)	\$ 2,558,728
Historical RTC Local Fund Pool Receipts	\$ 129,044,604
Receipts	\$ 129,044,604
Committed Funds	\$ 126,485,876
Completed Projects	\$ 98,669,728
Unused Funding from Complete Projects (pending closeout and decommitment)	\$ (6,884,506)
In Progress Projects	\$ 29,981,764
Committed for future SD/Landbanking Projects	\$ 4,718,890

Exhibit: 2024-09-17-TR

This item was a status report and did not require a vote.

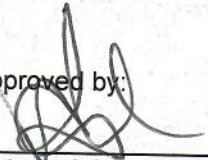
MISCELLANEOUS:

Item 18 Attendance and Calendar

The Board was provided with a Calendar of meeting and a record of Attendance. Mike Eastland announced that the December Board meeting would be cancelled.

Vice President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm.

Approved by:


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

Checked by:


Mike Eastland, Executive Director
North Central Texas Council of Governments