# Meeting Minutes

Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) – Pre-Workshop Meeting
Integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) Study

Date: January 15, 2026
Time: 2:00–3:00 PM
Format: Virtual
Host: North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

## 1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Erin Blackman (NCTCOG). Erin welcomed participants and stated that the meeting was a pre-workshop discussion for the Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) component of the Integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) study. She acknowledged the support of the NCTCOG Transportation and Emergency Preparedness Departments and recognized Jeffrey Neal and Amanda Everly for their involvement.

## 2. Opening Remarks

Jeffrey Neal (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and thanked them for participating, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder input to this phase of the study.

Amanda Everly (NCTCOG) echoed appreciation for attendance, particularly noting the time commitment from emergency management professionals.

## 3. Introductions

Erin Blackman introduced the speakers for today's presentation:

- Matt Lepinski, Personal Services Agreement (PSA) with NCTCOG
- Jeremy Dixon, Freese and Nichols
- Sam Sarkar, Halff Associates
- Representatives from WEST Consultants and other partner agencies

## 4. Purpose of the Pre-Workshop

Matt Lepinski explained that the pre-workshop meeting was held to:

- Introduce the overall approach to the FEWS component of TSI
- Share draft concepts and preliminary findings
- Solicit early feedback that could inform refinements before the February 17, 2026 workshop

He emphasized that this meeting was intended to be informal and discussion-oriented.

## 5. Overview of the TSI Study

Matt Lepinski presented an overview of the TSI study, describing it as a proactive, regional planning effort focused on integrating transportation and stormwater infrastructure to reduce flood risk amid continued urban growth.

Key points included:

- Historical flooding and existing flood control infrastructure in North Texas
- Increasing flood risk due to urbanization and limited ability to build large new reservoirs
- The need for creative, integrated solutions such as detention within transportation projects and green stormwater infrastructure
- The importance of regional coordination, recognizing upstream–downstream impacts

## 6. Study Area and Transferability

In response to a question relayed by Erin Blackman, Matt Lepinski clarified that while the TSI study area is focused on the northern and western portions of the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex, the concepts and methodologies are intended to be transferable region-wide and beyond.

Jerry Cotter added historical context, explaining that the study area was selected to focus on upstream watershed areas when the project was originally conceived, with the intent to expand similar efforts in the future.

## 7. Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) Approach

Matt Lepinski explained that FEWS planning is a subset of the TSI study and focuses on developing a transferable framework for flood warning systems.

The approach includes:

- A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining steps for planning or enhancing flood warning systems
- Supporting memoranda addressing objectives, regional characteristics, existing capacity, gap analysis, and implementation considerations
- A planning-level master plan informed by these components

## 8. Regional Characteristics Memorandum

Jeremy Dixon presented the Regional Characteristics Memorandum, which examines factors influencing flood behavior within the study area.

Key elements include:

- Rainfall characteristics and watershed response times
- Levels of impervious cover
- Locations of critical facilities and low-water crossings
- Travel-time mapping to illustrate when flood peaks occur in different parts of the region

Lee von Gynz-Guethle (WEST Consultants) noted that understanding regional characteristics helps tailor flood warning systems to local conditions and risks.

## 9. Capacity Analysis Memorandum

Sridhar Ponangi (Halff Associates) presented the Capacity Analysis Memorandum, describing it as an inventory of existing flood warning system capabilities across the TSI region.

The analysis evaluates:

- Hardware: rainfall and stage gauges, telemetry, and public safety warning infrastructure
- Software and Data Management: dashboards, data visualization tools, and public-facing platforms
- Operations: agency roles, responsibilities, and interagency coordination

Sam Sarkar emphasized that the analysis focuses on identifying strengths, gaps, and opportunities at a planning level rather than documenting all technical details.

## 10. Discussion and Participant Input

- Lissa Shepard (Dallas County) noted that the U.S. Geological Survey is making changes to national water data platforms and asked whether those changes would be considered.
    - Sam Sarkar responded that the team would follow up to understand implications for the study.
- Jeffrey Neal raised the question of whether flood warning systems are being designed to account for future conditions, including urbanization and forecasting needs.
- Matt Lepinski discussed challenges associated with sustaining funding, maintenance, and relevance of flood warning systems during extended drought periods.
- A comment was shared regarding municipalities' reliance on National Weather Service (NWS) warnings to activate outdoor siren systems.
- Amanda Schroeder (National Weather Service) offered to participate in the February workshop to explain how NWS integrates local and regional data to issue flood warnings.
    - The project team welcomed this suggestion and agreed to follow up.

## 11. Outreach, Website, and Upcoming Workshop

Matt Lepinski highlighted the TSI project website and interactive story map as central repositories for project information, drafts, and updates.

Details of the upcoming workshop were reviewed. Participants were encouraged to register. More details can be found here: https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/upper-trinity-river-transportation-and-stormwater/events/flood-warning-system-workshop.

- Date: February 17, 2026
- Time: 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Participants were also encouraged to complete the Flood Early Warning System survey, here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLYYR9J.

## 12. Public and Agency Coordination

Jerry Cotter emphasized that TSI provides an opportunity for regional collaboration, cost-sharing, technical support, and more consistent stormwater and flood management approaches across jurisdictions.

Jeffrey Neal reiterated NCTCOG's role in supporting communities, particularly smaller jurisdictions with limited staff capacity.

## 13. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Erin Blackman, Jeffrey Neal, and Matt Lepinski thanked participants for attending and encouraged follow-up questions via email.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:03 PM.

### Next Steps

- Incorporate stakeholder feedback into draft FEWS materials
- Coordinate with the National Weather Service for potential February workshop participation
- Continue survey data collection and synthesis
- Prepare draft materials for presentation at the February 17 workshop

### Attendance

Alvarez, Susan – NCTCOG
Ansah, Ryan – City of Carrollton
Bartok, Andrew
Berg, Elena – City of McKinney
Blackman, Erin – NCTCOG
Bowlin, Mark – Denton County

Campbell, Margaret – Hood County
Chhabra, Danielle – City of Mesquite
Chintala, Ramesh – WEST Consultants
Cotter, Jerry – University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)
Cutler, Greg – City of Mansfield
Dallagasperina, Hamilton – City of Richardson
Dixon, Jeremy – Freese and Nichols
Dyke, Jennifer – City of Fort Worth
Elgin, Matt – City of Crowley
Erskine, Russell – City of Plano
Everly, Amanda – NCTCOG
Followwell, Tiffani – Kaufman County
Frisby, Daniel – City of Mansfield
Gimbel, Alisha – City of Richardson
Griffin, Stephanie – Halff Associates
Harris, Hunter – City of Denison
Harris, Kwa Heri – University of Texas at Arlington (UTA)
Haseloff, Heath – City of Benbrook
Howell, Bennett – City of Benbrook
Howie, Steve – Kaufman County
Hunter, Katie – NCTCOG
Hunter, Tonya – City of Midlothian
Jaber, Fouad – Texas A&M AgriLife
Knapp-Scott, Larissa – LJA Engineering
Lepinski, Matt – NCTCOG (Personal Services Agreement)
Martinez, Maribel – North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
Martinez, Robert – City of Denton
McFarland, Dylan – Parker County
McGee, Katherine – Trinity River Authority (TRA)
Murphy, Eileen – Texas General Land Office (GLO)
Muttiah, Ranjan – City of Fort Worth
Neal, Jeff – NCTCOG
Patel, Ashna – Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)
Pollard, Claire – Dewberry
Ponangi, Sridhar – Halff
Reep, Elliott – City of Carrollton
Rexroad, Echo – City of Plano
Richardson, James – City of Bedford
Sarkar, Sam – Halff Associates
Schroeder, Amanda – National Weather Service (NWS)
Shepard, Lissa – Dallas County
Siddique, Rakib – IEA
Stern, Linda – City of Fort Worth
Trammel, Joe – Tarrant County
VanDerKooi, Megan – Collin County
von Gynz-Guethle, Lee – WEST Consultants

White, Rick – City of Azle
Winfrey, Damara – City of Grand Prairie
Xiong, Ivy – AECOM
Zhang, Yinan – Texas A&M AgriLife
Zhang, Yufan – Texas A&M AgriLife

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