

## **MINUTES**

### **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY**

**Interactive Public Input: Map Your Experience**

**Progress North Texas: Transportation for All**

**Engine Off North Texas Update**

**Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Opportunities**

**NCTCOG Strategic Plan for Downtown Wylie**

### **Online Public Input Opportunity Dates**

Monday, August 9, 2021 - Tuesday, September 7, 2021 – The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) posted information at [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input) for public review and comment.

### **Purpose and Topics**

The online public input opportunity was provided in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Plan, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on November 8, 2018. Staff posted information regarding:

1. Interactive Public Input: Map Your Experience
2. Progress North Texas: Transportation for All
3. Engine Off North Texas Update
4. Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Opportunities
5. NCTCOG Strategic Plan for Downtown Wylie

The NCTCOG online public input opportunity was provided to inform and seek comments from the public. Comments and questions were submitted by email at [transinfo@nctcog.org](mailto:transinfo@nctcog.org), online at [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input), by mail at PO Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005 and by fax at 817-640-3028. Printed copies of the online materials were also made available by calling 817-608-2365 or emailing [transinfo@nctcog.org](mailto:transinfo@nctcog.org).

### **Summary of Presentations**

***Interactive Public Input: Map Your Experience presentation:***

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/08/MYE.pdf>

Map Your Experience is an online mapping tool designed to gather public input on planning initiatives. This tool was initially created to engage the public at in-person community events but has become an important online public engagement tool throughout the pandemic.

A beta test was conducted from May 2020 through August 2020, and NCTCOG staff publicized this new tool through multiple public involvement channels, including online input opportunities, social media, newsletter articles and press releases.

Fifty-five percent of public comments received through the tool to date have been related to bicycle and pedestrian initiatives, 33 percent to roadway initiatives and 12 percent to transit initiatives. NCTCOG Transportation Department staff utilize these comments to evaluate policy, program and project recommendations in plans and also shares them with other local entities and stakeholders like transit agencies and cities.

For more information on the MYE tool or to submit a comment, visit [www.nctcog.org/mapyouexperience](http://www.nctcog.org/mapyouexperience)

***Progress North Texas: Transportation for All presentation:***

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/08/PNT.pdf>

*Progress North Texas* is an annual report on how the regional transportation system is meeting the needs of almost 8 million people. It highlights challenges, opportunities and developments faced and how NCTCOG staff is communicating these changes with residents and partners.

For more information on this publication or to request printed copies, visit <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/about/publications/pnt/2021>

***Engine Off North Texas Update presentation:***

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/08/EOntx.pdf>

The purpose of the Engine Off North Texas program is to improve air quality by decreasing emissions associated with unnecessary idling. Strategies for this program include the following:

- Help facilities adopting an ordinance or resolution and/or signing agreement with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Encourage the public to report idling heavy-duty vehicles
- Educate drivers and fleets on local idling restrictions and idle reduction strategies

Members of the public can report a heavy-duty idling vehicle by calling toll free at 1-877-NTX-IDLE. Educational resources, including brochures, posters and local government guides, can be requested via the program website at [www.engineoffnorthtexas.org](http://www.engineoffnorthtexas.org). Next steps for this program include partnering with local governments and businesses, sharing resources and encouraging implementation of an idling restriction policy.

More information about Engine Off North Texas can be found at [www.engineoffnorthtexas.org](http://www.engineoffnorthtexas.org)

***Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Opportunities presentation:***

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/08/Regional-EV-Infrastructure-Opportunities.pdf>

This presentation provides information related to funding for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure as well as other clean vehicle incentives.

Electric vehicles produce no emissions so higher EV adoption rates can help decrease ozone trends. As of August 2021, there are approximately 17,389 EVs in North Texas, and the average annual growth rate in North Texas from 2015 to 2020 was 32.5 percent.

The deadline to apply for funding for the purchase and installation of new light-duty electric vehicle level 2 charging equipment via the Volkswagen Settlement Texas Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP): Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure is September 9, 2021. The awards may not exceed 70 percent for publicly available EV chargers or 60 percent for EV chargers at a workplace or multi-unit dwelling.

Additionally, members of the public can take the following steps to help obtain EV infrastructure in their jurisdiction:

- Share funding information and encourage applications
- Share funding information with city staff, local businesses and workplaces
- Distribute charging benefits information and free flyers to multi-unit properties

Other clean vehicle incentives that will be available soon include the Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFF) and funding for DC Fast Chargers via the Volkswagen Settlement Texas Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP): Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure.

To sign up for email alerts and for a full list of funding opportunities, visit [www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding).

***NCTCOG Strategic Plan for Downtown Wylie presentation:***

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/08/Wylie-Plan.pdf>

The City of Wylie Comprehensive Master Plan calls for a detailed plan to protect downtown residences and businesses and to strengthen downtown's critical role in the city.

Initiated by a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) request that provides free technical assistance, the goal of NCTCOG's strategic plan for Downtown Wylie is to strengthen downtown's role as a destination, improve multimodal connectivity and establish more economic development opportunities.

The strategic plan contains four elements: existing conditions, stakeholder outreach, recommendations, and implementation and funding strategies. NCTCOG staff assessed the existing conditions of traffic and pedestrian safety, sidewalk and curb ramp conditions, roadway cross-sections, parking conditions, wayfinding, zoning and lighting.

Four stakeholder meetings were held throughout 2019 and 2020 to explore issues and receive feedback. An online community survey was also available between September 11 and October 31, 2019, and 586 responses were received. Staff utilized responses from the survey to prioritize goals and form the following recommendations:

- Pursue roadway and parking reconfigurations
- Prioritize sidewalk improvements and ADA compliance
- Develop signage and wayfinding branding package
- Install additional pedestrian-oriented lighting

- Additional outreach to the broader public regarding recommendations

Next steps for the strategic plan include parking considerations, zoning considerations and funding strategies.

For more details on the strategic plan for Downtown Wylie and to view the full presentation, visit [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input).

#### **COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, MAIL, EMAIL and SOCIAL MEDIA**

Please see attachment for comment submitted via mail.

Phyllis Silver

August 30, 2021

Hi, Carl,

What follows are my questions and comments on the Regional Transportation Public Input Opportunity due September 7, 2021:

### Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Opportunities

I enjoyed reading this clear break-down of various aspects of Electric Vehicles. I was particularly pleased to see on page 5 that there is something called DC Fast Charge. It is my understanding that one of the deficiencies of electric vehicles is the long length of time that it takes to charge an electric vehicle, so this should cut down on that time.

### Historic Downtown Wylie Strategic Plan

Although I am not at all familiar with the City of Wylie, I found the systematic approach outlined in this paper to be very interesting and refreshing. Questions I was interested to learn more about the numbers in the survey results. On page 9, it shows that there were 586 respondents to the survey. Realizing that each respondent might come up with multiple themes as listed on page 13, I am aware that the vote count shown on page 13 would not be 586, it surprises me that the <sup>total</sup> vote count shown on page 13 is only 72. I'm not sure why this variance. Also, the graph on page 10 shows a heavy concentration (77%) of respondents liking the historic buildings in Downtown Wylie, however on page 13 the vote count for "Preserve and expand

"Downtown Historic Character" is only 5. I'm not sure if I understood this disparity. Perhaps someone can clarify these differences for me. Thank you.

### Engine OFF North TX - Questions

Pg. 5 - What is IRU idle reduction?

Pg. 7 - I realize that the warning sign would be placed by a municipality, not NCTCOG. I am wondering, though, if someone does report a violation, how quickly would someone respond? It might be difficult to prove idling after the fact. Also, what type of enforcement would be implemented?

### Progress North Texas 2021

I like the factors that were studied - it is interesting to see the comparisons from month to month.

On a personal note, I like the drawing that was selected for the cover of the Progress North Texas booklet. Great talent!

### NCTCOG's MapYour Experience Public Comment Tool

Question - Will the public comments that people have about DART be made available to the public?

Comment about pages 10-11 - What People are Saying - Part of the issue is that there is not much differentiation between the color gray in transit vs. roadway pie chart on pg. 10, but it made the bar graph on pg. 11 a little confusing. I think the intensity of the color gray in the pie chart was supposed to carry over to the bars in the bar graph. Mixing the comments by mode in the bar graph was somewhat confusing, especially since you have 2 saying "Safety". I know one was for bike/ped and the other was for roadway but because

it is not in color, it's difficult to determine which  
"Safety" is for which mode. I'm not sure that  
mixing the concerns by mode onto a graph showing the  
top 10 concern categories is a clear way to express  
Peoples Concerns. Also on Page 11, to the left of  
the bar graph are additional concerns that people  
have and from the way these items were listed I'm  
not sure if they did not make the TOP Ten  
Category or if there is another reason they were listed  
the way they are listed.

Phyllis Silver

Phyllis Silver

8/30/2021

