

PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, 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.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Wednesday, April 20, through Thursday, May 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. Bicycle and pedestrian comments related to North Texas trails and the DFW Bike Month Challenge were in the majority.

In addition, comments were accepted through a new, online map tool. Users can drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. This month, there were 30 bicycle and pedestrian comments, two roadway comments and 10 transit comments. To read them, visit: <http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

Air Quality

Twitter –

1. Sure, we can accommodate your desire to drive everywhere. The costs:

1) More illness for you. Poor air quality contributes to asthma, lung disease, cardiovascular disease and more. More sitting in a car also means less physical activity and increased risk of illness. – Suzi (@LocomotiveLib)



2. Ozone Action Day – DFW-area ozone on 5/7 is predicted to be at Level Orange, unhealthy for sensitive groups. Children, older adults and those with chronic lung conditions should limit outdoor activity. <http://bit.ly/9nC9vy>. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



You mean limit driving. – EvilLangBuildsMc (@lang_evil)

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter –

1. It's time to vote for a name and logo 🚲 🚲 🚲

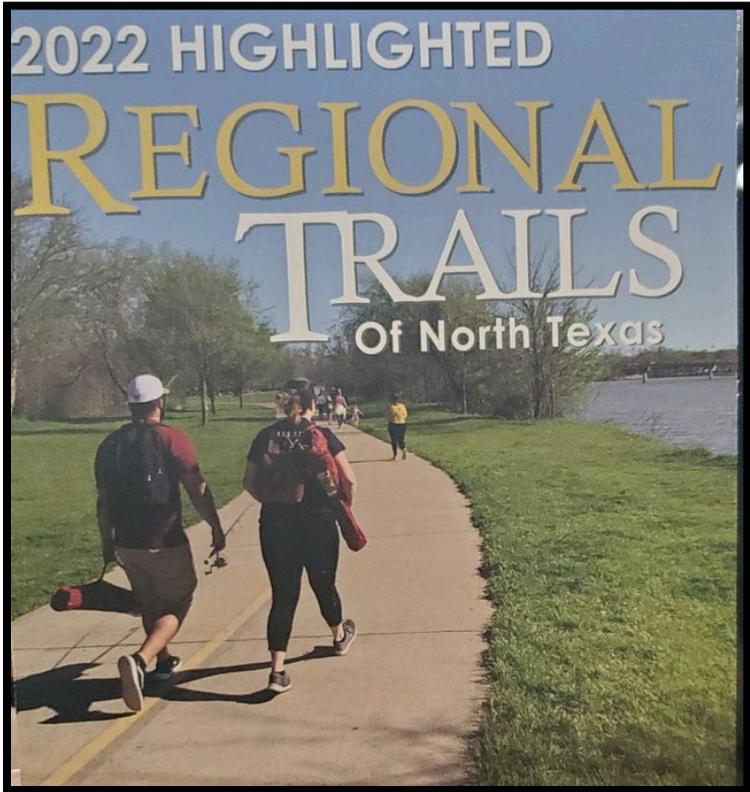
Read more about this trail in a story I did from last December! ➡️ <https://bit.ly/3KnD8ES> – Stacy Rickard - Spectrum News 1 (@stacyrickardTV)



2. Hey Bike People...it is time for Bike Month and we are super stoked to be partnering with @NCTCOGtrans Try Parking It app for the Inaugural DFW Bike Month Challenge 2022!! Celebrate National Bike Month from May 1 - May 31, 2022 by challenging yourself to bike everywhere! 1/5 – BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)

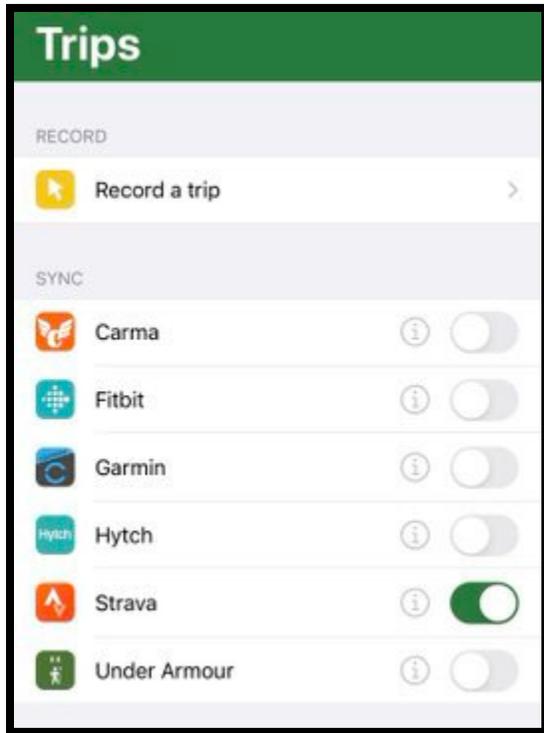


3. Plus made new friends and learned new things. Pretty excited about the @NCTCOGtrans Dallas-Ft Worth trail connection completing in 2024 (but many parts are now open). Going to take @Amtrak down with my bike and ride some their trails. – Shawn W (@shawn_dubs)



This actually sounds like one of THE coolest trips. If you document any of it, tag us so we can see! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

4. Hi @NCTCOGtrans. Is there a way to pair Strava with the Try Parking It app? The app shows Strava as an option, but it won't sync with rides, and whenever I open the app, I'm asked to sign up again for the May Bike Challenge (which I've done several times already). cc: @BikeDFW – Jeff Kitner (@JeffKitner)



Thanks for pointing this out, Jeff! We'll forward this issue to our website vendor and follow up if and when we can. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Hello again! Per the vendor: Steps to sync your TPI account with Strava: 1) Select "Strava" from the "Trips" tab 2) On the modal window that appears, enter the appropriate Strava login info and ensure the checkbox authorizing TPI to view data about your activities is checked. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

If you still encounter issues syncing the two accounts, please contact our vendor's dedicated support line by selecting "Contact us" from the "More" tab. They'll be happy to assist you directly to resolve the issue. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Thanks! I tried all that but unfortunately there's no syncing. I also checked to confirm that my Strava privacy settings are on available to all (which they are). I'll use the vendor Contact Us tab. – Jeff Kitner (@JeffKitner)

Sorry to hear that didn't work. Do use the "Contact aid" feature and hopefully further assistance will get it resolved. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Hi @NCTCOGtrans. I never heard back from the vendor and the App still doesn't work. Any suggestions? Would love to be a part of the May challenge! – Jeff Kitner (@JeffKitner)

Sorry to hear this, Jeff! I'll relay this message to the team and let you know of any updates. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Good morning, Jeff! We reached out to the vendor and it looks like they did provide a response. Do you mind checking your spam/junk folder to see if it ended up there? – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Good morning! I did check there too, and unfortunately didn't see anything. – Jeff Kitner (@JeffKitner)

Hi, Jeff! Going to follow up with you via DM. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

5. The faster you drive, the more space you should give!! 🚲🚗 – Jessica Hartpence (@jhart_OU)



6. Track your rides and sign up for the Bike Month Challenge, hosted by @BikeDFW and @NCTCOGtrans: - Bike Denton (@bikedenton)

BikeDFW @BikeDFW · Apr 28

Hey Bike People...it is time for Bike Month and we are super stoked to be partnering with @NCTCOGtrans Try Parking It app for the Inaugural DFW Bike Month Challenge 2022!! Celebrate National Bike Month from May 1 - May 31, 2022 by challenging yourself to bike everywhere! 1/5

[Show this thread](#)

DFW Bike Month Challenge 2022

WHERE WILL YOUR BIKE TAKE YOU?

7. I ❤️ these bridges on the trail to keep folks dry... so sad we haven't gotten @dartmedia (yet) to agree to bridge on Preston Ridge Trail so nobody gets flattened by the #Silverline diesel TRAIN. @NCTCOGtrans @DallasCityMgr @VisionZeroTexas @ColinAllredTX @VanTaylorTX @JohnCornyn – caraathome (@🏠) (@caraathome)

The Loop @TheLoopDallas · May 19

Last week, we had a 145' bridge installed on the Trinity Forest Spine Trail!

This first section of trail has 11 bridges to keep users high and dry!

#ConnectingDallasWithDallas

Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Twitter –

1. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Texas will receive over \$60M to invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to join @NCTCOGtrans to see the firsthand impact of this law on the EV fleet here in North Texas! – Rep. Marc Veasey (@RepVeasey)



2. Last week, over 100 fleet owners, managers, industry experts and govt. officials joined @EnvDefenseFund and @NCTCOGtrans to convene on the state of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles in Texas and where they're headed 🚛🔋 See what they learned:



3. Recent @EDFEbergEX @NCTCOGtrans workshop learned about the state of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles in Texas, with presentations on topics such as: / • Regional air quality / • ZEV technology / • Utility & charging infrastructure / • Funding options – EDF Action (@EDFAction)



4. Attendees at a recent EDF / @NCTCOGtrans workshop learned about the state of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles in Texas, with presentations on topics such as:

- Regional air quality
- ZEV technology
- Utility & charging infrastructure
- Funding options – EDF Texas (@EDFtx)



5. Medium- and heavy-duty vehicles are responsible for a disproportionate amount of transportation sector pollution. Last week, an @EnvDefenseFund / @NCTCOGtrans workshop explored the current state and direction of zero-emission trucks and buses in Texas. – EDF Texas (@EDFtx)



6. Last month, Nikola, supporting our dealer, @holt_truck attended the @NCTCOGtrans ZEV Workshop where Nikola’s Manager of State & Local Relations, Omar discussed the future of state & federal grants for ZEVs. The #NikolaTreBEV & Nikola Mobile Charging Trailer were also there! – Nikola Motor Company



Project Planning

Twitter –

1. How did we get here?@TxDOT & @NCTCOGtrans has spent decades subsidizing outlying greenfield development & wasted billions in counterproductive hwy expansions rather than invest in walkable communities,convenient public #transit,& antisprawl policies.

What will change?^_(ツ)_/ – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

Fort Worth Report @FortWorthReport · May 4
 Tarrant County could soon be classified as a “severe” violator of federal regulations aimed at improving air quality and reducing ozone levels. But what would change? fortworthreport.org/2022/05/03/wit...

Public comment period on Mobility 2045 Update open now:
<https://nctcog.org/trans/plan/mtp/mobility-plan-update> – Thomas Bamonte (TomBamonte)

2. In this presentation, Natalie Bettger of @NCTCOGtrans discusses how @NCTCOGtrans utilizes planning processes to mainstream #TSMO into their daily operations. – NOCoE (@NOCoEOps)

youtube.com
 Using Operations Data to Support Mainstreaming ...
 This webinar is part of an FHWA Office of Operations project to support mainstreaming ...

Safety

Twitter –

1. Man dead after driving wrong way along Fort Worth highway, police say <https://star-telegram.com/news/local/fort-worth/article261470047.html> @RoyceWestTX @NCTCOGtrans @TxDOT Do we have to wait until it’s one of your loved ones that dies this way before we stop trying to put a square peg inside a round hole? – Sylvester Raymond, PhD (@SylvesterRaym13)

star-telegram.com
 Man dead after driving wrong way along Fort Worth highway, police say
 The incident closed all southbound lanes along the highway for several hours.

Sustainability

Email –

1. **Brittney Bassett**

I am trying to reach Conserve North Texas, this is the only contact info i could find.

We're looking for some help getting the word out so the rules will change.

Texas Retail Energy Providers. (REPs) can steal solar power.

If you don't have a battery for solar panels (and most of the time, even with a battery) you still have to be connected to the grid and in TX, REPs are not required to offer any incentives for solar power and can, in fact, steal solar power from residential suppliers.

We are in a unique situation that we purchased our home with solar panels already installed. So our first year (with our second energy provider) they had a great buy back program. And we saw the major benefits of over producing solar panels. Now the contracts have changed (and it looks like any REP with a solar buyback has similar contracts). There seems to be 3 buyback options - Wholesale rate (which averages about .03-.06 per kwh, which means they buy it from residential panel homes then sell it to other homes for 4x or more), capped limit (matching actual use, meaning when panels over produce, the REP can just take the excess energy), or net producing limits (so if your panels overproduce one year, you are ineligible for buyback the next year, meaning they can, again, just take the extra power produced).

I know for us, a major benefit of having clean energy through solar panels was that it would cost us next to nothing (again - unique situation that our home came with panels paid for) and that is far from true.

Thank you for your time!!

Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff

Hi, Brittney,

Thank you for contacting the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation department.

We are sorry to hear that you've had a negative experience. Conserve North Texas is an initiative of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). We are working on changes and updates to the Conserve North Texas website to make our resources easier to find, and thank you for drawing attention to the need to add contact information. In the meantime, you can contact our team at energy@nctcog.org.

You may be interested in connecting with the North Texas Renewable Energy Group: www.ntreg.org and/or attending one of their monthly meetings. This organization advocates for solar energy and several of its members likely have expertise in the issue you've raised. Through them, you may also be able to connect with Mike Renner of the Renner "Off-Grid" House - DFW Solar Home Tour (dfwsolartour.org). He has essentially disconnected from the grid for reasons similar to the issue you've raised. You may also want to contact your local legislative representatives, as legislation may be required to address this concern.

The Texas chapter of Solar United Neighbors has a calculator linked to the top of their webpage that can be used to help identify which buyback program – or other retail electric plan - is the best fit for you, based on your home's specific electricity consumption. This is another organization that would be helpful to network with in terms of advocacy or policy support. Solar United Neighbors also has developed a webpage with resources and information on Consumer Protection at <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/learn-the-issues/consumer-protection/>. You can also use this page to schedule a phone call with one of Solar United Neighbors' solar experts.

Transit

Twitter –

1. Ride transit.

Save money.

Smile like Luka.

#Mavs #MFFL – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



Download the GoPass app for convenient, easy-to-use, contactless payment options and plan your trips, both locally and regionally! <http://gopass.org> – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Evening pass for a Mavs game would be \$3 – matt h (@matthavener)

Facebook –

1. CORRECTION: DCTA's comment period, which was initially to end May 17, has been extended to June 10!

Provide your comments on DCTA's fare and service models. Join the virtual listening session TONIGHT at 6 pm! Connect with the meeting and complete the survey for a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card: <http://dctafeedback.net>. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



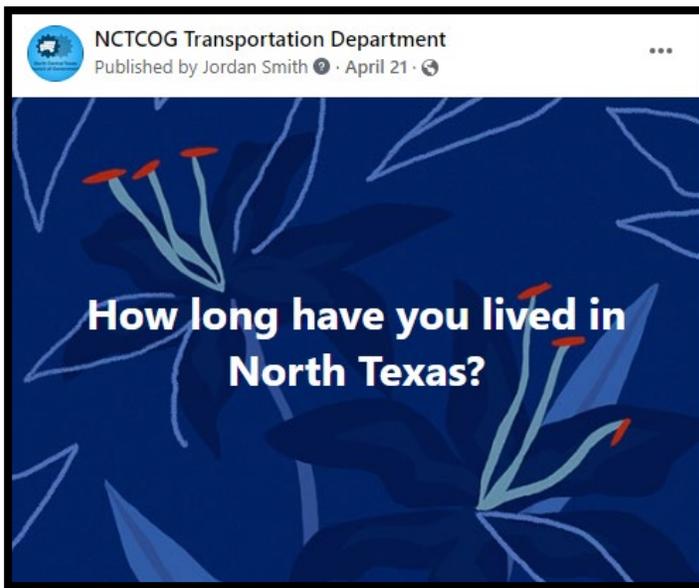
The public comment period has been extended through June 10! – Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA)

thanks for the correction! Will update. 😊 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Other

Twitter –

1.



***Please note that this post (above) received over 40 comments. To read them, follow the link here: <https://www.facebook.com/NCTCOGtrans/posts/350010790495729>*