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# LOCAL MOTION

**JUNE 2025**

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

## **GROCERY DELIVERY GETS A HIGH-TECH TWIST IN ARLINGTON**



*Arlington recently showed off a fleet of drones and delivery robots it has used in tests to deliver food to residents in need. The project brings NCTCOG and other partners together to demonstrate how technology can enhance community services.*

Star Wars is becoming less sci-fi and more true-life, at least around Arlington.

In May, the City of Arlington completed an innovative pilot program that used air and ground robots to deliver 300 boxes of groceries to east Arlington residents. They weren't exactly R2-D2 and C-3PO, but a six-foot-long flying aircraft and an autonomous electric vehicle came together to complete the deliveries, showcasing the potential of robotic technology in enhancing community services.

Launched in October 2023, the Multimodal Delivery pilot program was conducted to test the efficiency and scalability of using autonomous, electric delivery vehicles to improve air quality while helping east Arlington residents with limited mobility. A \$780,182 U.S. Department of Energy grant helped fund the project. Arlington partnered with the Tarrant Area Food Bank, The University of Texas at Arlington, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition, Airspace Link, Aerialoop and Mozee for the study.

During demonstrations in September 2024 and again in May, the Tarrant Area Food Bank supplied boxes of groceries, which were distributed to east Arlington residents via land and air robots.

To make deliveries, the project team used Aerialoop's ALT6-4 VTOL Delivery aircraft, a six-foot-long, battery-powered vehicle capable of carrying nearly nine pounds, to transport food boxes from a distribution point to a hub closer to participants' homes. The boxes were then placed inside Mozee's electric, autonomous vehicle, spacious enough to carry both passengers and goods, for delivery to participants' homes.

The City of Arlington and its partners will use data collected from the deliveries to evaluate the impact of these new technologies on air quality, energy efficiency and public attitudes toward electric and autonomous vehicles.

For more information, visit [ArlingtonTX.gov/multimodal](https://ArlingtonTX.gov/multimodal).

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## **TOPIC OF THE MONTH**

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP CLEAN THE AIR THIS SUMMER



As summer gets underway, NCTCOG is focusing on a vital aspect of our regional well-being: air quality. In June, the [Topic of the Month](#) series will highlight the factors influencing the air we breathe, ongoing initiatives to improve it and resources available to allow us to stay informed and take action. Join us as we delve into this important topic and explore how we can collectively work toward cleaner air for our communities.

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## ARLINGTON INTRODUCES NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTION





*Arlington Express is a new transit service that will take riders to and from City Hall, The University of Texas at Arlington and the CentrePort/DFW Airport TRE Station.*

Arlington residents now have a new, affordable way to move through the city. The City of Arlington has announced the launch of an on-demand public transportation pilot service called Arlington Express. The service will take riders to and from three key city locations: Arlington City Hall, The University of Texas at Arlington's University Center, and the Trinity Railway Express' CentrePort/DFW Airport Station.

The TRE can then take passengers to Dallas or Fort Worth and many stops in between. Arlington Express provides trips during peak commuting hours, Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and then from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Rides can be booked through the Arlington Transportation app or by calling 817-784-7382 during Express hours.

The service costs \$3, providing an affordable option for students, workers and residents in the area. Arlington On-Demand weekly and monthly passes can also be used to book trips on Arlington Express.

Arlington Express provides direct and shared rides between the Downtown/UTA area and the CentrePort TRE Station and enhances efficiency for the overall On-Demand service, offering a better experience for riders. This not only frees On-Demand vans from other trips across the city, but ensures riders receive a more direct trip to connect to and from the TRE.

Arlington Express is designed with accessibility in mind. The service operates with a fleet of three vans, which can hold up to six ambulatory passengers and one passenger in a wheelchair. Arlington Express drivers are trained and certified to assist passengers with mobility challenges.

Arlington Express is a three-year pilot program operating as a sub-service of the City's Arlington On-Demand rideshare transportation service that has been offered since 2017. The pilot is funded by a \$1,126,837 million federal transportation grant from NCTCOG, along with \$281,718 in city funding, supporting the Arlington Express service over a three-year period.

By expanding transportation options and emphasizing convenience, affordability and accessibility, Arlington Express aims to further connect residents within the city.

Read more about Arlington Express [here](#).

## **IRVING ISD 8TH GRADER WINS TRANSPORTATION ART CONTEST**



*Natasha Torres, second from left, an eighth grader at de Zavala Middle School in Irving, won the 2025 transportation student art contest. Her artwork is on the cover of this year's edition of Progress North Texas.*

Natasha Torres, an eighth-grade student at de Zavala Middle School in Irving, has won NCTCOG's annual Progress North Texas student art contest. The young artist's drawing of various modes of North Texas transportation superbly illustrated this year's theme, "A region of choice."

Her dynamic, four-panel picture depicts bicycles, trains, planes, buses, even skateboards, in various North Texas settings.

The NCTCOG Transportation Department received 30 entries from Irving ISD students from third to 12th grade. Natasha's work was judged the best, earning her picture a place on the cover of [Progress North Texas 2025](#), NCTCOG's annual transportation state of the region report.

An awards ceremony was held for Natasha on May 8 at de Zavala Middle School, where Natasha was presented with a framed image of the report featuring her artwork. In attendance were Natasha's art teacher, Angela Ruvalcaba; and Gayla Lawrence, director of visual arts for the Irving ISD.

Natasha drew inspiration for her picture from her family's experiences in the Dallas-Fort Worth region, combined with her own aspirations for future travels and adventures.

"At its heart, the piece is a visual tribute to the places around Dallas-Fort Worth where she has spent time with her family," says Ruvalcaba. "Natasha's dedication and love for creating are evident in every detail, inviting viewers to feel her memories and see the world through her vibrant lens."

Eduardo Morales, an 11th grade student at Nimitz High School, was awarded second place, and Loany Palma, a third-grade student at Johnston Elementary School, was honored with a third-place win.

The NCTCOG transportation art contest began in 2012, when Fort Worth ISD elementary school students were asked what transportation would look like in 2035. Each year since, the competition has rotated around the region, allowing different school districts the opportunity to showcase their students' artistic ability. Ruvalcaba says Natasha has a bright future ahead of her.

"She is very creative and she works really hard," she says. "She has a natural talent. I wish her only more success in the future because she's amazing."

## **ONLINE SURVEY**

## **NCTCOG SEEKS PUBLIC'S HELP TO MAKE ROADS SAFER FOR BIKES**





NCTCOG is developing a regional Bicycle Safety Action Plan with the goal of eliminating fatal and serious injury bicycle crashes in North Texas.

The Bicycle Safety Action Plan supports the Regional Transportation Council's commitment to eliminating all traffic deaths. It will do this by recommending policies, programs and projects specifically aimed at making it safer for people who choose to bike on the region's roads.

Public input will play a significant role in the development of the safety plan, along with analyses of crash statistics and the roadway system. To help gather the opinions of the users of the transportation system, NCTCOG is conducting a short [survey](#). Complete the survey for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

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*For more information about topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or [bwilson@nctcog.org](mailto:bwilson@nctcog.org). Visit [www.nctcog.org/trans](http://www.nctcog.org/trans) for more information on the department.*



*--Imagery provided by the City of Arlington, DCTA, Irving ISD, NCTCOG and Getty Images.*

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