



DECEMBER 2024

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

THE 411 ON 511DFW



As the population in Dallas-Fort Worth continues to grow, so does the need for dependable and accurate travel information. Since launching in 2017, the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) free trip-planning mobile app and website, 511DFW, have helped

residents and visitors alike, as they offer real-time information on traffic and transit agency routes.

An extension of the 511 phone number, 511DFW (www.511dfw.org) is intended to help travelers make better decisions about their mode of transportation, time of travel and route.

Both the app and website have undergone recent upgrades that have made them more helpful to local travelers. On the website the system now includes updated information about traffic speeds, EV charging stations, bike paths, and toll lane facilities. Additionally, users can now view traffic camera snapshots. On the mobile app users can request roadside assistance, report transportation issues such as potholes, and access routes and services from other local agencies, such as Trinity Metro and DART.

The travel data fueling 511DFW comes from other apps; local municipalities provide event and traffic data.

A new location-based roadside assistance feature, available to travelers on highways and toll roads only, allows users to connect with an agency that can best address their needs, whether they run out of gas or have a flat tire.

An email account is required to sign up to use the app or website; signing up takes less than a minute.

Mindhop, a New York-based software development company, built the new 511DFW website and designed the mobile app.

The app is available for both iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish. For more information, visit www.511dfw.org.

DFW CLEAN CITIES LAUNCHING SERIES OF CHARGING SMART MEETINGS IN JANUARY

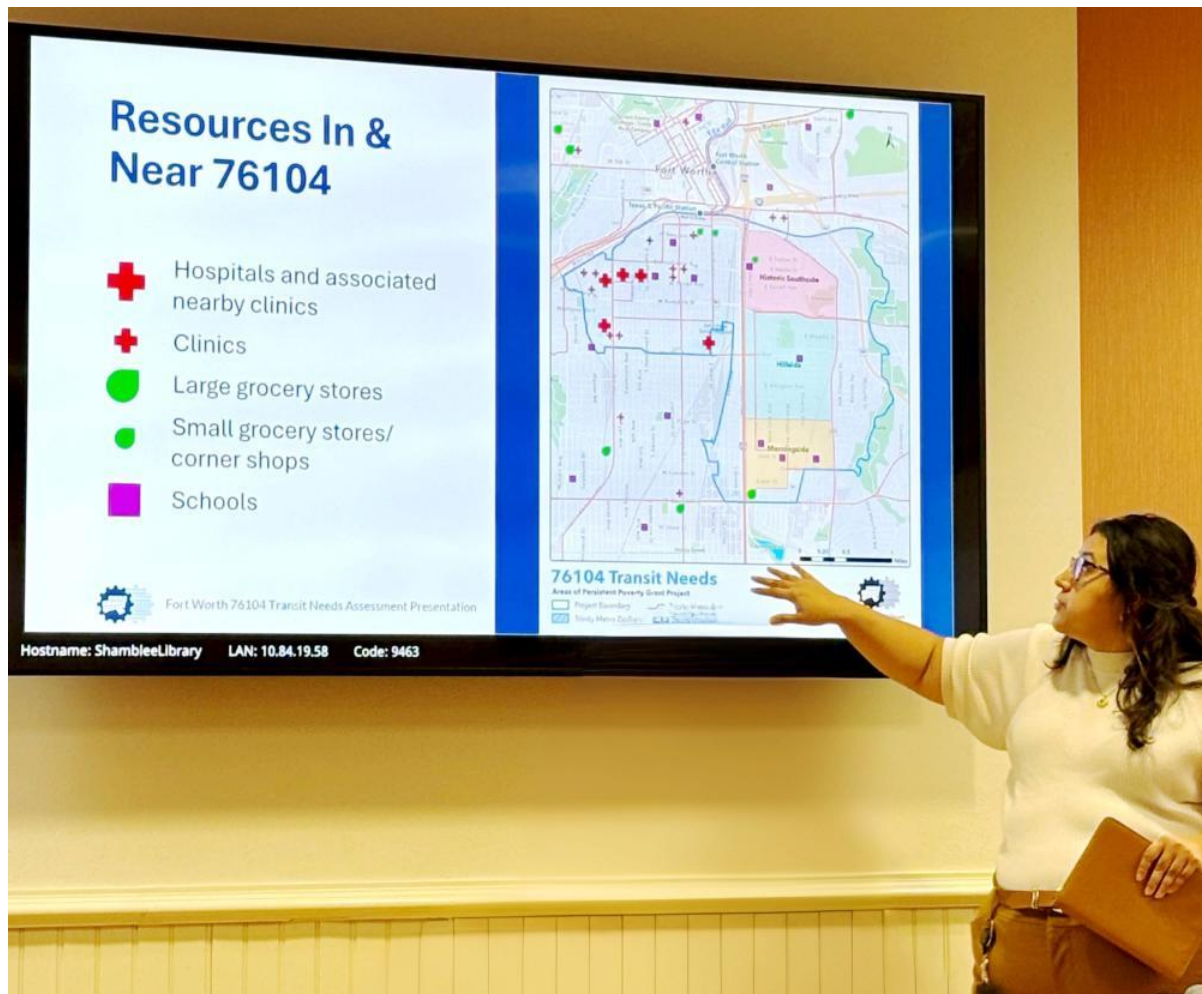


The Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition announced the launch of a second Charging Smart cohort, which will begin in January. The cohort will help cities progress through the Charging Smart program, offering monthly educational webinars and peer-to-peer sharing. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office, the program provides personalized, no-cost technical assistance to help municipalities set and achieve policies and best practices that facilitate the equitable expansion of electric vehicles and EV charging options in their communities.

Local governments that achieve certain metrics are awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold designations, a national recognition of their status as EV-friendly communities. Charging Smart is expanding nationally and is currently active in Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia, and the regions of North Texas, Southern California and Northern Illinois. Local governments in North Texas are invited to get involved in the program.

To participate, please contact cleancities@nctcog.org by Jan. 17. DFW Clean Cities has been hosted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments since 1995.

TRANSIT NEEDS DISCUSSED FOR RESIDENTS IN 76104 ZIP CODE



The North Central Texas Council of Governments hosted a public meeting in November on the city's Historic Southside, to discuss the agency's Fort Worth 76104 Transit Needs Assessment. The study is designed to identify innovative transit solutions that will improve mobility and access to essential services, such as food, healthcare, housing and employment in a part of Fort Worth identified as an area of persistent poverty.

NCTCOG staff members presented focus areas for project recommendations based on initial survey results from this past summer and provided updates on the status of several key focus areas identified in the plan. Potential solutions presented to the meeting attendees included:

Transit Loyalty Program: A program that offers rewards, discounts, or other incentives for consistent ridership.

Bus Efficiency Strategies: Strategies that include traffic signal prioritization and other methods for improving bus reliability.

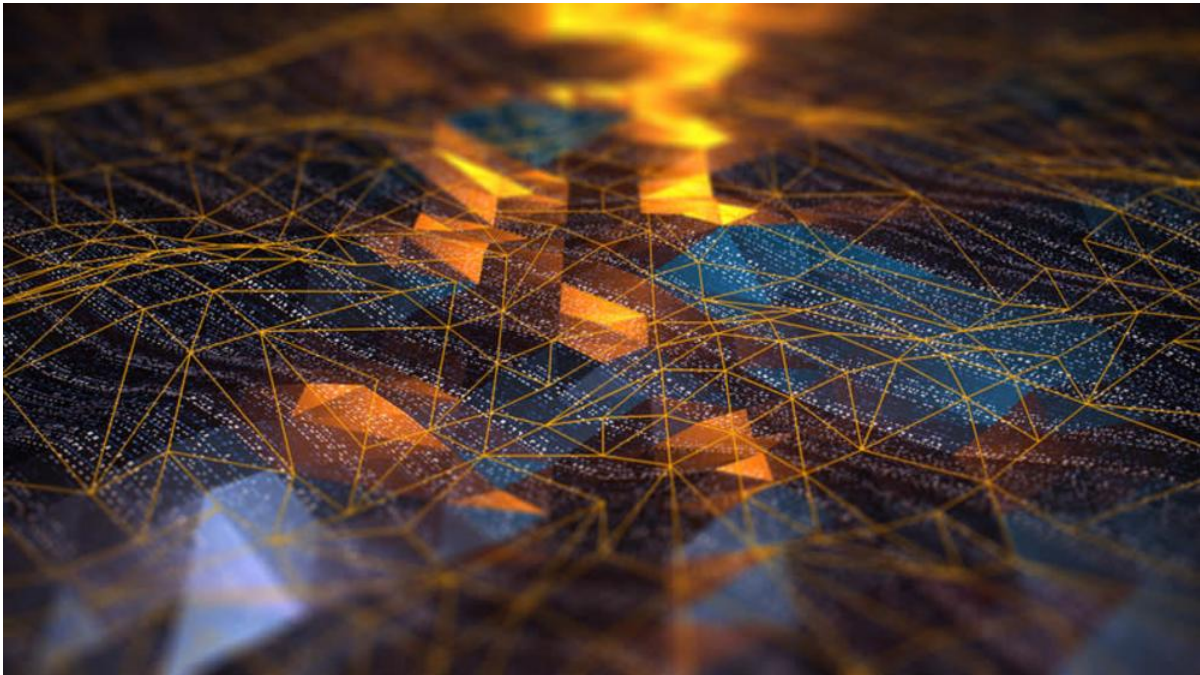
Extended On-Demand Availability and Bus Service Hours: Improved availability of Trinity Metro On-Demand service at peak times to minimize waits and earlier/later service hours for routes in 76104

Pop Up Events: Community events around the 76104 area to promote transit awareness.

Pedestrian Access Study: An assessment to determine how paths to transit can be improved for pedestrians.

This study is expected to be completed by the end of the 2025 calendar year and will result in the development of a transportation plan and recommendations on how transit can be enhanced or revised to better meet the community needs. Public feedback on draft recommendations will be accepted through Feb. 17 at publicinput.com/76104survey. The initial survey window has been extended to allow for additional responses. For more information on the project and previous meeting materials, visit the project website at www.nctcog.org/76104.

NCTCOG INTRODUCES NEW 'TOPIC OF THE MONTH' SERIES



With Dallas-Fort Worth's population poised to jump from 8 million to 12 million by 2050, a comprehensive transportation strategy is imperative. No single mode of transportation can adequately address the mobility needs of such a quickly growing region. Roadways, passenger

rail lines and bicycle-pedestrian paths will need to work together to help people reach their destinations.

Studying and addressing transit needs forms the backbone of NCTCOG's Transportation Department, which is constantly striving to find innovative ways to move people throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth region. And it is this philosophy that will be at the forefront of a new initiative called Topic of the Month, in which we highlight a different aspect of transportation every month, from roadway safety to bullet trains to light rail.

The goal of this effort is to increase awareness of the different areas of transportation – and how they're changing and evolving. Look for this initiative to be featured on our social media sites, in our publications and even in some presentations.

MOBILITY 2050: YOUR INPUT MATTERS



NCTCOG is seeking your input on one of its most important initiatives: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas, otherwise known as Mobility 2050. The plan will help shape the allocation of federal and state transportation funds in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for the next 20 years, and beyond. It recommends projects, programs and policies designed to enhance the quality of life for local residents as part of an ongoing, collaborative planning process.

We invite you to take the Mobility 2050 survey, open through the end of the year. In January, a new survey will launch to gather feedback on the draft plan, which will be available online. Your participation will help our staff better understand our region's transportation needs and preferences. Take the current survey [here](#).

TRANSIT PROVIDERS & USERS CAN INFLUENCE COORDINATION PLAN



As NCTCOG works to update the region’s public transportation coordination plan, planners are asking for assistance from residents who rely on public transportation and the agencies that provide the service. Access North Texas documents the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes across the 16-county region and must be updated every four years. Two surveys are open and will help guide NCTCOG staff members as they develop the plan’s 2026 update. The first is available for the public and can be completed by visiting the program's [website](#). A separate survey is open to agencies and organizations that provide public transportation services and serve transit-dependent populations. It can be accessed [here](#). Both can be completed in English and Spanish.

FACT SHEET:

REDUCING IDLING, IMPROVING AIR QUALITY



Engine Off North Texas is a regional initiative led by the NCTCOG to reduce heavy-duty vehicle idling in the 10-county Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area. With approximately 48% of nitrogen oxides from all mobile emissions sources originating from heavy-duty vehicles, this program provides resources and local government guidance focused on reducing idling activity known to be harmful to air quality and public health. Here are some facts about this ongoing initiative:

Key strategies include:

Local Ordinance Adoption: Encouraging municipalities to adopt and enforce anti-idling ordinances.

Fleet Management: Implementing idle reduction policies for government and private fleets.

Technology Adoption: Promoting the use of idle reduction technologies, such as auxiliary power units (APUs) and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Public Awareness: Educating the public about the negative impacts of idling and encouraging them to turn off their engines when possible.

How You Can Help:

Turn Off Your Engine: When stopped for more than 60 seconds, turn off your engine to save fuel and reduce emissions.

Report Idling Vehicles: If you see a heavy-duty vehicle idling excessively, report it to your local authorities or through the EONT hotline: 877-NTX-IDLE (877-689-4353).

For more, read the Engine Off North Texas fact sheet at [NCTCOG.org/factsheets](https://nctcog.org/factsheets).

For more information about topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

--Imagery provided by NCTCOG and Getty Images.

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