

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, December 12, 2024
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

11:00 am – 12:45 pm **RTC Recognition Luncheon**

1:00 pm **Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

- 1:00 – 1:10** 1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today’s Agenda**
 Information Minutes: 10
Item Summary: Members of the public may comment on any item(s) on today’s agenda at this time. If speaking, please complete a Speaker Request Card available at the meeting, and provide it to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum of three (3) minutes is permitted per speaker. At the conclusion of this item, no further opportunities for public comment will be provided for the duration of the meeting.
Background: N/A
- 1:10 – 1:15** 2. **Approval of October 17, 2024, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Clay Lewis Jenkins, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the October 17, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:15 – 1:20** 3. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
- 3.1. **February 2025 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**
Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council approval of revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: February 2025 revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 3.1 for the Council's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

3.2. Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action on Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Public Transportation Funding Programs of Projects will be requested.

Background: As the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration funds in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney-Frisco Urbanized Areas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments has developed Programs of Projects (POP) to suballocate approximately \$9.4 million in FY2024 Section 5307 and Section 5310 federal funding to public transit providers in the region. This is in addition to approximately \$190.2 million that RTC approved in September 2024. Approximately \$7.7 million remains to be programmed in the future. Electronic Item 3.2.1 includes additional information. Electronic Item 3.2.2 contains the additional proposed FY2024 POPs.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

3.3. City of Everman Signal Funding

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$300,000 in RTC Local funding for a new traffic signal in the City of Everman will be requested, including the ability to administratively amend planning and administrative documents as needed to incorporate this project.

Background: The City of Everman has requested funding assistance for a new traffic signal at the intersection of Shelby Road and Race Street. The intersection is currently controlled by a four-way stop sign and is experiencing considerable

congestion, especially in the morning and afternoon due to the proximity of two high schools nearby. Development occurring on the northeast corner of that intersection will exacerbate existing congestion. It takes 20 minutes in good conditions and 40 minutes in peak periods to clear this intersection; therefore, staff is recommending an expedited approval of this project and requesting \$300,000 in RTC Local funds to cover the cost.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

3.4. **Blue-Green-Grey Application for New Ideas Round 4 – Project Funding Recommendations**

Presenter: Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is requesting Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the Blue-Green-Grey Application.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) issued the Round 4 Blue-Green-Grey funding opportunity on July 15, 2024. Applications were due on August 16, 2024. Eligible projects are within the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area and incorporate three elements – Blue (water), Green (environment), and Grey (transportation infrastructure). The goal of the Blue-Green-Grey program is to support innovative pilot projects that provide resources for cities and organizations to replicate these ideas throughout the metroplex. The total of available funds is \$250,000 Regional Transportation Council Local. A project evaluation committee reviewed the nine applications received and recommended three projects for a total funding amount of \$248,300 in RTC local. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

3.5. **Backstop Funding: Supporting Vehicle Procurement for the Advanced 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant**

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) authorization to utilize \$1,004,000 in RTC Local funds as a temporary backstop to advance mobility enhancements within the Southern Dallas Inland Port.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) received a RAISE grant for enhancing mobility within the Southern Dallas County Inland Port area. The project focuses on access to the Dallas Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and includes sidewalk construction, signal improvements, and additional transit service to connect people living and working within the Inland Port area to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail system. Grant funds include the purchase of electric vehicles for STAR Transit to provide trips within the Inland Port and bring riders in and out of the DART system. NCTCOG completed competitive procurement processes to acquire vehicles and necessary in-plant inspection services. To retain negotiated contract prices and align inspections with manufacturing schedules, NCTCOG must proceed with these purchases by the end of calendar year 2025. However, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has not yet executed a grant agreement for the 2021 RAISE award. NCTCOG staff is seeking pre-award authority through a Letter of No Prejudice from FTA to ensure compliance with FTA rules for contract execution and cost eligibility through the grant. To further mitigate risks, staff is requesting to utilize RTC Local funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,004,000 as a temporary backstop to support contract obligations for the electric vehicle purchase and in-plant inspection services to prevent project delays and cost increases. Electronic Item 3.5 includes a presentation describing the proposed action.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

3.6. **Strategic Highway Network Proposed Additions**

- Presenter: Brian Flood, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to add a roadway location within the Dallas-Fort Worth region to the Strategic Roadway Network (STRAHNET) will be requested.
- Background: STRAHNET, a subset of the National Highway System (NHS), is a network of highways, including the Interstate System, that provide connecting routes to military installations, industries, and resources in times of peace and war. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Department of Defense (DOD) have been coordinating the addition of existing roadway locations to STRAHNET as part of the DOD's efforts to improve connectivity between Fort Bliss and Fort Cavazos and their designated seaports of embarkation in Port Beaumont and Port Arthur. As a result of this effort, a roadway location within the Dallas-Fort Worth region has been selected as a proposed addition to STRAHNET. A map and table detailing the proposed addition is included in Electronic Item 3.6. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee recommended approval of this addition to STRAHNET at its October 26, 2024, meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

3.7. **Endorsement of Community Noise Mitigation Program Grant Submission**

- Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of the submittal of grant applications to the Department of Defense Community Noise Mitigation Program. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will also be requested to approve RTC Local funds for local match for this program and to backfill previously approved RTC Local funds used to complete pre-application tasks.
- Background: The United States Department of Defense has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Community Noise Mitigation Program. This program is intended to assist local governments impacted by military fixed-wing aviation noise

through the installation of noise mitigating insulation at covered facilities, with specific funding set aside for reserve bases that have transitioned to a new type or model of aircraft. The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NAS JRB Fort Worth) is in the process of transitioning from F-16 to F-35 aircraft. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed grants submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Total project cost is approximately \$4 million. The grant application will request 90 percent of the cost in federal funds, supported by a local match of RTC Local funds and an equivalent amount provided by two participating school districts – Lake Worth and White Settlement Independent School Districts (ISD) – for the required 10 percent local match. If awarded, the grant applications will include noise insulation construction in six facilities in these two ISDs. These facilities include schools that are experiencing high levels of indoor noise as a result of military aviation operations. RTC Local funds previously approved by the RTC as part of the Regional Joint Land-Use Study have been used for upfront costs that will cover 5 percent of the match. The Lake Worth and White Settlement ISDs will pay the remaining 5 percent portion of the local match. Staff will request RTC action to backfill RTC Local funding for the Regional Joint Land-Use Study. An overview of the proposed project is included in Electronic Item 3.7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3.8. City of River Oaks, Meandering Road Right of Way Acquisition Loan

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is requesting approval to advance right-of-way acquisition funding for the reconstruction of Meandering Road from Roberts Cut-Off in River Oaks to LT JG Barnett Road to Fort Worth in the amount of \$950,000. The City of River Oaks is acquiring the right-of-way at the request of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the other project partners. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local

funds will be returned upon River Oaks receiving federal reimbursement.

Background: The cities of River Oaks and Fort Worth, in partnership with NCTCOG and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) initiated work on the reconstruction of Meandering Road/LT JG Barnet in River Oaks and Fort Worth in 2014. This corridor is of strategic military importance to the region and specifically the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NASJRB) as it serves as the path of access to the East Gate entrance at the Base. The RTC funded this project with federal funds in 2015. It has been through extensive planning, design, and public involvement to ensure its compatibility with the neighborhoods in River Oaks and Fort Worth impacted by the corridor improvements. Right-of-way acquisition began in the summer of 2024. The goal of the project is to replace a dilapidated four-lane undivided roadway with a three-lane center turn-lane roadway while minimizing the impacts to neighborhoods. Additional right-of-way is needed for corner clips to construct sidewalks and removal of two structures to accommodate intersection improvements. The current right-of-way cost in River Oaks is estimated at approximately \$950,000. While funding for the right-of-way is included in the project, the City of River Oaks is responsible for acquiring this right-of-way and cash flowing the purchase until federal reimbursement is received. The reimbursement process takes 90 to 120 days. To reduce the financial burden of this project on the City of River Oaks, staff is proposing to advance RTC Local funds to River Oaks for this purpose. River Oaks will return the RTC Local funds to NCTCOG upon receipt of federal reimbursement. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 3.8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Roadway

1:20 – 1:30

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Recognizing Regional Successes in Energy Efficiencies, Air Quality, Mobility Award Recognition Luncheon Recap
2. Regional Transportation Council Service Awards –
--Mo Bur, Texas Department of Transportation
--Commissioner Gary Fickes, Tarrant County
--Commissioner Roy Brooks, Tarrant County
--former County Judge B. Glen Whitley, Tarrant County
--Mike Eastland, Executive Director, NCTCOG,
Retirement
3. Receipt of United States Department of Transportation 2023 Transportation Conformity Determination (Electronic Item 4.1)
4. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery – Transit Data Update (Electronic Item 4.2)
5. 2025 Regional Transportation Council and Surface Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Schedules (Electronic Item 4.3)
6. Sandy Wesch Passing (Electronic Item 4.4)
7. Executive Director's Recommended PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards Designations (Electronic Item 4.5)
8. Swyft Cities Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology Program Update (Electronic Item 4.6)
9. Texas Department of Transportation Rider 48 Report: Evaluation of Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Capacity
(<https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/government/rider-48-report.pdf>)
10. Air Quality Project Spotlight: Arlington Multimodal Drone Delivery Demonstration Results (Electronic Item 4.7)
11. Engine Off North Status Report (Electronic Item 4.8)
12. Attendance Report: Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee (Electronic Item 4.9)
13. Reminder of Annual Required Local Government Energy Reporting – Due March 4, 2025 (Electronic Item 4.10) (Electronic Item 4.11)
14. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing
15. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)

16. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
17. September – October Public Comment Report (Electronic Item 4.12)
18. October – November Public Comment Report (Electronic Item 4.13)
19. October Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.14)
20. November Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.15)
21. November Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.16)
22. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.17)
23. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.18)

1:30 – 1:40

5. **Fiscal Year 2024 Federal State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeffrey Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to submit a project in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant Program. Applications are due to United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) by December 16, 2024.

Background: In September 2024, the US DOT announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for FY24 FSP Grant Program funding, available at <https://railroads.dot.gov/federal-state-partnership-intercity-passenger>. This \$1.06 billion program provides three application tracks, (1) Project Planning, (2) Project Development and (3) Final Design/ Construction. Applications for each track are due to US DOT by December 16, 2024. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project (or group of projects) that improve American passenger rail assets through:

- (1) bringing rail assets into a State of Good Repair;
- (2) improving intercity passenger rail service;
- (3) expanding or establishing new intercity passenger rail service, and
- (4) planning, environmental studies, and final design for a project or group of projects.

Electronic Item 5 includes a presentation describing the proposed action.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Transit

1:40 – 1:50

6. **Project Status Report: Fiscal Year 2024 Project Tracking, Fiscal Year 2025 Project Tracking and Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Round 2**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) with a status report on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Project Tracking, FY2025 Project Tracking, and Milestone Policy Round 2 projects. RTC approval of various updates to Milestone Policy project deadlines will be requested.

Background: The Milestone Policy was adopted by the RTC to focus on projects that have been funded for more than 10 years and have not gone to construction. By highlighting these projects, the policy creates agency accountability to implement projects in a timely manner. Staff coordinates with implementing agencies to assess project risk until they go to construction. Similarly, the annual project tracking effort focuses on projects slated for implementation in the current fiscal year. Projects are monitored early, allowing staff to highlight potential problems that could lead to delays, which enables the RTC to take corrective actions to avoid building up carryover balances in federal funding categories. Milestone Policy status updates, along with the latest risk ratings, can be found in Electronic Item 6.1. FY2024 Project Tracking status updates can be found in Electronic Item 6.2. FY2025 Project Tracking status updates can be found in Electronic Item 6.3. A summary of the status reports can be found in Electronic Item 6.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

7. **Call for Projects to Reduce Diesel Emissions**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview and request Regional Transportation Council approval on the criteria and schedule for a new, competitive Call for Projects (CFP) to award rebates through the North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 utilizing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds.

Background: Over the past years, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been successful in receiving grant funding for multiple proposals submitted to the EPA under the National Clean Diesel Funding

Assistance Program authorized by the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. The latest award based on NCTCOG's proposal submitted in December 2023 identifies open and competitive CFPs to distribute funds. The North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 funding initiative provides rebates to replace diesel-powered vehicles, engines, and equipment in addition to locomotive engine idle reduction technology, owned by public and private fleets in the ten-county ozone nonattainment area. A schedule and project selection criteria for the CFPs are proposed. These initiatives are an extension of clean vehicle and technology improvements listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 7 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:00 – 2:10

8. **Strategic Traffic Signal Equipment Selection Upgrades**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the strategic selection process for traffic signal coordination equipment upgrades.

Background: In 2022, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff conducted a comprehensive equipment inventory of approximately 7,000 traffic signals across the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region. As part of this initiative, staff collaborated with public-sector partner agencies to establish minimum standards for traffic signal coordination equipment. The Regional Transportation Council allocated funding to begin upgrading signals that fall below these minimum standards. To maximize the impact of this funding, staff is proposing a strategic selection process based on the regional inventory to prioritize locations for upgrades. Staff will request RTC approval of the proposed strategic selection process to determine which locations will receive funding. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Safety

2:10 – 2:20

9. **Fiscal Year 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeffrey Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program, dedicated for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Details highlighting grant requirements, merit criteria, and possible multimodal project candidates will also be provided.

Background: In November 2024, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2025 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), providing details and application requirements for the \$1.5 billion program, can be accessed at: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>. Applications are due to the US DOT by January 30, 2025. For agencies in the region submitting projects, the www.grants.gov registration process must be completed, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive letters of support from the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) should be submitted to Jackie Castillo by Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at jcastillo@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Roadway

2:20 – 2:25

10. **End of 2024 Ozone Season Recap**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of the 2024 ozone season activity and other air quality updates for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region. The ozone season is from March 1 to November 30.

Background: The end of November concluded with another ozone season for the DFW region. The region continues to work towards compliance for both the 2008 and 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), but monitoring values show a reverse trend with a current Ozone 8-hour design value of 83. Staff has been tracking the exceedance days at each monitor and will provide a summary of the 2024 ozone season data for the North

Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas, compare against previous ozone seasons and what the state has modeled. This 2024 calendar year is critical because it is the first of three years that will be used to determine how the region compares against federal requirements. Electronic Item 10.1 is correspondence to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requesting further analysis to understand our ozone's increasing trend. For further information see Electronic Item 10.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:25 – 2:40

11. **Demographics Forecast 2050 and Mobility 2050 Key Updates**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenters: Dan Kessler and Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Work has now been completed on the development of population and employment forecasts for the year 2050 to support the upcoming development of Mobility 2050: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. The North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) Executive Board approved these forecasts on November 21, 2024. A summary of this forecast will be presented along with a status report on the development of the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2050.

Background: NCTCOG has been responsible for preparing demographic forecasts to support metropolitan transportation planning activities overseen by the Regional Transportation Council as part of the metropolitan planning process since the designation of NCTCOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization in 1974. The forecasts are developed by NCTCOG's Research and Information Services Department in cooperation with the Transportation Department and local governments and are used to support the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, as well as a wide variety of transportation and infrastructure studies being carried out by NCTCOG, our state and local planning agency partners, and local governments throughout the region. Development of these forecasts occurs every four years in keeping with the federal requirement of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The population and employment forecasts are prepared at a detailed level for the 12-county Metropolitan Area. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-

Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years and forecast at least 20 years into the future. Mobility 2050: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas, currently under development, must demonstrate federal Transportation Conformity and be financially constrained. The updated plan will include a new financial plan, updated demographics and technical analysis, updated project recommendation listings, and robust public involvement. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 11.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

12. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 12.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 12.2)

13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

14. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council will be held at **1:00 pm, Thursday, January 9, 2025**.