

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, January 23, 2025
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**9:30 am Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

- 9:30 – 9:40** 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
- 9:40 – 9:45** 2. **Approval of December 12, 2024, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Clay Lewis Jenkins, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the December 12, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 9:45 – 9:50** 3. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
- 3.1. **Amtrak Heartland Flyer Funding Shortfall**
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$100,000 in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer passenger service from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City to ensure there are no service disruptions. In addition, staff will seek the RTC’s approval to inform the Legislature that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) request for funding is inadequate.

Background: In November 2024, staff learned that Texas' share of funding for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer Passenger service from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City has a potential funding shortfall of approximately \$72,000. Staff will request approval of up to \$100,000 in RTR funds be used to supplement the State's funding shortfall. The Heartland Flyer travels along the Interstate Highway 35 Corridor located in both Denton and Tarrant counties. This action ensures that the Amtrak Heartland Flyer passenger service will not experience any disruptions. RTC had previously approved \$700,000 for a shortfall for fiscal year 2023, which was ultimately not needed as the TxDOT resolved the funding gap. Staff previously reported this to the RTC. The current request is for the funding shortfall for the 2024 fiscal year.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

3.2. **Funding for Riverfront Boulevard Cost Overrun**

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$12,401,658 in Dallas County Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding will be requested to cover a cost overrun at letting on the Riverfront Boulevard project with local funds covering the remainder of the gap, along with the ability to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and other planning and administrative documents as needed to incorporate the funding. In addition, staff is requesting additional cost overruns must be covered by Dallas County and/or the City of Dallas. Staff is requesting Dallas County and the selected construction company to monitor communication on the location of utilities that may impact column placement for high-speed rail.

Background: Dallas County is implementing a project along Riverfront Boulevard from Cadiz Street to Justice Center Way in the City of Dallas. The project will reconstruct the roadway to six lanes with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and various

intersection improvements. The project currently has \$38,291,442 of RTR funds along with \$18,149,497 of funding from the County and City of Dallas. Bids for the project were recently opened and there is a funding gap of approximately \$13.81 million between the available funds and the lowest bid. The County has requested funding assistance to cover a portion of this gap. This project is on the RTC's Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy list and thus it is of particular importance that it proceeds to construction.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

9:50 – 10:00 4. Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report

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

1. Transit 2.0 Policy Oversight Preparation for February Action (Electronic Item 4.1)
2. \$60 Million Received from Environmental Protection Agency Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program (Electronic Item 4.2)
3. Department of Defense \$4 Million Noise Mitigation Award for Elementary Schools in Lake Worth and White Settlement
4. Transportation Research Board January 5, 2025, (Washington, D.C.): Integrating Operational Change into Transportation Agencies to Optimize Project Delivery (Michael Morris and Ceason Clemons)
5. Sandy Wesch Celebration of Life: January 24, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.
6. Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing No Longer Requested
7. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight: (Electronic Item 4.3)
8. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/agfunding)
9. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
10. November – December Public Comment Report (Electronic Item 4.4)
11. January Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.5)
12. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.6)

13. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.7)

10:00 – 10:10 5.

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeffrey Hathcock, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

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), with information 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. Electronic Item 5 provides additional details regarding both the program and candidate projects. For regional agencies planning to submit their own candidate projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Jackie Nolasco by Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at jnolasco@nctcog.org.

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

10:10 – 10:20 6.

Request Approval to Allocate Funding for Potential Litigation Related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High Speed Rail Environmental Assessment and Briefing on Correspondence from Attorneys for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and Hunt-Related Entities

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be requested to allocate RTC Local funds in preparation for potential litigation related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High Speed Rail Environmental Assessment. Staff will brief the RTC on numerous correspondences from Attorneys

for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and other Hunt-related entities (Hunt-related entities).

Background: Since October 9, 2024, Attorneys for Hunt-related entities have sent numerous correspondence to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) asserting various legal and factual claims regarding the Environmental Assessment, the 1975 Master Agreement between Hunt-related entities and the City of Dallas, Alignment 2B, the City of Dallas June 12, 2024, resolution concerning high-speed rail, RTC's one-seat ride policy, the City of Arlington, among other items. Electronic Item 6.1 contains NCTCOG's responses to date and the corresponding Hunt letter. Electronic Item 6.2 contains additional Hunt correspondence as of January 3, 2025. Electronic Item 6.3 contains correspondence received since the posting of the rescheduled January 9, 2025, RTC meeting. NCTCOG is preparing responses as warranted. This is in addition to approximately 2,500 pages of documents NCTCOG provided in April 2024 in response to an informal request from Hunt's Attorney. Included in Electronic Item 3.1 is an October 21, 2024, "formal request and demand" from the Hunt's Attorney for NCTCOG to "Preserve and Not Destroy" documents broadly related to High-Speed Rail and the Environmental Assessment in particular. Such a notice is often a precursor to litigation. Staff recommends that the RTC allocate \$1 million in RTC Local funds to be used in \$250,000 increments for additional legal support to assist in responding to these matters and other preparatory work in anticipation of litigation related to the Environmental Assessment. Staff proposes reporting expenditures of these funds on a quarterly basis to the RTC. If approved by the RTC, staff requests the RTC communicate its action to the Executive Board as follows: "Upon a vote ___ to _____, the RTC requests the Executive Board to secure external legal counsel to supplement internal legal resources related to the Dallas to Fort Worth High Speed Rail Environmental Assessment."

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

10:20 – 10:30 7.

Federal and State Legislative Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Rebekah Gongora, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on federal, and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. Staff will provide an update on key legislative positions of the Regional Transportation Council. The 1st session of the 119th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2025. The 89th Texas Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 14, 2025.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

10:30 – 10:40 8.

New 511 Dallas-Fort Worth Traveler Information System

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the new 511 Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Traveler Information System highlighting the public-facing and agency user interface.

Background: The 511DFW Traveler Information System was developed as a component of the Dallas Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project in 2007, which was an initiative funded by the United States Department of Transportation to help advance the state of the practice in transportation operations and manage congestion in urban areas. The 511DFW system provides travel time and speeds, transit trip planning, and road condition information accessible via the web for the DFW region. By calling 511 or utilizing the 511DFW Mobile Apps for iOS and Android, users can connect to partner agencies providing roadside assistance, report transportation problems or link to other regional applications. The system is available in both English and Spanish. In addition, an agency user interface provides partner agencies with the ability to enter crashes and other transportation-related data as well as view historic data to assess system performance. The previous 511DFW system ended in June 2023 as North Central Texas Council of Governments went through a new procurement. On November 4, 2024, the new 511DFW

Traveler Information System went live. Additional information can be found in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

9. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 9.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 9.2)

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

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

12. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council will be held at **1:00 pm, Thursday, February 13, 2025.**