

AGENDA

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Thursday, October 8, 2020
North Central Texas Council of Governments

The RTC meeting on October 8, 2020, will be conducted as a videoconference meeting via Zoom. Members of the public wishing to speak may do so by calling toll free 1-855-965-2480 and entering meeting ID 924 5260 0605# when prompted. Following conclusion of the Opportunity for the Public to Speak in Agenda Item 1, the audio line will be disconnected. Members of the public may view a livestream of the RTC meeting at www.nctcog.org/video under the "live" tab.

11:30 am RTC Legislative Workshop (Hard Stop at 12:45 pm)

1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda

1:00 – 1:10 1. Opportunity for the Public to Speak on Today's Agenda: Consistent with HB 2840

Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: This item provides an opportunity for the public to comment on today's meeting agenda items. Members of the public wishing to comment on an agenda item may do so during this item by calling toll free 1-855-965-2480 and entering meeting ID 924 5260 0605# when prompted. Speakers should state their name, city of residence, the agenda number they are speaking on, and whether they are speaking on/for/against the item. Members of the public are not permitted to provide comments after the conclusion of this agenda item; therefore, the audio line will be disconnected and members of the public may view the livestream of the meeting at www.nctcog.org/video.

Background: N/A

1:10 – 1:15 2. Approval of September 10, 2020, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Roger Harmon, RTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the September 10, 2020, 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. Fiscal Year 2021 Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives: Phase 1

Presenter: Mindy Mize, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will seek the Council's support to recommend Executive Board approval of up to \$215,000 in funding for education campaigns for transportation initiatives that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. Last month, the Surface

Background: Transportation Technical Committee recommended Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval. Since 2014, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale educational campaign purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. Unfortunately, due to making sure we are sensitive in our messaging during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as experiencing impacts related to funding agreement availability, FY2021 campaigns will be approved in phases when deemed appropriate. Electronic Item 3.1.1 explains the benefits of this initiative and showcases cost savings obtained from bulk education campaign purchasing for the Transportation Department, primarily from FY2019 since we do not have much data from FY2020. Electronic Item 3.1.2 provides more information on Phase 1 FY2021 education campaign costs along with examples of past education campaigns. Education campaigns in Phase 1 will support high-speed transportation, notifications of opportunities for public input/public meetings, and a flexible category for possible unanticipated costs that may arise, such as a specialized public meeting series that may need notifications posted. RTC approval will be used as a recommendation to the NCTCOG Executive Board on October 22, 2020.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Transit, Administrative

3.2. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**

Presenters: Christie Gotti and Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2021-2024 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: Since approval of the 2021-2024 TIP listings by the RTC on June 11, 2020, staff worked to finalize the project listings for submittal to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for inclusion in the Statewide TIP (STIP). During that process, a subset of technical corrections or changes was identified and made by staff to ensure that the listings were consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and met all federal requirements, such as financial constraint. The list of revisions is provided in Electronic Item 3.2.1 and consists of a list of changes that require RTC approval per the TIP Modification Policy (e.g., substantive limits and/or scope changes, funding revisions, and delaying projects by more than one fiscal year). Electronic Item 3.2.2 is a list of administrative changes to the TIP

(e.g., changes to TxDOT Control-Section-Job (CSJ) numbers and non-substantive clarifications of limits and/or scopes). Additional details on the TIP development process can be found in Electronic Item 3.2.3.

In addition, quarterly modifications to the TIP are underway. November 2020 revisions to the 2021-2024 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 3.2.4 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, Air Quality

3.3. **Computer Equipment and Hardware**

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to use RTC Local Funds for the purchase of computer hardware, software, and equipment will be requested.

Background: Computer resources are a fixture in today's workplace providing an asset needed to accomplish daily activities. Each fiscal year, the Unified Planning Work Program includes attrition of existing computer equipment, computer equipment for new staff, and necessary software with associated licensing. Historically, federal planning funds have been the source of revenue for purchasing. As these items contain components sourced from outside the United States, federal Buy America provisions prevent the use of federal funds to buy these items. In addition, for staff to stay productive and the Department maintain services to the region during the COVID-19 pandemic, additional equipment is necessary to comply with use of workplace supplied computers and necessary hardware in a dual office situation. This dual office situation allows an employee to work remotely from the office while experiencing high quality network connectivity to workplace functions. Electronic Item 3.3 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Administrative

1:20 – 1:35

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Regional Transportation Council and Partners Received \$25 million for the North Texas Multimodal Operations, Velocity, Efficiency, and Safety Program

2. New Format for Noting Performance Measures Addressed on Meeting Agendas (Maximum of Two):
 - Administrative • Roadway
 - Safety • Goods Movement
 - Air Quality • Bike/Ped+
 - Transit
3. Continuing Resolution Approved through December 11, 2020, with FAST Act Surface Transportation Funding and Policies through September 30, 2021
4. Status on Extension of SH 360 and Chisolm Trail Parkway
5. Strategic Traffic Signal Program (Electronic Items 4.1)
6. Curb Management Regional Planning Guide (www.nctcog.org/parking)
7. Fall 2020 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Virtual Training Announcement (Electronic Item 4.2)
8. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 4.3)
9. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
10. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
11. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 4.4)
12. Staff Response to Last Month's Agenda Item 1: Opportunity for the Public to Speak (None)
13. August Public Input Opportunity Minutes-Additional Comment (Electronic Item 4.5)
14. September Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 4.6)
15. October Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 4.7)
16. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.8)
17. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.9)
18. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.10)
19. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.11)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Clear Path™ Technology Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for funding needed to implement the Clear Path™ Technology Program, in accordance with the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant, based on the \$25 million award we received for projects to improve the Trinity Railway Express transit rail line.

Background: This item was presented as information at the August RTC meeting and to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee in September. North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) staff has been coordinating with each of the freight and transit rail agencies in the North Central Texas region to identify the benefits associated with implementation of the Clear Path™ technology system. As outlined in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2045, passenger rail service is anticipated to increase with the planned implementation of new and expanded service on

existing freight rail corridors throughout the region. Increasing the rail networks' operational efficiency is key to expanding passenger service on existing corridors. In addition, staff would like to highlight the recent BUILD grant award for transit improvement projects on the TRE line. More information can be found in Electronic Item 5.

The Clear Path™ system is a technology solution that monitors and forecasts train traffic conditions in critical transportation gateways, such as Chicago, to help reduce train congestion. Clear Path™ is enabled by continuous real-time feeds of railroad train dispatching and infrastructure status data used to maximize the efficiency of the freight and passenger rail network. Clear Path™ technology will increase capacity of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) rail network and allow DFW metroplex rail system agencies to exchange timely, accurate, and actionable information on train movements throughout the region, by facilitating inter-carrier operations. Implementation of Clear Path™ technology would advance transit operation opportunities as designated in Mobility 2045.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Goods Movement, Safety

1:45 – 1:55

6. **2021 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on the projects funded by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) in the 2021 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), and approval of the final project listings will be requested.

Background: In the summer of 2020, the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the RTC approved updates to the Regional 10-Year Plan. The TTC approved the final 2021 UTP at its August 2020 meeting. Staff will discuss which projects were approved for funding in the UTP and provide a preview of the upcoming schedule for the development of the next 10-Year Plan and UTP. These details are provided in Electronic Item 6.1. Electronic Item 6.2 contains the revised 10-Year Plan listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Roadway, Goods Movement

1:55 – 2:05

7. **High-Speed Rail Status Report and Contingency Action**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a status report on federal high-speed rail approvals between Dallas and Houston. In addition, high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth is underway. A contingency action may be requested for approximately \$1.5 million in funds for engineering purposes.

Background: Staff will summarize federal actions regarding high-speed rail between Dallas and Houston. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff, with consultant assistance, is undergoing a Tier II environmental on high-speed transportation between Dallas and Fort Worth. Virtual public meetings on this project were held September 23 and September 24.

Contingency action may be needed for approximately \$1.5 million to loan to Texas Central Partners in order to advance the engineering on the City of Dallas Floodway Extension in partnership with United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Transit, Safety

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Calls for Projects to Reduce Diesel Emissions**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval to open three new, competitive calls for projects (CFP) to subaward funds through the Clean Fleets North Texas 2020 CFP and award rebates through North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 CFP and North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP.

Background: Over the past few years, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been successful in receiving grant funding for multiple proposals submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program authorized by the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. Consistent with the awards and original proposals, NCTCOG is to conduct open, competitive CFPs to distribute funds. CFPs have been prepared for three different initiatives, under three separate EPA awards:

Clean Fleets North Texas 2020 CFP, awarded based upon a proposal submitted in June 2018 which provides funding to subaward projects to replace older, high-emitting diesel-powered vehicles and equipment owned by public or private fleets contracted to local governments, in the ten-county ozone nonattainment area.

North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 CFP, awarded based upon a proposal submitted in February 2019 which provides funding to award rebates to replace older, high-emitting diesel-powered vehicles and equipment owned by private fleets in the ten-county ozone nonattainment area along with Navarro and Hood counties.

North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP, awarded based upon a proposal submitted in June 2018 which

provides funding to award rebates for installation of EPA verified electrified parking spaces and related infrastructure including electric capable kits and power monitoring equipment at freight terminals and distribution centers that primarily receive heavy-duty trucks with Transport Refrigeration Units within the ten-county ozone nonattainment area.

A schedule and project selection criteria for these CFPs will be presented. These initiatives are an extension of clean vehicle and technology efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 8 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Air Quality, Goods Movement

2:15 – 2:25 9. **Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Four performance metrics have been developed that will be tracked through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery process: 1) travel behavior response to COVID-19; 2) financial implications to traditional revenue sources; 3) benefits of travel behavior responses to areas of RTC responsibility; and 4) prioritization of infrastructure improvements that offset unemployment increases. Staff has met with the transit agencies and is exploring ideas to grow transit ridership in the region. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Administrative

2:25 – 2:35 10. **North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies: Research Project Funding Standards**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will discuss proposed selection criteria and a process for providing funding for sponsored research projects on mobility technologies proposed by the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies (NTCMT).

Background: In February 2020, as part of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) proposal to host the Virgin Hyperloop One Certification Center, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved \$2.5 million in seed money to help fund sponsored research in mobility technologies. With the assistance of the Texas Research Alliance, the four major research universities in the region (UTA, UNT, UTD, SMU) have organized themselves into the

NTCMT. Through the NTCMT, the universities will function as a Research and Development network for sponsored research. The NTCMT is intended to strengthen the capabilities of these universities in the transportation sector and attract mobility technology companies to the region. The NTCMT will recommend certain research projects for NCTCOG funding. The purpose of this item is to establish standards and a process through which NCTCOG identifies which research projects to fund out of the seed money approved by the RTC. These standards and process are described in Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Administrative

- 2:35 – 2:45** 11. **Overview of Regional Transportation Council Legislative Workshop**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Rebekah Hernandez, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Legislative Workshop.
Background: An RTC Legislative Workshop will be held prior to the RTC meeting. Staff will provide members with a review of implementation of statutes, transit issues and funding options, and potential topics to include in the 2021 RTC Legislative Program. The 87th Texas Legislature will convene on January 12, 2021. A draft RTC Legislative Program can be found in Electronic Item 11.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:
Administrative

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)
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 12.3)
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 is scheduled for ***1:00 pm, Thursday, November 12, 2020.***