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

**GRAND PRAIRIE NAMED PARTNER OF THE YEAR FOR
CLEAN AIR EFFORTS**



Air North Texas recently named the City of Grand Prairie its Partner of the Year in honor of the city's clean air initiatives. From left, the City of Grand Prairie's Cindy Mendez, director of public health and environmental quality, Mayor Ron Jensen and Kylie Wieden, environmental outreach coordinator, accepted the award Dec. 12.

You could say Air North Texas and the **City of Grand Prairie** have an air-tight relationship.

Air North Texas, the clean air campaign led by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, recently named Grand Prairie its Partner of the Year in recognition of the city's efforts to improve air quality throughout ozone season. Grand Prairie hosted 13 air quality community events, drawing an estimated 9,000 people. The city also participated in a variety of activities on Clean Air Action Day geared toward staff, industries and the community.

Clean Air Action Day is Air North Texas' annual celebration that calls attention to the region's air quality by asking individuals, businesses and governments to make at least one change to their routines to improve the air.

Grand Prairie developed an internal Clean Air Action Day campaign for employees, posted clean air messages on the city website and social media accounts and hosted the Clean Air Industry Challenge, which drew participation from 11 companies.

In addition to Grand Prairie, three other Dallas-Fort Worth area cities were recognized by Air North Texas for their encouragement of individuals and employers to make clean air choices that can help bring the region into attainment of the federal government's ozone standards.

The **City of Cedar Hill** won two Air North Texas awards: Outstanding Outreach and the Arlo Ambassador Award. To earn recognition for outreach, Cedar Hill used its website and social media platforms to highlight Air North Texas, while sending regular email reminders to keep staff engaged in air quality initiatives.

The **City of Plano** was recognized for Outstanding Education. Plano used various digital media sources, including its Live Green in Plano Facebook page, to spread the word about the importance of clean air.

The **City of Dallas** was awarded Outstanding Initiative. In addition to launching other efforts designed to address air quality and promote clean air practices in Dallas, the city held an Air Sensor Summit, which convened stakeholders and experts to discuss innovative air monitoring programs.

Air North Texas is a regional public awareness campaign that includes 39 partners pursuing environmental awareness. It was formed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments with support of the Air North Texas Coalition. Partners support the campaign by encouraging residents to commit to actions that improve air quality, such as working from home, bicycling or walking to the store and packing lunch instead of eating out.

Governments can select from a list of commitments broken into categories that focus on public services, programs and enforcement, employee communication and vehicle operations. Businesses can choose from options related to operations, employee communication and vehicle operations.

Ozone season in North Texas ended Nov. 30; however, residents, businesses and governments are encouraged to contribute to the effort to improve the air throughout the year. For more information, visit AirNorthTexas.org.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION



This past fall, nearly 150 homes in Arlington received scheduled at-home grocery deliveries with the help of robots, including Clevon's autonomous delivery robot, CLEVON 1.

As North Texas' population continues to grow, so do advances in technology that could revolutionize the way we live, work and play. This month, we introduce a new feature examining issues important to transportation and their effect on Dallas-Fort Worth residents. In January, we look at three innovations that have made technological leaps and bounds over the past few years – and may someday be a part of our everyday lives.

High-speed rail could one day provide a smooth, traffic-free ride across the region and to other points throughout Texas and the US; Arlington is testing a new way to deliver food to parts of the city; and modern gondolas may one day help move people through dense areas as an alternative to cars. Read more about these projects by visiting the topic of the month [webpage](#).

ELECTRIC VEHICLE ROAD TRIP STOPS IN DENTON TO TOUT GAS ALTERNATIVE



Savana Nance, NCTCOG principal air quality planner, delivered remarks at the recent Electrify Texas: The North Texas Roadshow EV event in Denton.

Electric vehicles are more plentiful across North Texas than ever before, now totaling more than 122,000 throughout the region, according to the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities registration data (www.dfwcleancities.org/evsintexas). While this represents just a fraction of all vehicles on the road, EV sales have grown more than 35% this year.

North Texans had the opportunity to see electric vehicles in action at a December EV event in Denton called “Electrify Texas: The North Texas Roadshow.” The Texas EV Alliance and Texas Electric School Bus Project teamed up to hit the road with a fleet of electric vehicles for a two-day, four-city, 770-mile trek across North Texas, which included a stop in Denton. Representatives from the EV industry, public officials, and advocates joined the tour to educate North Texans about resources and progress in electrifying city, business, school district and other fleets. The tour also

stopped in Sherman, Gainesville and Wichita Falls. On display were Tesla's popular Model Y and the Ford Mustang Mach E; a big, bright yellow all-electric Blue Bird school bus even made the trip.

Statewide and regional efforts are underway to build more EV charging stations, thanks in part to the more than \$400 million Texas received from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Texas Department of Transportation is in the middle of Phase 1 of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, which focuses on stations along interstate highways. Once the first phase is complete, TxDOT will turn its attention to charging ports in county seats and metropolitan areas across the state.

NCTCOG is contributing to the buildout of EV stations through a \$15 million award from the federal government's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program. The North Central Texas Council of Governments received \$15 million to build 100 additional charging ports across Dallas-Fort Worth.

NCTCOG is conducting outreach to surrounding counties to determine where new charging infrastructure should be installed. Those who attended the event in Denton were asked where more chargers are needed. Among the most popular answers were parks, hotels, shopping centers, and multifamily properties – places where vehicles are typically parked for longer periods of time. Some wanted to see chargers at gyms, parks, movie theaters and downtown areas.

The input provided will inform placement of EV chargers built using the \$15 million from the CFI community grant as well as recommendations to TxDOT for Phase 2 of the Texas EV Infrastructure Plan.

“For the region to continue leading in the EV marketplace, it is crucial for us to integrate feedback from the public into our plans,” said Savana Nance, principal air quality planner, NCTCOG, who represented DFW Clean Cities at the Denton stop. For more, visit PublicInput.com/nctcogevcharging.

DFW CLEAN CITIES HONORS REGION'S TOP FLEETS FOR IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY



More than two dozen North Texas fleets were honored for their commitment to cleaner air and reduced reliance on fossil fuels at the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition's annual Fleet Recognition Awards, held Dec. 12 at the offices of the North Texas Council of Governments. The winners included nine Gold, eight Silver and 10 Bronze recipients.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit was awarded Gold status for the sixth consecutive year, while the cities of **Carrollton** and **Dallas**, along with **Dallas Fort Worth International Airport**, earned Gold for the fifth straight year. Other entities bringing home the top honor were the cities of **Denton**, **Grand Prairie**, **Irving** and **Southlake**, as well as **Trinity Metro**.

The winners of the Silver recognition were the cities of **Arlington**, **Fort Worth**, **Frisco**, **Lancaster**, **Lewisville**, and **North Richland Hills**, along with **Dallas ISD** and **Lazer Spot Inc.**

The following were honored with Bronze status: **Birdville ISD**, **Span Inc.**, **Bimbo Bakeries**, **Tarrant County**, **Denton County**, the towns of **Flower Mound** and **Addison**, and the cities of **Benbrook**, **Mesquite** and **Plano**.

In addition, six cities were recognized for a decade of fleet reporting: **Carrollton**, **Cedar Hill**, **Lancaster**, **Lewisville**, **Rockwall** and **Watauga**.

ICYMI: STILL TIME TO WEIGH IN ON TRANSIT NEEDS FOR REGION



There's still time for North Texans to weigh in on how the next public transportation coordination plan should look. NCTCOG is asking for assistance from residents who rely on public transportation and the agencies that provide the service as planners develop Access North Texas documents, the regional plan documenting the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes across the 16-county region. The plan 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.

NCTCOG TO HOST HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING JAN. 13



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING

NCTCOG is looking for input on transportation initiatives during a public meeting at noon on Monday, Jan. 13. This meeting will be held at NCTCOG headquarters, located at 616 Six Flags Drive, in Arlington. Those who are unable to attend in person will be able to watch the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogJan25. Viewers are also encouraged to call 855-925-2801 and enter code 7533 to join the conversation. Public comments will be accepted until Feb. 11.

The first presentation will focus on the Work Zone Data Exchange Call for Projects. This initiative aims to improve how work zone data is shared in real time across the region. In 2022, NCTCOG selected five vendors to help convert work zone data into a standardized format and create a system for reporting this data.

In June 2023, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) provided funding to move the project forward. Local agencies submitted their project proposals for funding in November 2024, and NCTCOG will present a summary of the projects being recommended for implementation.

Staff will also discuss multiple electric vehicle (EV) charging station deployment projects that are bringing nearly \$90 million to the region. NCTCOG is asking for feedback on the best way to use this funding, and members of the public can share their thoughts at PublicInput.com/nctcogevcharging.

Additionally, NCTCOG works with regional partners to create strategies that improve air quality. Staff will highlight local projects that have received grants to reduce emissions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and will share information about current funding opportunities for fleets looking to buy cleaner vehicles and equipment.

Administrative revisions to the Mobility 2045 – 2022 Update, air quality funding opportunities, information about the Try Parking It program and Access North Texas plan will also be posted online for review.

Residents planning to use transit to attend the meeting can take advantage of \$6 round-trip rides from the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG via the Arlington Transportation app. To download the app, visit [ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand](https://www.ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand).

For special accommodation related to disabilities or language interpretation, contact 817-573-1719 or email hwitcher@nctcog.org.

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.

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