

## AGENDA

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, April 23, 2021

#### North Central Texas Council of Governments

**1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda (Meeting Will be Held as a Videoconference)**

**1:30 – 1:35 1. Approval of March 26, 2021, Minutes**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the March 26, 2021, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.

Background: N/A

**1:35 – 1:40 2. Consent Agenda**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes : 5

**2.1. Changes to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Resulting from Statewide Financial Constraints**

Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for 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 (UPWP) and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth region, along with the other metropolitan planning organizations in the state, submitted TIP listings to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in June 2020. At the statewide level, TxDOT determined that the draft STIP listings, TxDOT's information system, and long-term State funding plans were not financially constrained. In late 2020, TxDOT submitted proposed changes to North Central Texas Council of Governments staff for review and asked staff to advance the submittal of its regular TIP/STIP modifications through an amended process (not the quarterly cycle). A few final changes were proposed that result in additional revisions to the 2021-2024 TIP, which are provided as Electronic Item 2.1 for the Committee's consideration. These changes 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

**2.2. Fiscal Year 2021 Education Campaigns for Transportation Initiatives: Phase 3**

Presenter: Hilary Nguyen, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will seek the Committee's support for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to recommend North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board approval of \$326,000 in funding for education campaigns for Phase 3 transportation initiatives that will initiate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

Background: Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale advertising 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 2.2.1 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 2.2.2 provides a reminder of Phase 1 and Phase 2 FY2021 budget previously approved as well as more information on Phase 3 FY2021 education campaign costs along with examples of past education campaigns. Education campaigns in Phase 3 will support Ozone Season Emissions Reduction Campaign, Regional Smoking Vehicle Program, Transit Pandemic Recovery, and Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions programs.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

**2.3. Regional Vanpool Program Modifications to Improve Overall Efficiency**

Presenter: Dora Kelly, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of Regional Vanpool Program modifications to improve overall efficiency will be requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Regional Vanpool Program is operated by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), and Trinity Metro and achieves many regional benefits including lowering emissions by removing single-occupant vehicles off the road. The RTC previously approved funding to support vanpool services. Each transit agency operates its vanpool program slightly different, which can be confusing to the public. Staff recently began assessing the program to look for ways to modernize and improve overall efficiency. In

collaboration with staff from DART, DCTA, and Trinity Metro, various areas have been identified for improvement to help simplify the program, reduce rider confusion, avoid unintended competition among the transit agencies, and gain greater program efficiency.

The Committee will be asked to recommend RTC approval of Regional Vanpool Program updates including defined agency boundaries, temporary flexibility to the subsidy funding structure, and a regional cooperative vanpool procurement to create a more unified program that will benefit current and future riders. Electronic Item 2.3 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

**2.4. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Performance Measures**

Presenter: Shawn Dintino, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Recommendation of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regional transit safety targets, new federally required performance measures relating to improving transit safety in the region, will be requested.

Background: The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule became effective on July 19, 2019. PTASP seeks to improve public transportation safety by requiring operators of public transportation who receive federal Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funding to more effectively and proactively manage safety risks in their systems through the development of safety plans, which include individual agency transit safety performance targets. Once individual plans and targets are submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the RTC must adopt regional transit safety targets within 180 days. Applicable regional providers provided their plans to the North Central Texas Council of Governments as of December 2020. The proposed regional targets will be used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and will be used in the planning process to implement programs to improve transit safety. Details can be found in Electronic Item 2.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit, Safety

1:40 – 1:50

3. **“Trade Fair” Partnership with Lubbock and Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed on a proposed “Trade Fair” partnership with Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Rio Grande Valley MPO and will be asked to recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the partnership.

Background: The Lubbock MPO approached the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) with the proposal of creating a trade between the two agencies. The Lubbock MPO is requesting to borrow cash flow/allocation authority from the RTC/NCTCOG for a total of \$21,000,000 of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds for two projects in FY2023 and FY2025. In turn, the Lubbock MPO would repay the full \$21,000,000 of STBG funds back over three years to NCTCOG in FY2028 - FY2030.

The Rio Grande Valley MPO approached NCTCOG with the proposal of creating a trade as well. The Rio Grande Valley MPO is requesting to borrow cash flow/allocation authority from RTC/NCTCOG for a total of \$14,578,845 of STBG funds in FY2022. In turn, the Rio Grande Valley MPO would repay the full \$14,578,845 of STBG funds back to NCTCOG in FY2026. The terms of the repayment are still to be determined.

Electronic Item 3 contains additional information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Administrative

1:50 – 2:00

4. **American Rescue Plan Act Transit Funding Allocations: Round 3**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Edgar Hernandez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for US Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding allocations in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Background: The FTA announced April 2, 2021, a total of \$30 billion nationwide in additional federal funding allocations to help alleviate funding shortfalls for the nation’s largest public transportation systems due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Funding is provided through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021.

The primary objective of the funding is to ensure public transit agencies receive sufficient funding, when combined with Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) apportionments, to equal at least 132 percent of the Urbanized Area’s (UZA) public transit operating costs based on 2018 expenses. The North Central

Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is the designated recipient for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (DFWA) UZA and the Denton-Lewisville (DL) UZA.

The DFWA UZA will receive \$340,487,932 and the DL UZA was allocated \$14,115,131. Funding will be provided at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and prioritizes the use of funds for operational and payroll needs but also supports expenses traditionally eligible under the Urbanized Area Formula Program and the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. The DFWA UZA and DL UZA are receiving Urbanized Area Formula Program funding only because several transit agencies fall below the 132 percent threshold.

Staff will request a recommendation for RTC approval of funding allocations based on FTA's methodology for Urbanized Area Formula Program funds under the American Rescue Plan and for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program funds to be distributed based on eligibility and need. Details can be found in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current transportation items, including a summary on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

- Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects during COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 5.1) ([www.nctcoq.org/pm/covid-19](http://www.nctcoq.org/pm/covid-19))
- Status Report on Proposed Resolution to the Regional Transportation Council regarding the North Texas Tollway Authority's (NTTA's) Desire to Place SH 360 South in the NTTA System (Action) (Electronic Item 5.2)
- Status Report on Dallas City Council Resolution Regarding the D2 Alignment (Electronic Item 5.3)
- Staffing Changes: Resignation of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Program Manager Kevin Feldt
- NCTCOG Staff Received Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship through the US Department of Transportation
  - 2020 – Catherine Osborn and Rachel Jenkins
  - 2021 – Vivian Fung and Nicholas Allen

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Map Your Experience: Interactive Online Tool for Public Comments**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present information on Map Your Experience, a new online mapping tool that allows the general public to submit comments on their transportation experiences at specific locations in the region.

Background: As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the North Central Texas region, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has a robust public involvement framework for engaging the public in the planning process and accepting public comments. The ongoing pandemic has made in-person public involvement difficult and online tools are helping to fill the gap until traditional in-person activities can resume. While these new tools do not fully replace these public involvement activities, they are helping to bridge the gap and may become an integral component of public involvement processes going forward. Details are provided in Electronic Item 6.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (2021)**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Matt Fall, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP), including the purpose, goals and recommended policies, regional data analysis, identified safety corridors, and a pedestrian public opinion survey.

Background: A regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan was completed in early 2021 in response to the steadily increasing number of pedestrian fatalities across North Texas since 2010. Pedestrian fatalities in the North Texas region were well above state and national averages during that same time, leading the Federal Highway Administration to designate Texas as a focus State for pedestrian safety, and Dallas and Fort Worth as focus cities.

The purpose of the PSAP is to serve as a guide for improving pedestrian safety across the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area. The PSAP was developed as one of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' many efforts to support the safety positions adopted by the Regional Transportation Council and the Texas Transportation Commission. Staff will provide an overview of the PSAP including goals, policy recommendations, and action items. The PSAP, including appendices, can be viewed at [www.nctcog.org/pedsafetyplan](http://www.nctcog.org/pedsafetyplan). Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

2:30 – 2:40

8. **2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Development**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process, expectations, and upcoming meetings.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort among the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

For regionally significant projects to proceed to implementation, they must be included in the TIP listings correctly. To this end, NCTCOG staff will meet with local partners to receive input and updates on all their active projects. The data from these meetings will be assessed and organized into a draft project listing, which is financially constrained against the funding allocations identified in the Unified Transportation Program. Special attention will be placed on projects that are at risk of losing federal funds or on the RTC's MPO Milestone Policy list. Details on the 2023-2026 TIP Development process, timeline, and focus areas are available in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Legislative Update**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Nicholas Allen, 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. Legislative information to be covered include the following:

- Federal Infrastructure Bill Update
- Recent Committee Actions
- Bills of Interest in the Texas Legislature
- State Budget Update

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The first session of the 117<sup>th</sup> US Congress convened on January 3, 2021. The 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature convened on January 12, 2021.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:50 – 3:00

10. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update regarding the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation (DFW HST) Connections Study. Currently the project is nearing completion of its first phase, including analysis of route and mode alternatives.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the DFW HST Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis effort. The second phase will be a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Staff and the consultant have been analyzing alternatives while engaging the public and stakeholders. The Phase 1 efforts are designed to reduce the number of alternatives (technology and alignment) to a minimum for more detailed analysis in the Phase 2 effort. The following items will be presented:

- Draft Preliminary Project Purpose
- Preliminary route screening results
- Preliminary mode screening results
- Technology update
- Engagement opportunities
- Project schedule

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit, Safety

3:00 – 3:10

11. **Status Report on Engine Off North Texas**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Huong Duong, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a brief overview and update on the Engine Off North Texas (EONT) program.

Background: Engine Off North Texas began as a program to support locally enforced idling restrictions encouraging local jurisdictions to execute the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Memorandum of Agreement and adopt an ordinance or resolution for local enforcement of the State's motor vehicle idling limitation rule. The program focused on educating and providing resources to the general public, truck drivers, and local governments about idling policies and idle reduction strategies. Resources include a webpage, idling complaint hotline, local government guide, brochures, posters, and idle restriction regulatory signs. EONT continues to encourage idle reduction in the region, and an updated approach encourages the implementation of idle reduction policy, technology, and enforcement. In March 2021, EONT launched the revitalized program which includes a revamped webpage, local



government guide, brochure, and metal regulatory signs along with an education and outreach campaign. Please see Electronic Item 11 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:10 – 3:15

12. **North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts Coalition**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenter: Chris Klaus, Transportation Department, NCTCOG and Tamara Cook, Environment and Development Department, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present information regarding the North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts (RISE) Coalition.

Background: The Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts Coalition existing membership of Cedar Hill, Dallas, Denton, Farmers Branch, Fort Worth, Lewisville, Plano, and Tarrant Regional Water District wishes to extend an invitation for all North Central Texas Council of Government members to collaborate with them in networking, leveraging regional resources, and sharing best practices. \The RISE Coalition, formerly the North Central Texas Stewardship Forum, works to engage interested local governments in peer-exchange opportunities to support sustainability and environmental initiatives. Currently, a Regional Emissions Inventory is under development. Near term topic areas of focus may include: Emissions Impact Analysis and Mitigation/Adaptation Strategy Development, Urban Heat Island Reduction Strategy Analysis, and Food Diversion and Waste Reduction Programs. Please see Electronic Item 12 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:15 – 3:15

13. **Fast Facts**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 13.1)
2. East/West Equity Update (Electronic Item 13.2)
3. Deadline to Submit Requests for Transportation Improvement Program Modifications through the August 2021 Cycle – April 23, 2021 (<https://rtrinternal.nctcog.org/login>)
4. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
5. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)

6. Commercial Motor Vehicle Violations: Enforcement, Prosecution, and Reporting Training Opportunity for Prosecutors and Judges, May 18 and 19, 2021  
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/safety/transportation-safety/commercial-vehicle-enforcement>)
7. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Programs (Electronic Item 13.3)
8. Status Report on Ozone Season (Electronic Item 13.4)
9. March Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 13.5)
10. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.6)
11. Written Progress Reports:
  - Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.7)
  - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.8)
14. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on May 28, 2021**.