



NOVEMBER 2024

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

**NCTCOG WINS \$80 MILLION GRANT
FOR SMART PORT**



The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and Hillwood have been awarded \$80 million from the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. The grant is expected to transform the U.S. supply chain and increase supply chain resilience by providing regional, state and national leaders with real-time tracking of goods and services as they move through the new Smart Port at AllianceTexas. The AllianceTexas Smart Port was one of 44 projects chosen nationwide and the lone selection from Texas.

This \$262 million public-private partnership, which includes \$96 million of private sector investment, connects the AllianceTexas Inland Port, one of the nation's critical supply chain hubs, to the Dallas-Fort Worth regional transportation network and its bigger state and national ecosystems, which include the Texas Connected Freight Corridor (TCFC) and the critical National Highway Freight Network corridors of Interstate Highways 35 and 45.

The real-time tracking of goods and services will be coupled with a direct connector bridge from the heart of the AllianceTexas Inland Port facility to State Highway 170. The bridge will alleviate east-west freight traffic, taking trucks off Interstate 35W and a four-lane suburban road, and more efficiently routing them to their destination. By reducing traffic congestion, it will improve road safety, air quality, access to jobs and the quality of life for over 3 million area residents across Denton and Tarrant counties. Approximately 4.2 million trucks move in and out of the BNSF Railway Alliance Intermodal Facility each year, a number expected to almost double by 2035. Read more [here](#).

RTC APPROVES LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 89TH SESSION



The Regional Transportation Council approved its Legislative Program for the 89th Texas Legislature at its October meeting, outlining its priorities for the 140-day session that begins in January. The plan is divided into the following three categories:

- Legislation to actively pursue
- Legislation to actively pursue with others
- Provide testimony upon request

The measures the RTC will actively pursue include ensuring metropolitan regions receive fair-share allocation for capacity improvements to roadways or the ability to use public-private partnerships, and support of innovative funding to expand passenger rail and public transportation options in Dallas-Fort Worth.

High-speed rail and roadway safety are also areas of emphasis. To advance high-speed rail, the RTC plans to work with the Texas Department of Transportation to review the potential creation of a new state high-speed rail authority.

The RTC looks to use the 89th Session to improve driver safety, which may include pursuing, with other entities, legislation that would lower excessive speed limits, reduce aggressive driving and eliminate driving under the influence.

The entire Legislative program is available at [NCTCOG.org/trans/involve/legislate](https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/legislate).

ADDISON TESTS POP-UP BIKE LANE



The Town of Addison could be pedaling its way toward becoming a more bike-friendly city.

In October, Addison's Parks and Recreation and Public Works and Engineering teams, in partnership with NCTCOG, launched a bike lane [pilot program](#) along the town's Quorum Drive. Part of a broader study to improve first-mile/last-mile connections, the pilot ran from Airport Parkway to Addison Circle and was designed to enhance mobility options ahead of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line light rail development. The study was also conducted to gauge the ability to calm traffic and lower traffic speeds along the corridor to improve safety and comfort for pedestrians.

The lanes were unveiled at a community event on Oct. 12 and were available for use for approximately three weeks. The lanes gave cyclists, pedestrians and motorists an opportunity to interact with one another and test the waters of new infrastructure. Those who test-drove the

lanes were encouraged to submit comments through a survey, with comments being used to shape future decisions on permanent bike lanes and transportation improvements in Addison, according to a press release.

DART's 26-mile Silver Line will travel between Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and Shiloh Road in Plano, across the northern section of the DART service area. The alignment will cross through seven cities: Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Carrollton, Richardson, Plano and Addison.

Over the summer, DART began running test trains on a completed portion of the line between Richardson and Plano. DART expects the nearly \$2.1 billion Silver Line to start serving riders late 2025 or early 2026.

DFW OZONE SEASON ENDS NOV. 30



North Texans concerned about high levels of ozone pollution can breathe a sigh of relief: Ozone season for the 10-county nonattainment area is coming to an end.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, ozone season lasts from March 1 through Nov. 30. That's because there's a greater risk of ground-level ozone pollution when temperatures are higher and there's

less wind. Area residents typically get a breather from those weather patterns December through February.

With the current design value of 83 parts per billion (ppb), the Dallas-Fort Worth region continues to work toward compliance with the federal government's standards for ozone pollution. There are two such standards for North Texas: one from 2008 that established a limit of 75 parts per billion and a more recent 70 ppb standard from 2015.

Due to missed deadlines for complying with the standards, the North Texas region has been reclassified and faces stricter air quality requirements. The region was upgraded from serious to severe nonattainment under the 2008 standard, with a deadline of 2027 to achieve compliance. Additionally, the region moved, on request of Governor Greg Abbott, from moderate to serious nonattainment under the 2015 standard and must reach attainment by summer of 2027.

In the meantime, NCTCOG continues to support the implementation of various programs and policies to help the area meet attainment of both standards and avoid further sanctions. Efforts include:

- Federal air quality performance measures
- Emissions reduction strategies
- Continuing to coordinate with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on regional impacts of reclassification

Area residents can help by:

- Using public transportation
- Reducing the number of trips by combining errands
- Reducing the use of single-occupancy vehicles by carpooling
- Taking part in air quality education programs, such as Air North Texas
- Avoiding idling vehicle engines

Sign up for air pollution alerts at [AirNorthTexas.org](https://www.airnorthtexas.org).

76104 TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR NOV. 19



NCTCOG will host a public meeting to discuss the Transit Needs Assessment Study for Fort Worth's 76104 ZIP code. The public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Ella Mae Shamblee Library, 1062 Evans Ave. in Fort Worth. The 76104 study is designed to identify innovative transit solutions to increase mobility and access for residents to food, healthcare, housing, and jobs in a part of Fort Worth identified as an area of persistent poverty. The planning study will also identify strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to transit.

According to a 2019 UT Southwestern study, residents of Fort Worth's 76104 ZIP code had the lowest life expectancy in Texas, with residents averaging just 67 years. This statistic has spurred community leaders and health advocates to address the underlying factors contributing to the area's health disparities.

NCTCOG staff used information gathered from an online survey and an in-person public meeting to identify potential service gaps and points of interest in the 76104 ZIP code. Most of the responses fell into four main categories:

- **Fares and Affordability:** Recommendations related to fares center on continuing efforts to align any future transit fare structure changes with regional standards and practices for affordability.

- **Marketing and Awareness:** Marketing recommendations highlight ongoing and future outreach efforts that may be used to heighten awareness of transit services offered in the specific project area.
- **Safety and Accessibility:** Recommendations for safety and accessibility focus on bus stop and sidewalk improvements and how NCTCOG can assist with planning and funding opportunities.
- **Operations Improvements:** Operational recommendations take transit frequency and on-time performance into consideration, along with recent service changes and improvements.

Feedback on the draft recommendations is encouraged and will be accepted through Jan.17, 2025. All recommendations are still being developed as more feedback from local stakeholders and the public is received. Provide your feedback today at PublicInput.com/76104survey.

NCTCOG TO HOST HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING NOV. 11



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING

NCTCOG will seek input on several important transportation initiatives during a public meeting at noon Monday, Nov. 11.

The session will be held at NCTCOG's offices, located at 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington. Those unable to attend in person can watch the discussion live at PublicInput.com/nctcogNov24. Participants can also call 855-925-2801 and enter code 7348 to engage in the conversation. Public comments will be accepted until Dec. 10.

The first presentation will focus on the North Central Texas Regional Transit 2.0 initiative. This program explores strategies for collaboration among transit authorities and city leaders, along with potential policy recommendations for meeting future regional needs.

NCTCOG staff will also present an update on Mobility 2050, the region's next long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. For information, visit NCTCOG.org/planinprogress.

An introduction to the 511DFW Travel Information System will also be included. This system is designed to provide real-time information about roadway conditions, transit options and roadside assistance in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The bilingual service is set to launch in November and will be accessible online and via a mobile app.

In addition, there will be an opportunity for online review and comment on proposed modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program. This is a multi-year plan that tracks regional transportation projects funded by federal, state and local sources.

Information on Map Your Experience, air quality programs and funding opportunities, Try Parking It, and business engagement will also be available online for review and comment.

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 817-695-9255 or email jcastillo@nctcog.org.

ONLINE:

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY, WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS



Throughout the year, the Regional Transportation Council has been celebrating its 50th anniversary as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. We commemorated the occasion this summer by bringing together leaders who have played key roles in the development of our transportation system. Read what they said about the impact of the RTC in the fall issue of Mobility Matters.

Also in this issue, NCTCOG Director of Transportation Michael Morris discusses the importance of density in our fast-growing region, and you can read about the Irving Bike Plan and preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Finally, Carrollton Mayor Steve Babick is our RTC spotlight. Read more [here](#).


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.

--Imagery provided by NCTCOG, the Town of Addison, Hillwood and Getty Images.

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