



4. RTC New Member Orientation
5. Today's Agenda Briefly Covering Many Items to include those Previously Delayed
6. Comprehensive List of Projects Item Being Developed, to be Presented at a Future Meeting along with the East/West Equity Briefing
7. Follow Up on Letter to the Secretary of Transportation, 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Approved
8. Follow Up on Letter to the Texas Transportation Commission IH 35E Phase 2, Project Approved and TxDOT Meetings have begun on SH 183
9. Format of Future RTC Meetings
10. Letter to the Region on Margaret McDermott Bridge (Electronic Item 4.1)
11. Fort Worth Bypass Channel, Fort Worth's Panther Island to Receive Federal Funding in 2022 (Electronic Item 4.2)
12. Early Completion of IH 635/SH 121 (Electronic Item 4.3)
13. Announcement of Green Transportation Infrastructure Workshop, August 24, 2021 (Electronic Item 4.4)
14. Blue-Green-Grey Funding Initiative Request for Proposals due by 5:00 pm, Friday, August 13, 2021
15. Clean Air Action Day, August 4, 2021
16. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
17. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources>)
18. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 4.5)
19. North Texas Unmanned Aircraft Systems Safety and Integration Initiative's Community Integration Working Group (Electronic Item 4.6)
20. Monthly Know Before You Fly Your Drone Workshops (<https://www.northtexasuas.com/UAS-Taskforce#Workshops>)
21. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 4.7)
22. August Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 4.8)
23. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.9)
24. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.10)
25. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.11)
26. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.12)

1:30 – 1:40

5. **Ensuring Equity: Dallas Opportunity Zone 1 Funding Partnership and Federal Transit Administration Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a funding partnership with the City of Dallas and a proposed Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant application in the City of Fort Worth, including the ability to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and other administrative/planning documents, as needed, to incorporate these projects.

Background: Ongoing discussions have occurred about needed transportation improvements in southern Dallas. As part of the

RTC action on the Assessment Policy in April 2019, the RTC committed to additional funding for Dallas Opportunity Zone 1. A funding request has been received from the City of Dallas for projects in that area. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff is proposing to fund several of these projects to help improve walkability, promote revitalization in Environmental Justice communities, and address deficient pavement condition.

In July 2021, the FTA announced the FY2021 Areas of Persistent Poverty Funding Opportunity. Eligible projects include planning studies, engineering studies, technical studies, or financial plans and must be located in an Area of Persistent Poverty. A copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) detailing the grant program for Fiscal Year 2021, as well as the application requirements is available in Electronic Item 5.1. Applications are due by August 30, 2021. In response to the NOFO, NCTCOG staff requests approval to submit a proposal to study transit access to food, jobs, healthcare, affordable housing, and other needs as identified by the residents of the 76104 zip code in southeast Fort Worth. This zip code is an area of persistent poverty as well as a food desert, and was identified by University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center as having the lowest life expectancy of any zip code in the state.

Details on the proposed partnership with the City of Dallas and the proposed FTA grant application in Fort Worth can be found in Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

1:40 – 1:45

6. **2021 Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment Call for Projects**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5  
 Presenter: Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG  
 Item Summary: Staff will request approval to use \$1 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding to fund the regional Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment Call for Projects.  
 Background: In July 2020, the Regional Transportation Council approved the Incident Management Blocking Equipment Pilot Project as part of the 2020 Incident Management Equipment Purchase Call for Projects. In support of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Traffic Incident Management Training Program, funding was made available for the purchase of freeway emergency scene management blocking equipment (e.g., crash barriers, attenuators, etc.) to provide protection to incident responders responding to traffic crashes in the North Central Texas nonattainment area. Due to Buy America compliancy restrictions associated with Federal Highway Administration funding, projects selected under the special pilot project were approved to be funded with RTR funding. Based on multiple requests from member agencies to seek funding to

purchase similar blocking equipment funded under the pilot project, staff will request approval to utilize RTR funding for projects selected under a 2021 Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment Call for Projects. Additional information on this request is provided in Electronic Item 6.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

- 1:45 – 1:50**    7.    **Supplemental Environmental Project Funding Recommendation for Comprehensive Air Quality Planning**
- Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:        5
- Presenter:        Lori Clark, NCTCOG
- Item Summary:   Staff will request Regional Transportation Committee approval of funding recommendations for the North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program, which receives funds through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ's) Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP).
- Background:     The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) administers the North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program, which has been approved by the TCEQ as a third-party SEP initiative. Through this program, NCTCOG can offer funding for projects to replace old diesel school buses. NCTCOG recently solicited school bus replacement projects from school districts in the 10-county ozone nonattainment area with eligible model year diesel school buses and has developed funding recommendations for responses received. Electronic Item 7 provides an overview of the solicitation of responses and staff recommendations.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

- 1:50 – 1:55**    8.    **Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative Grant Program**
- Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:        5
- Presenter:        Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG
- Item Summary:   Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of regional support for the City of Fort Worth's application for a grant under the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) 2021 Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant program.
- Background:     In June 2021, US DOT issued the announcement for the 2021 ATCMTD grant program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the \$60 million grant program for Fiscal Year 2021 is available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=334272>. Applications are due to US DOT by August 23, 2021. The City of Fort Worth is submitting a grant application for a project on the North Tarrant Express (NTE) corridors (I-35W/SH 180). The project will include a variety of connected vehicle technologies and infrastructure upgrades like technology-enhanced lane striping designed to improve safety and operations for all road users

and provide a supportive operational environment for the operation of automated and connected vehicles. The project would help Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) gain leadership in the deployment of such technologies, which are expected to scale to similar corridors in DFW and beyond over the next decade. Staff seeks RTC approval of the use of up to \$2 million in Regional Toll Revenue funds as a regional contribution to the \$14 million project in the event US DOT awards the requested grant. The remaining project funding upon receipt of a grant award will come from Cintra, the operator of the NTE corridors (\$5 million), and US DOT (\$7 million). Electronic Item 8 contains more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Roadway

1:55 – 2:05

9. **Regional Automated Transportation System Guidelines Development**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide background information and an update on the Regional Automated Transportation System (ATS) Guidelines Development Project.

Background: As part of the Regional Automated Transportation System Initiative (also referred to as the “People Mover Program” in the past), staff issued a request for proposals at the end of 2020. The purpose of this consultant procurement is to develop a set of performance guidelines for ATS vehicle technology and elevated guideway standards to be used in shaping future engineering procurements related to the Regional Automated Transportation System Initiative. Future engineering procurements related to this initiative will utilize these guidelines in project development activities for systems capable of operating in either a people-movement environment or a goods/freight-movement environment. Hence, the Guidelines Development Project is aimed at providing general performance guidelines applicable to a wide range of specific use cases. In February 2021, a consultant was selected, and staff will update the Council on the status of contract development and project delivery.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit, Safety

2:05 – 2:10

10. **Status Report on Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the progress of Volkswagen Settlement activities. Comments recently submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be highlighted, and staff will request outreach assistance to optimize zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure funding for the North Central Texas Council of Governments area.

Background: The consent decree issued as part of the Volkswagen Settlement included an initiative to implement new emissions-reducing projects under the Environmental Mitigation Trust. TCEQ administers the Environmental Mitigation Trust under the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP). Opportunities released under this program continue to progress. Staff has continued to promote availability of funds and has developed outreach resources related to currently available funding. Staff has also completed several analyses related to allocation of remaining funding under the TxVEMP. Electronic Item 10.1 provides an overview of program funds requested thus far and recommended actions to promote further applications. Electronic Item 10.2 provides a copy of comments recently transmitted to the TCEQ about distribution of funding not yet released.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

**2:10 – 2:20** 11. **North Texas Regional Integration of Sustainability Efforts Coalition**

Action  Possible Action  Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Chris Klaus, Transportation Department, NCTCOG  
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 RISE Coalition existing membership of Carrollton, 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 Governments 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 11 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

**2:20 – 2:25** 12. **Fiscal Year 2021 Project Tracking Initiative**

Action  Possible Action  Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Council with an update to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Project Tracking Initiative that was initiated in order to reduce the region's carryover funding balances and expedite project delivery.

Background: Almost every year, Regional Transportation Council (RTC)-selected projects being implemented by local governments experience delays. While a one-year delay is of less consequence, projects tend to be delayed year after year. Over time, these delays led to the need to implement the Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy, which identifies projects that have not advanced to construction after being funded for at least 10 years. However, a 10-year project review does not create an action plan soon enough to reduce the region's growing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, and Transportation Alternatives Set Aside carryover balances. As a secondary line of offense, staff has implemented a project tracking initiative that will highlight project schedule commitments to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the RTC on a regular basis and report local agency progress toward the committed project development schedules. A list of projects that were scheduled to begin in FY2021 and their current status can be found in Electronic Item 12.1. Additional details on this initiative can be found in Electronic Item 12.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

13. **Progress Reports**

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 13.1)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.2)

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

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

16. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for **1:00 pm, Thursday, September 9, 2021.**