

PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on November 8, 2018.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Monday, April 20, through Tuesday, May 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

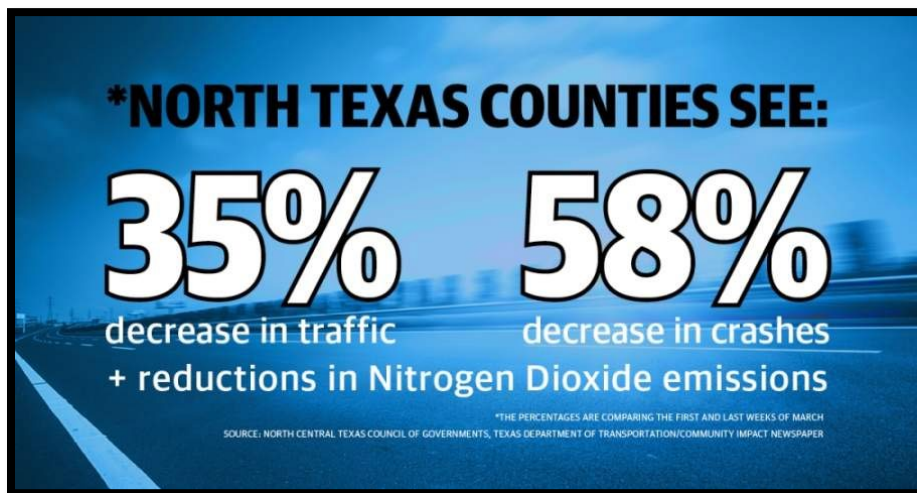
In addition, comments are currently being accepted through a new, online map tool. Users can drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. The tool is in test mode and open to the public through August 2020. This month, there were 38 Bicycle and Pedestrian comments, 19 Roadway comments and 15 transit comments. To read them, visit: <http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. Air quality comments were in the majority.

Air Quality

Facebook –

1. North Texas traffic trends downward as data shows regional air conditions, crash rates improve: <https://bit.ly/2T6wESQ>. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



This is one of the many reasons that I like working from home. The traffic across the living room may be a bear but it is nothing like GWB during rush hour. My stress levels

are much lower too. Round trip it saves me nearly two hours of my day by not driving into the office. I drink less. – Glen Geen

We're happy to hear you're stressing (and drinking) less. 😊 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

2. Awareness week is ending but that doesn't mean our efforts do. City of Fort Worth's Air Quality Division works hard every day to improve air quality and protect the city's health and well-being.

The City also partners with many outstanding organizations like Texas Commission on Environmental Quality NCTCOG Transportation Department and AirNorth Texas, just to name a few.

Find out about the 4 Air Quality specialized teams online at <http://fortworthtexas.gov/env/airquality/>.

Airnow has also provided several resources to stay informed on Air Quality at all different levels – local, regional, state, national and global. – Keep Fort Worth Beautiful

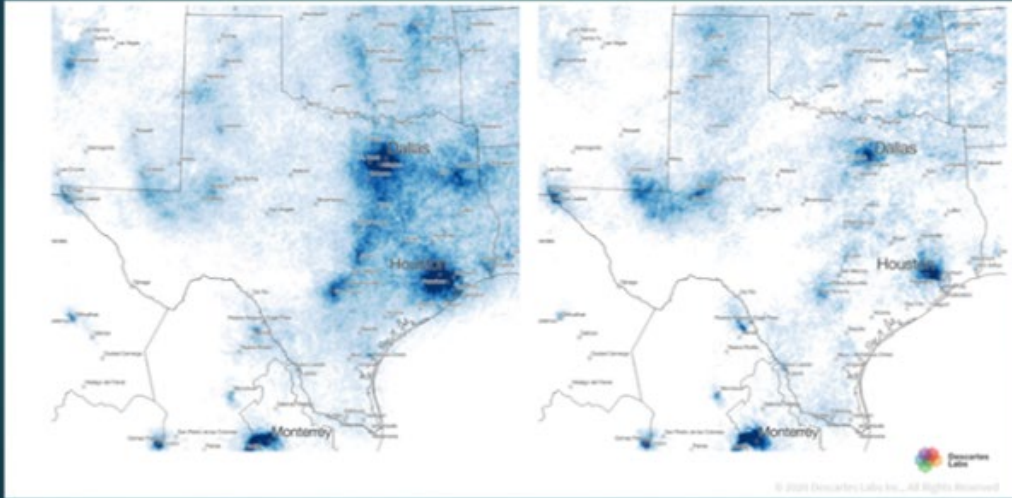


3. We can make a difference in reducing greenhouse gases. If the NO₂ is lower, I bet the CO₂ is also lower. – Julie Singleton

REGIONAL NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂) TRACKING

February 2020

Week of March 29, 2020



NCTCOG Transportation Department

April 22 at 5:54 PM · 🌐

NO₂ levels are currently down due to adhering with stay-at-home orders and reductions in travel.

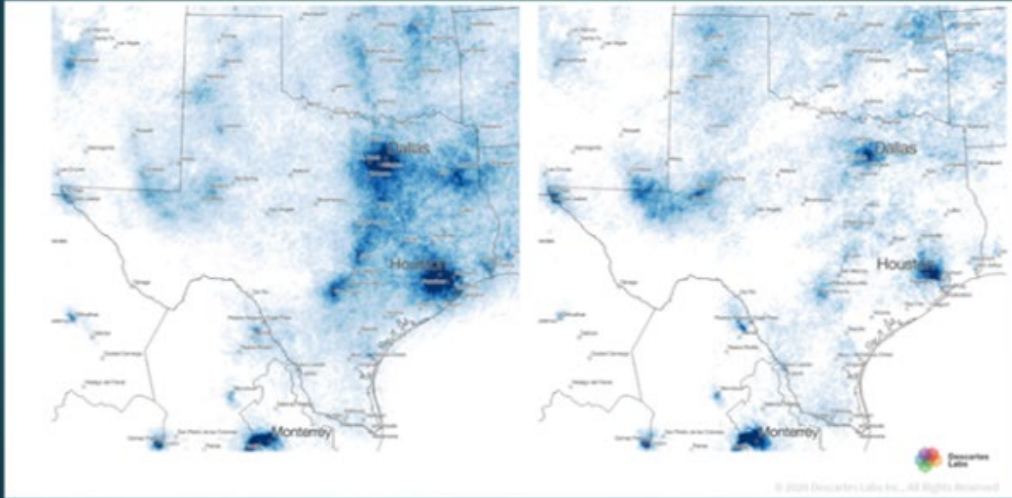
When the State and region re-opens, we encourage continued use of alternative forms of transportation to sustain lower emission levels, if possible, such as telecommuting, combining trips, etc. For more, visit: <https://www.airnorthtexas.org/>.

4. Reducing tailpipe emissions through higher gas mileage cars and adopting alternative fuel vehicles will allow us to keep this clean air we've been enjoying. – Tesla Owners Club of North Texas

REGIONAL NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO2) TRACKING

February 2020

Week of March 29, 2020



NCTCOG Transportation Department

April 22 at 5:54 PM · 🌐

NO2 levels are currently down due to adhering with stay-at-home orders and reductions in travel.

When the State and region re-opens, we encourage continued use of alternative forms of transportation to sustain lower emission levels, if possible, such as telecommuting, combining trips, etc. For more, visit: <https://www.airnorthtexas.org/>.

5. It's #AirQualityAwarenessWeek! – Keep Grapevine Beautiful

A graphic for Air Quality Awareness Week. It features a blue sky background with several white clouds. In the center, a large white cloud contains the text 'Air Quality Awareness Week is coming' in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the clouds, the top of a cartoon character's head with brown hair and large eyes is visible. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a white rectangular box containing text.

NCTCOG Transportation Department
May 1 at 10:14 AM · 🌐

Air Quality Awareness Week starts Monday! Be on the lookout for information about air quality and your health!

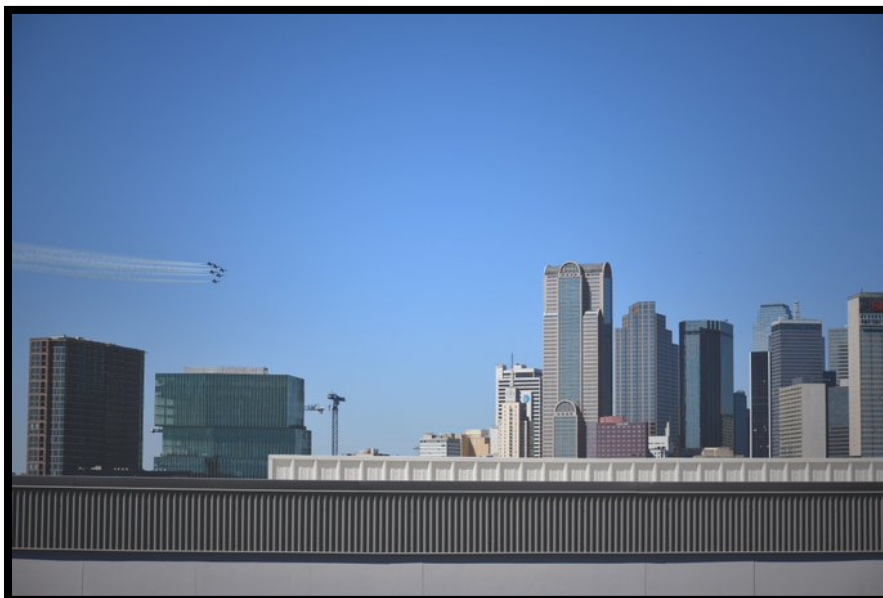
6. You can check the air quality at any time by knowing the Air Quality Index or AQI. Follow the links to Air North Texas to learn more! #AirNTX – City of Denton Sustainability



Aviation

Twitter –

1. Show us your shot of the #BlueAngels flyover! Here's ours from Downtown Dallas. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



<https://youtu.be/vcG7cSJeGv4> – Juan David López (@jotadelopez)

Nice! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Northwest Plano – Kevin Butler (@yuorfaec)



Amazing. America loves its doctors and nurses! They deserve this honor – Anonymous Academic (@Academem2020)

💙 – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



– Investment Architecture

Cool vid! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Facebook –

1. Show us your shots of the #BlueAngels flyover! Here's ours from Downtown Dallas. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Alas, your page permissions don't allow posting images in a reply. 😞 But here's my public link:
[https://www.facebook.com/bollar/posts/10157533762339039?__cft__\[0\]=AZXY77-xRcmlnOxUYMwfZQm0SGhbhvEyYNNsXhW3Hw8sWjJ8tQzbw6CE-Nd5B9pMcOhTWBzaN2jPy11uJpV1J7sPe-1Utkgz_awRAMHRCS_hjsHwD8iZ9T7A2nhhsvCai4&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/bollar/posts/10157533762339039?__cft__[0]=AZXY77-xRcmlnOxUYMwfZQm0SGhbhvEyYNNsXhW3Hw8sWjJ8tQzbw6CE-Nd5B9pMcOhTWBzaN2jPy11uJpV1J7sPe-1Utkgz_awRAMHRCS_hjsHwD8iZ9T7A2nhhsvCai4&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R) . – Rick Bollar

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Email –

1. Ryan Opgenorth

Can you provide an update on Bomber Spur trail initiative, cost, and overall schedule?

Mr. Opgenorth,

Thank you for expressing interest in the Bomber Spur Regional Veloweb Trail corridor in Fort Worth.

Earlier this year, NCTCOG executed a contract from Kimley Horn Associates to conduct preliminary engineering for conceptual design, a preliminary environmental analysis, and discussions regarding probable construction cost of the trail corridor beginning at the intersection of SH 183 and Calmont Ave and continuing south approximately three miles to its terminus at the intersection of SH 183 and W. Vickery Blvd. This effort is in partnership with the City of Fort Worth and Streams and Valleys Inc. and also involves coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation. All work under the contract is expected to be completed by April 30, 2021.

The City of Fort Worth staff will be facilitating an upcoming public meeting to provide more information about the proposed trail alignment. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2020.

For more information about the meeting, please contact Jing Yang Jing.Yang@fortworthtexas.gov or Joel McElhany Joel.McElhany@fortworthtexas.gov at the City of Fort Worth.

Twitter –

1. Enjoy the outdoors and take a trip on our A-train Rail Trail. Sun with rays Check out this video from @NCTCOGtrans when they named our trail their Trail of the Month! – DCTA (@RideDCTA)



Facebook –

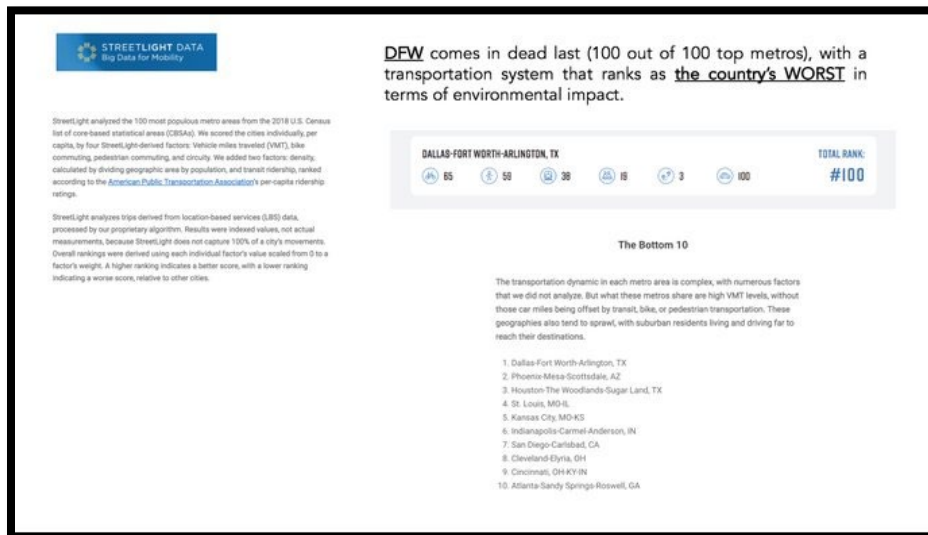
1. There has been a 200% increase in bicycling in the DFW region since early March. – Bike Denton



Environment

Twitter –

1. Big shout out to @NCTCOGtrans and @TxDOTDallas as the DFW region comes in as the #1 WORST in U.S. in terms of adverse environmental impacts from its horrible transportation infrastructure. <https://streetlightdata.com/2020-u-s-transportation-climate-impact-index/> – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)



Does Michael Morris get some kind of plaque for winning this? – GerrardGerrard

🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆 (GerardGerard7)

This criteria is based on Net VMT. In other words, sprawl. The finger can also be pointed at individual homeowners who live far from work. Lets give them a reason to move back, as DFW has been doing for the last 15 years. – Brian Fitzgerald (@fitz91ag)

In its defense, COG does encourage car pooling. – Downwinders at Risk (@cleanerair)

So no shout out to @dartmedia? 🗨️ – caraathome (@🏠)

Fleets

Facebook –

1. Help our friends out at NCTCOG Transportation Department:

Fleet Maintenance Data Needed for Study:

If your fleet operates medium- or heavy-duty natural gas vehicles (NGV) and diesel vehicles for freight and goods movement, please consider partnering with Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC) and Clean Fuels Ohio to provide maintenance data for a study, NGV Updated Performance Tracking Integrating Maintenance Expenses (U.P.-T.I.M.E.).

This study will:

provide fleets and natural gas vehicle (NGV) industry stakeholders relevant, real-world information detailing NGV maintenance costs

improve total cost of ownership calculations

determine the maintenance cost differences between NGV technology generations and current advanced clean diesel engines

Fleets that provide data for this study will receive a report containing a graphical assessment of major parameters by vehicle power train, year, and model as well as answers to important operational questions. To find out more about participating in this study, please contact Amy Hodges at ahodges@nctcog.org. – Texas NGV Alliance

High-speed Transportation

Email –

1. Norman S. Hoyt

I want to be assured that the high speed mass transit between Dallas and Fort Worth is getting proper attention. I understand the Dallas to Houston “bullet train” continues to have unfortunate delays. Reality seems to be shouting for Plan B. The reality is also in my opinion that the Plan B is the center of urban needs for Texas and rates a “do it now”. You know the traffic, environmental concerns, and available real estate along the I-30 corridor. I presented a game plan about 10-15 years ago at your public meeting. That proposal was met with enthusiasm and the engineers were asked to study it. I see it is a link to the Texas Loop. If it is ready it should start first. Hope you have a futuristic solution for us. The efficacy of DFW depends on high speed transit.

Concurrent plans to connect other Metroplex stations to Dallas & Fort Worth’s Stations will ensure optimum ridership both locally and statewide. We must have all documents ready to go out for bids or see Federal Funds go elsewhere. Hope you are ready. We need the boost and President Trump needs a pacesetter.

Mr. Hoyt,

Thank you for your interest in high-speed transportation initiatives in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

The Dallas to Houston high-speed rail (HSR) system is being developed by a private entity. The environment and planning study is expected to receive approval to move forward this year, and construction is expected to begin in early 2021. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) continue to support and monitor this project's progress.

The proposed system from Fort Worth to South Texas was initially studied by TxDOT in an effort referred to as the Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study (TOPRS). Subsequently, NCTCOG conducted the Fort Worth to Laredo High-Speed Transportation Study, reviewed the TOPRS findings and studied several additional options. The NCTCOG study concluded that hyperloop technology is viable in the corridor and consistent with the Mobility 2045 Plan.

The proposed system from Dallas to Fort Worth has also been studied by TxDOT and NCTCOG. The TxDOT project [known as the Dallas-Fort Worth Core Express Service (DFWCES)] concluded with the completion of an alternatives analysis. The NCTCOG effort will commence this week with the execution of a contract with a consultant to conduct a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis over the next three years. This study will analyze connections not only to the other proposed high-speed transportation projects, but also how people connect to the high-speed transportation system.

NCTCOG staff is working hard to create a system to not only better connect areas within the Dallas-Fort Worth region but also connect Dallas-Fort Worth to other major metropolitan areas in Texas.

For more information, please contact Kevin Feldt at 817.704.2529 or kfeldt@nctcog.org.

Project Planning

Email –

1. T.E. Sumner

1. Building up population density in a city center is not good planning. Jobs should be encouraged in less densely-populated areas, and traffic management policies that siphon workers out of less-densely populated area to send them to dense urban centers is counter to economic efficiency, since it leaves smaller towns without businesses in their tax bases, additional commuter needs for high-volume, high-speed traffic with resulting congestion. A policy that does not funnel all traffic into dense downtown urban areas is needed.

2. In line with the above, rings around dense urban centers connect smaller less dense towns to each other. Workers do not need to go into urban center connection points only to take another arterial back out to a suburb. The original Beltline loop, LBJ, Bush and now additional limited access roadways are being envisioned, but cross-connecting of suburban areas should be included in these plans. In addition, light train and bus traffic patterns should be used to improve traffic in less dense areas. A DART loop around Dallas just makes sense. Local buses that hook up smaller cities will help.

3. Now that urban expansion has gone beyond lake areas, e.g. Ray Hubbard, we need to provide alternative roadways to cross those natural barriers. Having only I-30 and SH-66 to

cross does not provide enough redundancy in paths and incidents push high-speed traffic into congested local arterials. Addition bridges over natural barriers (lakes) are needed.

4. Congestion control also has to do with working hours. If everyone is trying to get into dense urban centers for 9:00 opening or leaving after 5:00 closing, more congestion will result. Banning semi-trailer traffic inbound in the morning or outbound in the afternoon would relieve some congestion. Lowering toll rates during off-peak hours will also encourage drivers to shift their commutation times. Low-cost pooled-commuter parking would also encourage pooling. Public transit passes for jury duty and low fares for large events on public transit would help, too. And, all recreational destinations should be covered by transit.

5. Public transit in particular is, after decades, still in the 1970s. No covered bus stops in many areas. Little information for potential riders on how to take a bus to their destinations or return hamper use of public transit, which acts to reduce overall congestion. And safety of passengers from infected vagrants on trains and buses reduces ridership. We don't even know if they sanitize the public transit vehicles.

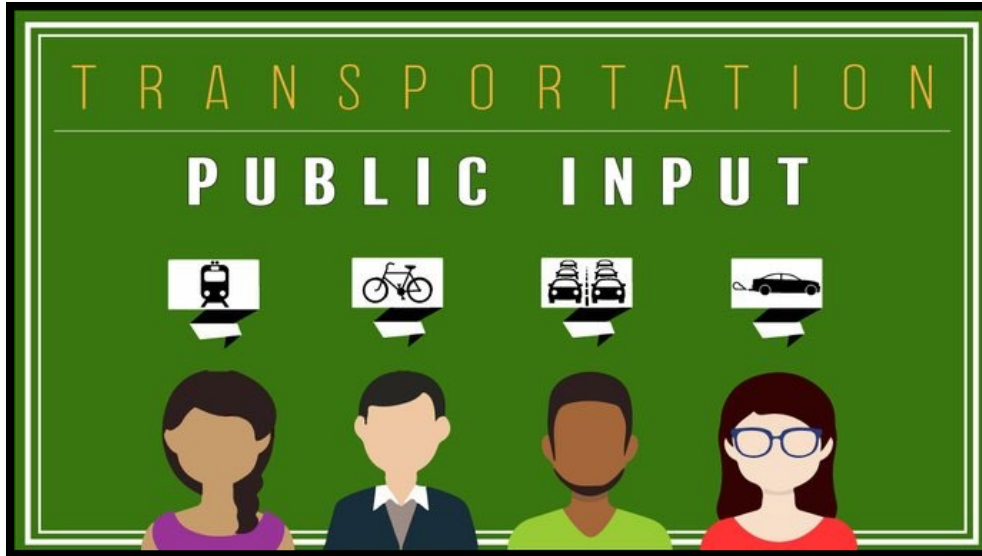
2. Oscar Pearson

428 thoroughfare through Aubrey connecting to Collin County needs to be moved up as additional lanes for 380 will not be enough to ease east and west traffic! Also, would like to see an overpass on current 428 to bypass downtown Aubrey and help with delays of fire department having to wait on trains!

Public Meetings & Input

Twitter –

1. Super excited to present with my counterparts from @AtlantaRegional, @NCTCOGtrans, & @DoverKentMPO on this nationwide webinar 😊 – Anthea Thomas (@MPOAnthea)
2. The @NCTCOGtrans is requesting input from residents, local governments & private sector on transportation & air quality policies, programs & plans for North Texas. Decisions determine how North Texans live & travel in the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth region <http://ow.ly/GITX50zDW4E> – City of Lewisville (@LewisvilleTexas)



Thank you for sharing! – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

3. Why this map doesn't look like a redhead's tan (all the freckles join to make one big freckle) is beyond me. Do your part put a dot where #Dallas could do better. @NCTCOGtrans
<https://nctcog.org/trans/plan/mtp/map-your-experience> – Andrew Wallace (@agwallace92)

Facebook –

1. NCTCOG Transportation Department is now accepting public input through a new, online map tool. Map Your Experience is easy to use and designed to help NCTCOG staff use public input to collaborate with partners and develop innovative solutions for transportation issues in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/mtp/map-your-experience> – Lewisville Staff



Transit

Email –

1. Terra Bierschwale

I do not wish to have any type of busing public transit. However, would be open to considering train as public transit to help cut down on traffic and emissions.

2. Bryan Trachier

Need to continue making rail transit a high priority. Need commuter rail lines connecting Fort Worth to Denton, Fort Worth to Cleburne, Fort Worth to Weatherford, and second Fort Worth to Dallas commuter rail line via Arlington (w/stop at AT&T Stadium). Fort Worth should invest in streetcar lines connecting downtown/FTW Central Station to TCU and W 7th St/Museum districts. HSR between DFW and Houston, DFW and San Antonio via Austin, and DFW and OKC also should be a regional priority.

3. Dana Baldrige

I am curious if we will get any mass transit