
LOCAL MOTION

July 2024

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

Area cities, DFW Airport team with NCTCOG to reduce freight congestion with technology



The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has announced traffic signal technology system partnerships to help trucks move more efficiently through some of the region's key freight corridors. The cities of Arlington, Carrollton, Fort

Worth, Garland, Grand Prairie and McKinney, as well as Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, are helping deploy a Freight Signal Optimization Program across more than 500 traffic signals in their jurisdictions.

In North Texas, trucks are involved in the shipment of approximately 77% of goods. The freight optimization program will improve traffic flow through signalized intersections by helping freight vehicles stop at fewer red lights. This service, based on cloud-computing technology, is designed to save money, time and fuel while reducing emissions. Passenger vehicles driving alongside the heavy trucks will benefit from the same extended green time.

Funded through a US Department of Transportation grant, participation is at no additional cost to freight operators. The technology being deployed has proved successful in transit and emergency response applications across the United States, including Austin and San Antonio. The technology deployment also includes information announcing to the truck driver the recommended travel speed to arrive at a traffic light on green that is currently red.

The system also requires no new equipment in the freight vehicles or in the roadway. Data will be fully anonymized in program operations, which means participant information will not be collected or used for any other purpose.

To learn more about the program, or to sign up as a freight operator for no cost, go to freightpriority.com.

**Dallas County Judge Elected Regional Transportation
Council Chair**



Dallas County Judge Clay Lewis Jenkins was elected chair of the Regional Transportation Council in June and will lead the 45-member transportation policymaking body for the next year. Jenkins takes over from Fort Worth Mayor Pro Tem Gyna Bivens who chaired the RTC for the past 12 months.

Jenkins will preside over the RTC during the 89th Texas Legislature, which begins in January. Before his election to lead the RTC, Jenkins served one-year terms as secretary and vice chair. Jenkins has been Dallas County judge since 2011, the same year he was appointed to the RTC. Johnson County Commissioner Rick Bailey was elected vice chair for 2024-2025 after serving the previous year as secretary. Bailey was appointed to the RTC in July 2022. Lewisville Councilmember Brandon Jones will assume the duties of secretary for the next year.

The RTC includes local elected or appointed officials from the Dallas-Fort Worth area and representatives from the region's transportation providers. As the transportation policymaking body for the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth area, the RTC oversees transportation planning for the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the country, which has a current population of more than 8 million people.

The RTC guides the development of roadway, rail and bicycle-pedestrian plans and programs; allocates transportation funds; and recommends projects to the Texas Transportation Commission for other programs. The policymaking body also ensures transportation services are coordinated throughout the region and the metropolitan area complies with federal air quality standards.

Local schools embrace active transportation on Bike & Roll to School Day



National Bike & Roll to School Day was celebrated May 8, with schools around the country hosting events encouraging students to experience safely bicycling to and from school. This year, NCTCOG promoted the event in the region by providing fun safety-themed giveaways to schools that registered with NCTCOG and won giveaways in a raffle. Schools also were able to enter a raffle for two new bicycles by submitting signed safety pledges.

Fifteen elementary schools registered for the promotion. NCTCOG received over 800 bicycle raffle entries, and over 1,000 students participated in Bike & Roll to School Day events. Participating schools hosted either on-campus welcome events, handing out giveaways to students arriving to campus on a bike; or remote biking events, where students would meet at a nearby location and bike to school together. Many schools also posted safety tips the week leading up to Bike & Roll to School Day. These events provided a fun and successful way to raise awareness of active transportation safety and Safe Routes to School for students.

Additionally, NCTCOG is promoting Walk & Roll to School Day, which takes place in October. Stay tuned for updates and more information at this [link](#).

Progress North Texas 2024 published



Progress North Texas 2024 is available in print and online. This annual state of the region report uses performance measures to explain how the region's transportation system is meeting the needs of its 8 million residents.

This year's theme is Using Technology to Get You There. The report focuses on what has been accomplished and how the region's transportation partners cooperate to build projects and plan for future endeavors. It also looks at remaining work to be done in areas such as regional air quality, surface and air transportation, and innovative technologies that could make the system more reliable. Additionally, the report outlines ongoing initiatives to close the digital gap in transportation.

Congratulations to Kalei Gipson, a second grader at Rocketship Dennis Dunkins Elementary School, who contributed this year's cover art (pictured above). To read the 2024 report, visit nctcog.org/ourregion.

NCTCOG to host hybrid public meeting on July 8



**TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC MEETING**

JULY 8 · NOON · 616 SIX FLAGS DR. ARLINGTON, TX 76011

SUBMIT COMMENTS & QUESTIONS TO NCTCOG:

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North Central Texas
Council of Governments

NCTCOG invites North Texans to provide their input on transportation and air quality matters during a hybrid public meeting July 8. The meeting is scheduled for noon at NCTCOG's Arlington offices, 616 Six Flags Drive. Residents can also watch the meeting live at publicinput.com/nctcogJuly24 or participate via phone by dialing 855-925-2801, then code 10300. Public comments will be accepted until August 6.

Each year, the Regional Transportation Council approves an update to the Regional 10-Year Plan, which identifies major projects to be implemented in the region. An updated draft list covering projects from Fiscal Year 2025 to FY2034 will be presented for review and comment.

Access North Texas is the regional public transportation coordination plan for the 16-county North Central Texas region. The plan, which is updated every four years, documents the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes across the region. Upon completion of the plan, local governments and transportation agencies may use it to help with transportation planning.

The Transit Strategic Partnerships Program is a competitive grant program that funds innovative transit projects supporting services for seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income populations from public agencies looking to directly implement service and those seeking partnership with an existing transit provider. The May 2024 cycle for proposal submissions has closed, and an update on selected projects will be provided for review and comment.

Charging Smart is a new technical assistance and designation program recognizing communities for electric vehicle readiness. Staff will provide an overview of this program and its role to aid cities in streamlining plans, permits and inspections to deploy EV charging infrastructure more efficiently.

Information will also be provided about the following initiatives and programs: Mobility 2050 Public Input Summary, the NCTCOG Spatial Data Cooperative Program, Mobility 2045 – 2022 Update: Administrative Revision and Try Parking It.

Roundtrip rides from CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG are available for \$6 through the Arlington Transportation app. Download the app at arlingtontx.gov/ondemand. For special accommodation due to disabilities or language interpretation, contact 817-695-9255 or email jcastillo@nctcog.org.

For more information about Local Motion 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, Dallas County and Getty Images.

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