

MINUTES

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE July 26, 2024

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) met on Friday, July 26, 2024, at 1:30 pm, in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following STTC members or representatives were present: Joe Atwood, Rifat Alam, Kathleen Bednarz (representing Gary Graham), David Boski (representing Caryl DeVries), Shon Brooks, Farhan Butt, Brenda Callaway, Travis Campbell, John Cordary, Jr., Tara Crawford (representing Chad Edwards), Clarence Daugherty, Chad Davis, Arturo Del Castillo, Phil Dupler, Eric Fladager, Chris Funches (representing Daniel Burnham), Ricardo Gonzalez, Barry Heard, Alan Hendrix (representing Stanford Lynch), Duane Hengst (Greg Dickens), Parisa Hosseni (representing Greg Royster), Matthew Hotelling, John D. Hudspeth, Jeremy Hutt, Thuan Huynh, Joseph Jackson, Kelly Johnson, Gus Khankarli, Jeff Kelly (representing Davis Salmon), Eron Linn, Paul Luedtke, Karina Maldonado (representing Austin Frith), Chad Marbut, Alberto Mares, John Mears, Brian Moen, Mark Nelson, Than Nguyen (representing Tim Porter), Tim Palermo (representing Tanya Brooks), Martin Phillips, John Polster, Kelly Porter, Elizabeth Reynolds, James Rogge, Brian Shewski, Ray Silva-Reyes, Chelsea St. Louis, Errick Thompson, Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize, Daniel Vedral, Caroline Waggoner, Jana Wentzel, and Robert Woodbury.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Steve Anderson, Gustavo Baez, Natalie Bettger, Hetal Bhatt, Jackie Castillo, Aaron Ceder, Dina Colarossi, Shawn Conrad, Brian Dell, Amber Ellis, Joaquin Escalante, Kevin Feldt, Camille Fountain, Analisa Garcia, John Godwin, Rebekah Gongora, Susan Gonzalez, Irlenia Hermosillo, Zachary Joseph, Dan Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Siddhesh Kudale, Sonya Landrum, James McClane, Dylan Niles, Joe O'Brien, Donald Parker, Trey Pope, Ezra Pratt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Minesha Reese, Hailey Richardson, Gwen Schaulis, Toni Stehling, Derek Sweeney, Daniela Tower, Shane Tully, Jill Van Hoewyk, Brendon Wheeler, Amanda Wilson, and Jackie Young.

1. **Approval of June 28, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the June 28, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 1. Daniel Vedral (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda:**

2.1. **Ratification of Emergency Funding: Backstop Funding for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant:**

Presenter: Michael Morris for Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff requested ratification of emergency funding authorization in the amount of \$100,000 for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant to backstop local match requirements and avoid project implementation delays.

Background: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded funding to North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to advance regional safety initiatives and the project was authorized to begin in June 2024. Project funding includes \$4,000,000 from FHWA and \$1,000,000 Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds to meet local match requirements. The RTR funds will not be approved by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) until the August 22, 2024, TTC meeting. To meet the

aggressive project schedule requested by federal partners, and to maximize available federal funds, staff requests ratification of emergency funding authorization for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 as a backstop to the RTR funds committed to fulfil local match requirements of the grant. RTC Local funds will be returned upon receipt of the RTR funding. The RTC ratified this emergency funding at the RTC meeting on July 11, 2024.

A motion was made to recommend the Regional Transportation Council's approval of Item 2.1 on the Consent Agenda. Eron Linn (M); Tim Palermo (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Endorsement of Federal Transit Administration Transit Oriented Development Pilot Grant Fiscal Year 2024 Trinity Railway Express Transit Oriented Development Strategic Plan:**

Presenter: Travis Liska, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) endorsement was requested for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to submit a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant application for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) planning for the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) corridor with Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds provided as match.

Background: NCTCOG is applying for an FTA Fiscal Year 2024 Pilot Program for TOD Planning grant. The FTA TOD Pilot Program provides funds to support planning for increased economic development, mixed-use, multimodal connectivity and other TOD concepts that support increased ridership on qualified fixed-route transit. NCTCOG's application is in partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Trinity Metro, Trinity Railway Express, and the Cities of Dallas, Irving, and Fort Worth. The effort will address TOD barriers at applicable TRE stations through station area redevelopment plans based on development markets and land use needs, a study of needed bicycle and pedestrian connections to the stations, and evaluation of public/private financing and funding plans for TOD. The federal application is due August 2, 2024. The proposed grant requested \$800,000 in federal funding matched with \$200,000 RTC local. More information is available in Electronic Item 3.

A question was asked by Paul Luedtke about where the local match came from. Travis Liska responded stating \$200,000 in RTC local funds.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) endorsement of submittal of the Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Transit Authority Transit-Oriented Development Planning Pilot Program grant application for the Trinity Railway Express Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan requesting \$800,000 in federal funding, an approved \$200,000 in RTC Local funds for non-federal match should the project be selected for funding award; and staff directed to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Statewide TIP and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes, if awarded funding. Phil Dupler (M); Kelly Porter (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **2025 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan Update:**

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action on the proposed changes for the Regional 10-Year Plan Update was requested.

Background: Since December 2016, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has annually approved a set of projects funded with Category 2 (Metropolitan Planning Organization selected) and Category 4 (Texas Department of Transportation [TxDOT] District selected) funds and submitted for Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) consideration with Category 12 (TTC selected) funds that cover 10 years of highway projects. Since the last update in 2023, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has coordinated with the TxDOT Dallas, Paris (Hunt County), and Fort Worth Districts regarding updates to previously approved projects, as well as potential additions to the 10-Year Plan to be included in the 2025 Unified Transportation Program. Electronic Item 4.1 includes additional information about the process. Electronic Item 4.2 contains the proposed list of planned projects for the Regional 10-Year Plan. Electronic Item 4.3 contains the 10-Year Plan projects that have let or been completed.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) approval of the Regional 10-Year Plan project listing, including the proposed changes on the "Let or Completed Project" listing, and administratively amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) along with other planning/administrative documents as needed to incorporate these changes. John Polster (M); Robert Woodbury (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Regional Transportation Council High-Speed Rail Workshop Summary and Advancing Environmental Review:**

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff provided a summary of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Workshop held on July 11, 2024, which focused on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Service project. As a result of ongoing meetings with transportation partners and project stakeholders following the workshop, staff anticipates action from this committee and the RTC will be needed to continue advancing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Staff will outline the trade-offs in potential paths forward related to the study schedule and the NEPA process for committee members' consideration.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases. The first phase, an alternatives analysis of high-speed modes and corridors, recommended high-speed rail generally following the Interstate Highway 30 corridor in 2021. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and an environmental analysis following the NEPA process, resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Following the City of Dallas' Resolution passed on June 12, 2024, (Electronic Item 5.1), a workshop with the RTC was held on July 11, 2024, to respond to the City of Dallas' concerns and find a mutually acceptable path forward (Electronic Item 5.2). Staff will include any

impacts of new direction to the current Federal Transit Administration-led NEPA process (initiated on March 4, 2024) and the Federal Railroad Administration-led Corridor Identification and Development Program (agreement executed on May 16, 2024).

John Polster stated the importance of commitments already made, or commitments held, as a regional body, or as a regional group that had to work over 10-year plans, 20-year plans. When an organization makes a commitment, then later the politics change, they want to revisit that, there has to be a regional impact to that entity. Revisiting the idea that was vetted 8 years ago, and implemented, then having to revisit it to the extent that it, if we end up going away from the original commitment that was cleared 8 years ago, and if there is a financial impact, we ought to consider for the sake of the region and the sake of honoring a commitment, we need to make sure that the cost is born primarily to the entity requesting the change.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) approval of the Dallas Alignment Options, concept West of Downtown: advance planning and stakeholder coordination, alignment East of Hyatt with Pedestrian Lobby (2B): review opportunities in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to maintain option pending results of Dallas' Economic Impact Study; continue advancing High-Speed Rail through NEPA process; coordinate with Federal Transit Administration and Federal Railroad Administration on appropriate process and schedule in NEPA; increase available study budget for project team to accomplish actions listed above: currently approved: \$12,099,657 (STBG) and seeking approval of additional \$1,650,343 (STBG). Kelly Porter (M); Farhan Butt (S). The Chair, Gus Khankarli, City of Dallas, abstained from the vote on this item. The motion passed.

6. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items:

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of current transportation items was provided.

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

1. August 23, 2024, Surface Transportation Technical Committee will be held virtually.
2. Dallas County Inland Port Multimodal Connectivity Project (\$25 Million)
3. Transit 2.0 Implementation – Next Steps (Electronic Item 6.1)
4. Op Ed (Brian Wilson) (Electronic Item 6.2)
5. Regional Transportation Council 50th Anniversary Meeting and Planning
6. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing of Managed Lanes During Reconstruction
7. Aviation Integrated Programs Funding Increase (Natalie Bettger and Ernest Huffman \$43 million and Ken Kirkpatrick coordinating with the Federal Aviation Administration)

A question was asked by Clarence Daugherty what can the Regional Transportation Council do about the inefficient growth projection? Michael Morris responded by mentioning his Op Ed piece, there's eight different examples, there's eight different examples, whole push or lack thereof, of increased density around rail stations, and Transit, 2.0, the region is missing. Eron

Linn with Dallas-Area Rapid Transit (DART) stated stations as an entity has no control over land use or zoning around our rail stations. We work with our cities, our member cities to encourage transit oriented or transit friendly concepts. Eron Linn asked a question about the conversation about density around rail station, is that going to be embedded in the Transit 2.0 proposal or recommendations? Michael Morris responded that Mr. Linn is correct, they are not going to agree with the particular position, and you have no responsibility with regard to zoning around your rail stations.

7. Mobility 2050:

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler for Amy Johnson, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff provided a report regarding efforts to develop the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2050, including approaches to integrating the demographic forecast, public perceptions and needs, and program and policy considerations.
Background: Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years and go at least 20 years into the future. In addition, Mobility 2050 must demonstrate federal Transportation Conformity. The updated plan will include a new financial plan, updated demographics and technical analysis, updated project recommendation listings, and robust public involvement.

A question was asked by City of Fort Worth's, Kelly Porter, what format is requested for submittals? Brendon Wheeler mentioned for them to reach out to Brendon, and he will direct them to the right team. Another question was asked by Gus Khankarli in regard to a shift in demographics, school districts, and pedestrian cities causing shifts. Michael Morris responded with school districts, where are the school districts and noted to educate the schools.

8. Swyft Cities/Whoosh Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology

Update:

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG
Item Summary: As part of the CERTT (Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology) Program, staff updated the Committee on the recent progress of Swyft Cities and their advancement through the program. Several local governments have expressed interest in advancing this modern gondola-style technology (known as Whoosh) in their communities and are in the process of considering/requesting federal funding through discretionary grant opportunities.
Background: In May 2022, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted Policy Position P22-02 to develop a process for the Transportation Infrastructure Certification Program (now named CERTT, Electronic Item 8.1). This program serves as a guide to a consensus-building path among the RTC, interested local governments, and transportation technology providers in bringing innovative transportation solutions to the region with the end goal of a commercial application serving a long-range transportation need (see program fact sheet included as Electronic Item 8.2). Swyft Cities advanced through Round 2 of the CERTT Program in spring 2023 and received several proposals from interested local governments. Since that point, Swyft Cities has been engaged with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and interested local governments

in advancing potential project locations, determining appropriate technology certification oversight structure, considering public-private partnership balance of roles and shared risk, and developing a potential funding package for initial deployment. NCTCOG submitted a letter of commitment to the United States Department of Transportation supporting the City of Arlington's "Improving Access, Safety, and the Environment with Aerial Automated Transit Networks" project and their request for the 2024 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant (Electronic Item 8.3).

9. **2023 Transportation Safety Performance Report:**

Presenter: Camille Fountain, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff provided an update on items included in the 2023 Safety Program Performance Measures Report.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Safety Program Performance Measures Report provides an annual report on the performance of various NCTCOG safety programs, projects, and statistics including regional crash and fatality data, top 10 contributing factors for regional crashes, county-level crash rates, attendance statistics for Traffic Incident Management courses, Roadside Assistance Program statistics, and analysis relating to the Regional Roadway Safety Plan emphasis areas. The 2023 NCTCOG Safety Program Performance Measures Report and Regional Crash Fact Sheet are included as Electronic Item 9.

A question was asked by Robert Woodbury on how does North Central Texas Council of Governments track construction zones related crashes? Camille Fountain responded with a contributing factor analysis that can be included. Michael Morris noted that \$54 million was approved to invest in the safety program.

10. **Community School Siting Issues and Opportunities:**

Presenter: Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff provided information and requested for participation in a survey regarding challenges associated with community school siting in the region and ways that the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) can assist local governments with this challenging issue.

Background: As growth continues to increase in the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the strain on existing schools and demand for new schools also continues to increase rapidly, particularly in fast-growing areas. Rapid growth means that coordination among local governments and independent school districts to plan school sites ahead of growth is essential to avoid costly and undesirable impacts to student safety, traffic, budgets, and the environment. Staff will review current school siting issues and examples of challenges and solutions. Feedback will be requested via a survey regarding the question: How can NCTCOG help with school siting issues? Responses will help inform NCTCOG's development of a strategy to best assist local governments in addressing this challenging problem. An overview is provided in Electronic Item 10.

There was a general discussion from several of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee members in regard to coordinating on school siting with counties in addition to

cities, charter schools' traffic, traffic management, and a disconnect on traffic impact analysis.

11. **Status Report: 2050 Demographic Forecasts:**

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff provided a brief summary of these forecasts, including the local review process. Draft 2050 Demographic Forecasts have now been completed by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff. These forecasts were used to support the development of Mobility 2050: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Background: The forecasts along with the 2019 Small Area Estimates have now been made available to local governments and agencies for review. A local government workshop including Surface Transportation Technical Committee members was held on July 17, 2024. Dan Kessler announced that there was an app created and sent out. If anyone would like more information to reach out to Donna Coggeshall at DCoggeshall@nctcog.org. Comments on the forecasts are due back to NCTCOG by August 31, 2024.

12. **Fast Facts:**

Item Summary: Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Joaquin Escalante* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
2. *Joaquin Escalante* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
3. *Trey Pope* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 12.1)
4. *Daniela Tower* – 2024 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 12.2)
5. *Daniela Tower* – Dallas-Fort Worth Reclassification of 2015 Ozone Standard (Electronic Item 12.3)
6. *Jackie Castillo* – June Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 12.4)
7. *Jackie Castillo* – August Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 12.5)
8. *Jackie Castillo* – May – June Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 12.6)
9. Written Progress Reports: Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 12.7)

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

14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on August 23, 2024**, to be held virtually.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.