

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 May 12, 2022.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Monday, Jan. 20, through Sunday, Feb. 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email, online and in person at the monthly RTC meeting.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. Comments related to transit were in the majority.

In addition, comments can be submitted through Map Your Experience, the Transportation Department's online mapping tool. The tool allows users to drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. No new comments were submitted this month through the tool.

However, you can view past comments by visiting:

<http://nctcogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

Air Quality

Twitter –

1. Grand Prairie was named the 2022 Air North Texas Partner of the Year for our efforts in improving air quality in the region. Thank you to our citizens and city employees for their amazing involvement with this initiative. #AirNTX #CityofGP

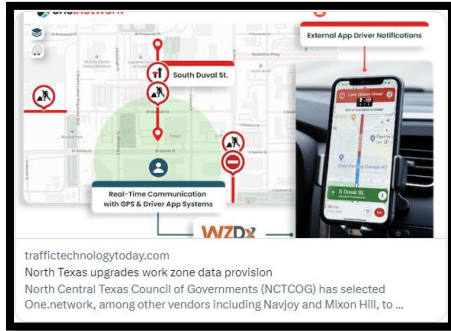
Photo and graphic source: @NCTCOGtrans — City of Grand Prairie, TX (@gp_tx)



Innovative Technology

Twitter –

1. Great to see the news spread of our partnership w/ @NCTCOGtrans. By allowing any government in TX & beyond to procure our #connected #workzone management solutions, they're helping remove barriers to providing lifesaving info to road users. — one.network (@onenetworkHQ)



2. We're excited by @NCTCOGtrans' enthusiasm for our new partnership & the great news coverage it's getting! NCTCOG is enabling any road agency in the US to adopt our #workzone #data sharing tech, helping keep workers & drivers safe on the roadways.

<https://itsinternational.com/its2/its5/its6/news/texas-sharing-onenetwork> — one.network (@onenetworkHQ)

Freight

Twitter –

1. "I want to see us transition from an intermodal hub to a logistics hub," says @NCTCOGtrans Director Michael Morris. A lower focus on moving parts and an increase in manufacturing/assembly of goods here in DFW would be a big shift. But likely a beneficial one: more jobs, dollars. — Grapevine Economic Development (@GrapevineEcoDev)

Public Involvement

Twitter –

1. Alrighty, @NCTCOGtrans is having a meeting on public transportation within the DFW/North Central Texas area generally. it's their february monthly meeting. Updates as they are presented 🗣️ — Denton Transit Posting (@dTXTransitPosts)



RTC/STTC/Executive Board

Twitter –

1. Build that sound wall! Today at the @NCTCOGtrans Regional Transportation Council meeting we secured funding to build the #CottonBelt continuous sound wall behind the vacant property in University Place owned by @Plano_Schools for a future school. ½ — Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome)



This will close the wall gap & provide better sound mitigation for nearby University Place homeowners. Also approved funding for limited parts of the Cotton Belt trail. @dartmedia Dallas community meeting tonight for the project - 7pm, Tx A&M @txextension Coit @ McCallum. 2/2 — Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome)

I feel like I have an associates degree in sound walls thanks to my time at the tollway.
😁 — Carrie Rogers (@carrieofdallas)

Roadways

Email –

1. Trish Donaghey

Major Concern

We NEED either a N-S stop sign OR a traffic light at the intersection of FM 982 and FM 546 in unincorporated Collin Co.!!! Between 4p and 7p, rush hour traffic stacks up about a mile at the T at Branch FD. East-bound cars wait at the T intersection to turn N or S, but cars traveling 50+ mph heading N or S do NOT stop! Cars waiting, waiting, waiting for a break in the N-S traffic risk being broadsided if they don't see a speeding S bound car coming over the nearby hill. Do you require a certain number of fatalities before a N-S stop sign or a traffic light is installed at this intersection?!

Second Concern

The amount of traffic going over the two-lane lake bridges has increased about ten times in the past 27 yrs., and it stacks up at rush hour, like a slow moving train. Will there be additional bridges built to accommodate the increased traffic?

Third Concern

It is a challenge for us to exit our driveway onto FM 982 when traffic is heavy and moving FAST. It's almost like we need a light at the end of our driveway! Perhaps decreasing the speed from 50 mph to 40 mph would help us find a break and get up to speed?

HELP!!!

Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department. Your comments will be provided to the Regional Transportation Council. In addition, please contact Clarence Daugherty, Collin County Director of Engineering at cdaugherty@co.collin.tx.us to see if traffic signal evaluations have been requested from TxDOT. Jennifer Vorster, Area Engineer for the TxDOT Collin County Area Office may also be able to assist you with these concerns. She can be reached at 972-542-2345.

2. Dr. Larry Marshall

It appears that TXDOT has abandoned this project and left an unsafe potholed outside lane. TXDOT has gone silent on this issue and is unresponsive to date on where the project is going in the future. The merging lane westbound is still a danger to drivers merging which has increased the accident potential westbound and with the persistent potholes on the bridge even greater risks than before construction started. Your help is needed to awaken TXDOT on this issue.

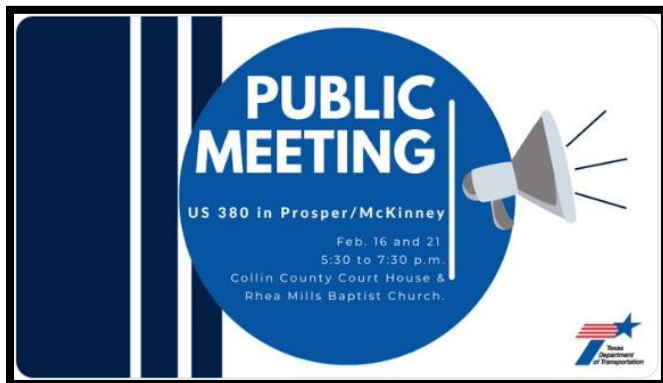
Response by NCTCOG Transportation staff:

Thank you for this question. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has said they are aware of the need to advance work in this corridor. TxDOT is seeking a contractor to complete work on a sound wall. Completion of the sound wall on the project's north side will allow TxDOT to open a lane that relieves the burden on the merge lane.

Twitter –

1. Join us from 5:30 -7:30 pm Feb. 16 or Feb. 21 to learn about the #US380 widening project between Coit Rd. & FM 1827 in @CityOfMcKinney @Town_of_Prosper @NCTCOGtrans

Details: <https://tinyurl.com/5bcnhn49> — TxDOT Dallas (@TxDOTDallas)



Toll Roads and Lanes

Facebook –

1. When you share the ride on TEXpress Lanes, you can qualify for an HOV toll discount. Download the GoCarma app to save! #GettingThereTogether — Transportation Department



This app doesn't work thousands of people are not getting the HOV discount, and GoCarma doesn't care. Travelling for medical treatment for our son and they haven't given us an HOV discount yet! This huge failure on the NCTCOG TXDPS — Barbara Brewer

Thank you for providing feedback on the GoCarma app. Please complete the form at this link <https://gocarma.typeform.com/to/YgMspBT> so our customer service team can help determine what might be causing issues with your account. You can also reach out to the team through the chat feature in the app itself or email team@gocarma.com. Staff is available Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Additionally, please see the below tips for maintaining your GoCarma account:

- You might need to update your app settings. When you open the app, follow the prompts at the top of the home screen. (This article: <https://support.gocarma.com/.../3272121-is-the-app-set-up-ok> is a great resource and helps explain the app settings.)
- If you are carpooling with your son, he either needs his own GoCarma account, or a verified Occupant Pass should be in your vehicle. If your son does not have a smartphone, you can order an Occupant Pass for him at <https://support.gocarma.com/.../3195127-what-if-someone...>
- To receive the HOV discount, you must be carpooling on the TEXpress Lanes during the peak periods, which are Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any additional questions. We want to ensure everything is working properly for you. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

We have the device unfortunately it doesn't work correctly! GoCarma is constantly telling people it will be corrected on their toll tag and NTTA says it's a GoCarma app problem. I would be interested to find out how many Texans that are using the HOA correctly are being overcharged! — Barbara Brewer

Bicycle/Pedestrian/Sustainable Development

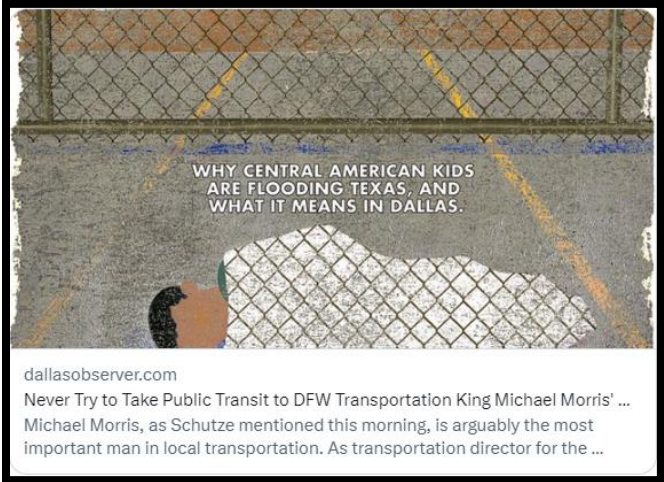
Twitter –

1. What does it say about @NCTCOGtrans if their Regional Transportation Committee meets every month in a building w/ no sidewalk out front?

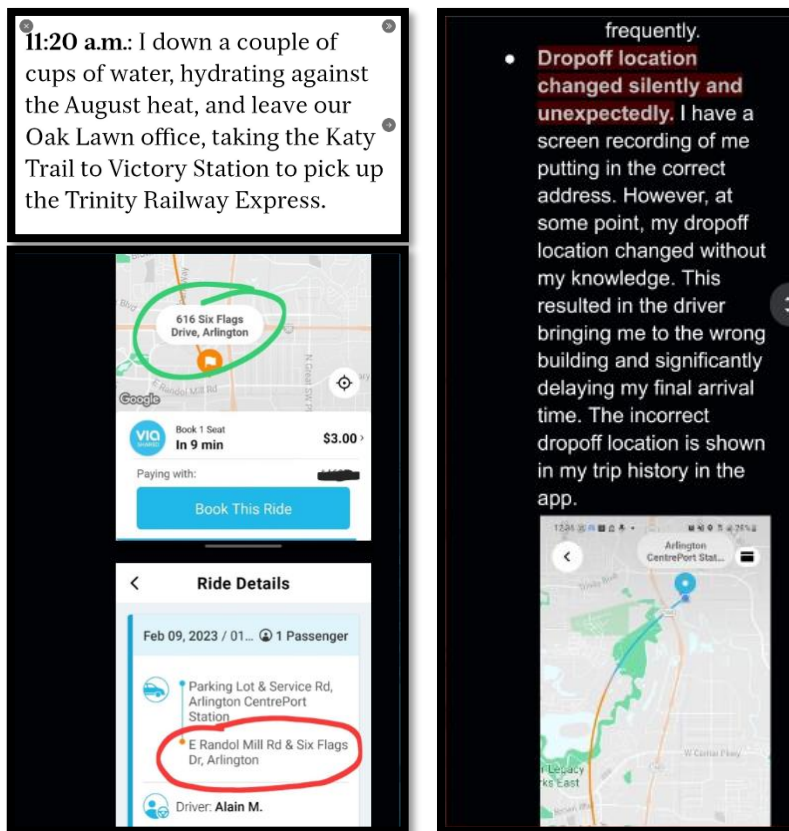
Technically it's within walking distance of passenger rail: a Six Flags rollercoaster 🎢 — Hexel (@hexel_co)



Dallas Observer had a very funny article on just that years back: — Nathaniel Barrett (@ncoxbarrett)



Lol well I have a 2023 update on this effort. I even started same way: biking to Victory on KT. Not to Morris' house, so no need to go all way to Dt FtW. But got my first (sad) taste of Arlington Via. — Hexel (@hexel_co)



Such a good post. — Doyle Rader (@DoyleRader)

2. Excited to have officially kicked off my podcast, **By Way Of Dallas**, about walkability, transportation, and mobility! Ergo, my target audience is basically @VoteOmarNarvaez @TxDOTDallas @NCTCOGtrans @dartmedia We're just getting started 😊🚲 — Hexel (@hexel_co)

Transit

Twitter –

1. \$407,309,124.00 That is how much @CityOfDallas paid to @dartmedia fiscal year 2021-22. How do we evaluate if we are getting a good return for our investment? Should we expect more transportation services for \$407m? @NCTCOGtrans — Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome)

Offer a RFQ for what DART does and see what the bids come in at. Is DART Police included in that number? — Parker Woodruff (@AirspeedParker)

Yes, \$407m is the total \$ we give to dart directly from sales tax. We also pay them \$1m/yr to operate the North Oak Cliff Streetcar and approx \$250k/yr for a

senior rides program (which should be unnecessary/covered by their senior program). — Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome)

I thought the MTA piece of the sales tax wouldn't otherwise be collectable from Dallas...so does it actually pass thru the City's hands to DART or does it come straight from the state comptroller? Or does the city decide what to do with the 1 percentage point of tax? — Parker Woodruff (@AirspeedParker)

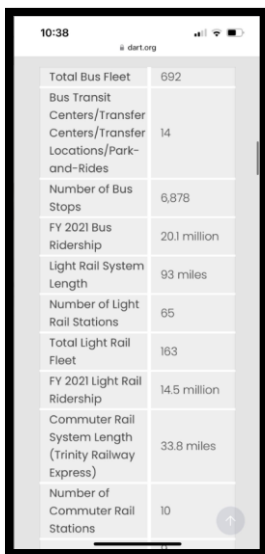
Per our agreement with Dart, the comptroller remits 1 cent of our Dallas sales tax directly to Dart. — Parker Woodruff (@AirspeedParker)

Does the City of Dallas have the authority to directly form DART's operations and find a better use of the percentage point of sales tax which DART gets? It's my understanding the City can't otherwise collect the MTA piece of sales tax unless it's used for transit...

\$407MM buys a lot of Uber passes — Parker Woodruff (@AirspeedParker)

If you could get believable ridership numbers the inefficiency would blow people's minds. That's equal to giving 77 free \$10 Uber rides to every single household in Dallas! — Matthew Marchant

Last year *40,000* riders per day on light rail? Give me a break. Take away the fair ridership and then have someone audit 10 random days with a physical count and we'll get a real number. — Matthew Marchant (@MatthewMarchant)



A screenshot of a mobile application displaying various statistics for DART. The app interface includes a status bar at the top with the time 10:38 and the URL dart.org. The statistics are presented in a list format with alternating light and dark background rows.

Total Bus Fleet	692
Bus Transit Centers/Transfer Centers/Transfer Locations/Park-and-Rides	14
Number of Bus Stops	6,878
FY 2021 Bus Ridership	20.1 million
Light Rail System Length	93 miles
Number of Light Rail Stations	65
Total Light Rail Fleet	163
FY 2021 Light Rail Ridership	14.5 million
Commuter Rail System Length (Trinity Railway Express)	33.8 miles
Number of Commuter Rail Stations	10

I think the same thing about bike lanes — East Dallas Brian (@DallasPolitix)

🚲 I walk in Victory area a ton during the day and never ever see any bikes. I have seen several people trip over the divider and cars run into it. — Matthew Marchant (@MatthewMarchant)

@CityOfDallas has a bad habit of allowing some expensive trend influencing policy. Activists yell, "We need more ___!" And when it gets funded bc of poor leadership and finally implemented, its application is either outdated or in an area that has no need for it.
– JohnnyAlamo (@Johnyalamo)

You really aren't going to have high bike ridership numbers unless you Also fix exclusionary zoning so you can have enough dense housing and close businesses. – Mitchell Davis (@therealallpro)

Your stations are mostly parking lots. Develop them with minimal parking, add housing and retail designed for transit, generate new property taxes — Curtis Rogers 🚲 (@CurtRog)

Start by looking at their Income Statements. Track revenue, itemized expenses and profits, say as a % of revenue. You can compare these ratios to others in the same industry. Leverage the \$407m to enforce performance based on measurable parameters. I could go on. — Enrique MacGregor (@EnriqueMacG)

Find several communities with what you consider good transportation services and benchmark their cost to ours. — Tim Feemster (@tsfeemster)

We aren't. — Dorian Isenberg (@DorianIsenberg)

Well, the first thing to do is fire all of the highly paid consultants (\$1M saved), interview a wide pool of Dart users (cost next to nothing) and have a line of transportation providers that can replace dart if they no longer are efficient (millions saved). — Bonni M. Crisfulli (@BonniCrisfulli)

Serious question: Could some of those dollars be better utilized subsidizing ridesharing trips? At what price point would residents take a rideshare & for what length of travel? 407M seems like too much; especially when many DART trips are 3 hrs for a 30 min trip in a rideshare — Foxhole (@foxholestrategy)

That's probably not a good roi and that's just dallas. I see the near empty dart train almost every day in Irving: — Republic of Texas (@dreamerintexas)

2. Jobs available. This is a great first job for teens. No public transit available. @NCTCOGtrans Six Flags Over Texas is looking to hire 500 seasonal jobs — Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome)



I would think a lack of mass transit makes it an awful job for teens (or anyone else) — Tommythesaurusrex (@BombyFuntington)