

MINUTES

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, January 24, 2025

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) met on Friday, January 24, 2025, 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: Rifat Alam, Joe Atwood, James Bell, David Boski, Shon Brooks, Tanya Brooks, Daniel Burnham, Farhan Butt, Brenda Callaway, Travis Campbell, Aaron Cedar, John Cordary Jr., Tara Crawford, Clarence Daugherty, Chad Davis, Pritam Deshmukh, Becky Diviney, Phil Dupler, Eric Fladager, Chris Flanigan, Austin Frith, Ricardo Gonzalez, Robyn Root (representing Gary Graham), Tom Hammons, Craig Hancock, Barry Heard, Matthew Hotelling, John D. Hudspeth, Jeremy Hutt, Thuan Huynh, Joseph Jackson, Joel James, Allen Harts (representing Major L. Jones), Gus Khankarli, Clay Lipscomb, Paul Luedtke, Chad Marbut, Alberto Mares, Brian Moen, Mark Nelson, Jim O'Connor, Alfredo Ortiz, Cintia Ortiz, Martin Phillips, John Polster, Kelly Porter, Than Nguyen (representing Tim Porter), Minesha Reese, Elizabeth Reynolds, James Rogge, Greg Royster, David Salmon, Brian Shewski, Ray Silva-Reyes, Chelsea St. Louis, Aaron Tainter, Errick Thompson, Caleb Thornhill, Jennifer VanderLaan, Autumn Permenter (representing Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize), Daniel Vedral, Caroline Waggoner, Ann Foss (representing Jana Wentzel), and Robert Woodbury.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Kenny Bergstrom, Natalie Bettger, Michael Bills, Chris Bosco, Jose Canario, John Carl, Lori Clark, Dina Colorossi, Natalie Daugherty, Cody Derrick, Zhen Ding, Christian Evans, Kevin Feldt, Brian Flood, Analisa Garcia, Gypsy Gavia, Irlenia Hermosillo, Chris Hoff, Amy Johnson, Mike Johnson, Dan Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Kurt Lehan, Zihao Li, Malcolm Mayhew, James McLane, Michael Morris, Vickie Morris, Jenny Narvaez, Dylan Niles, Jackie Nolasco, Evan Paret, Donald Parker, Ezra Pratt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Sidney Sonch, Toni Stehling, Derek Sweeney, Daniela Tower, Luke Urie, Juliana VandenBorn, Hannah Witcher, Jared Wright, and Hua Yang.

1. **Approval of December 6, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the December 6, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 1. John Polster (M); Daniel Vedral (S). The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda:**

2.1. **Amtrak Heartland Flyer Funding Shortfall:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for up to \$100,000 in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer passenger rail service from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City to ensure there are no service disruptions. In addition, staff sought recommendation for RTC approval to inform the Legislature that the Texas Department of Transportation's request for funding was inadequate.

This Consent Agenda item was pulled and presented by Michael Morris. A motion was made to approve this item with additional instruction for staff to request the Texas Department of Transportation and the State to increase their Legislative Appropriations Request to prevent a funding gap from occurring in the future. Kelly Porter (M); Brian Moen (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 2.2. **Endorsement of Funding for Riverfront Boulevard Cost Overrun:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for approval of \$12,401,658 in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding to cover a cost overrun at letting on the Riverfront Boulevard project, including the ability to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and other planning and administrative documents as needed to incorporate the funding.

This Consent Agenda item was pulled and presented by Michael Morris. A motion was made to approve this item, plus additional costs to be covered by Dallas County and/or the City of Dallas, and for Dallas County along with the selected construction company to monitor communication on the location of utilities that may impact column placement for high-speed rail. Kelly Porter (M); Daniel Burnham (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 2.3. **2024 Transportation Development Credit Annual Report and Updates to Transportation Development Credit Allocations:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for the proposed updates to the Transportation Development Credit (TDC) allocations for several categories and the annual TDC report submitted to Texas Department of Transportation was provided for information.

Consent Agenda item was pulled and presented by Cody Derrick. A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of the proposed Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) category changes, which would leave the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Planning Organization with 418.87 million TDCs for future allocation to the various categories. Tanya Brooks (M); Kelly Porter (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 2.4. **Federal Funding Classification System Amendments:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested for seven amendments to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification System.

A motion was made to approve Item 2.4 on the Consent Agenda. John Polster (M); Kelly Porter (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Potential Endorsement of Allocation of Funding for Potential Litigation Related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Environmental Assessment and Briefing on Correspondence from Attorneys for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and Hunt-Related Entities:** Ken Kirkpatrick briefed the Surface Transportation Technical Committee on numerous correspondence from Attorneys for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and other Hunt-related entities (Hunt-related entities). Ken requested endorsement of RTC's approval to allocate up to \$1 million in RTC Local funds in \$250,000 increments in preparation for potential litigation related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Environmental Assessment. Staff recommended reporting back to the RTC quarterly regarding high-speed rail activities and the level of expenditures. If approved, the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board, as the RTC's fiduciary agent, would be requested to go through the contracting process to secure external legal services to supplement internal staff. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to endorse the amended staff's recommendation for approval of up to \$1 million in Regional Transportation Council Local funds by allocating \$1 million with authorization to expend up to an initial \$250,000 and requiring staff to return to the RTC for approval of each additional \$250,000 increment. In addition, staff was directed to provide

monthly updates on the status of the High-Speed Rail project and funding expenditures. John Polster (M); Clarence Daugherty (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Fiscal Year 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program:** Michael Johnson requested an endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

A motion was made to endorse the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) approval of proposed projects to submit for funding consideration through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability (RAISE) and Equity Program: State Highway (SH) 183/SH 356/Belt Line Road Interchange, Ennis Avenue/United Pacific Rail Road grade separation, SH 183 – Pumphrey Drive Reconstruction Project, along with allocation of new Regional Transportation Council funds for SH 183/SH 356/Belt Line Road Interchange; \$100 million in Category 2/Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds (including \$20 million non-federal match) via future Regional 10-Year Plan/Unified Transportation Program (UTP) updates and/or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revisions; \$70 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds, specifically surplus revenues from the SH 183 corridor; and to administratively amend North Central Texas Council of Governments and State Transportation Improvement Programs, as well as other planning and administrative documents to include proposed projects and funding if selected for FY 25 RAISE Grant awards. Daniel Vedral (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Funding Recommendations to Upgrade Existing Charging Stations:** Jared Wright provided an overview of several programs that are expanding and supporting electric vehicle charging infrastructure and requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of funding recommendations for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments funding recommendations for the Federal Highway Administration Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator program to repair, replace, or upgrade electric vehicle chargers, and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP and other planning/ administrative documents as needed to reflect subawards. Kelly Porter (M); Mark Nelson (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Work Zone Data Exchange 2024 Call for Projects:** Vickie Morris requested a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the 2024 Work Zone Data Exchange Call for Projects selection and east/west funding split.

A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the projects recommended for the Work Zone Data Exchange Call for Projects and East/West funding split adjustments; and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide STIP, as well as other planning and administrative documents to incorporate these projects/adjustments as needed. Daniel Burnham (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items:** The following topics were listed on the agenda:

1. Transit 2.0 Policy Oversight Preparation for February Action
2. \$60 Million Received from Environmental Protection Agency Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program
3. Department of Defense \$4 Million Noise Mitigation Award for Elementary Schools in Lake Worth and White Settlement
4. Transportation Research Board January 5, 2025, (Washington, D.C.): Integrating Operational Change into Transportation Agencies to Optimize Project Delivery (Michael Morris and Ceason Clemons)
5. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Recommended PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard
6. Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing No Longer Requested
7. Sandy Wesch Celebration of Life - January 24, 2025, at 3:30 pm

Michael Morris briefly highlighted each item listed above, in addition to announcing the Regional Transportation Council meeting during August will be on August 7, 2025, to coincide with the Irving Infrastructure Summit.

8. **Mobility 2050 Development:** Amy Johnson provided an update on the development of Mobility 2050, the region's next Metropolitan Transportation Plan. An overview of ongoing efforts and progress toward completing the plan with updates on key plan elements was presented during the meeting.

9. **Pavement and Bridge Condition and System Performance, Freight, and Air Quality: PM2/PM3 Performance Measure Targets:** James McLane presented an update on two groups of federally required performance measures: Pavement and Bridge Condition (PM2) and System Performance and Freight (PM3). Observed progress for the measures was provided along with a proposal to reaffirm existing targets for the remainder of the current performance period.

10. **Fast Facts:** Staff provided brief presentations on Items 1 through 5 below:

1. *Jesse Brown* – Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report
2. *Kimberlin To* – Air North Texas 2024 Partner Awards ([Air North Texas - Partner Awards](#))
3. *Irlenia Hermosillo* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight
4. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
5. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. Written Progress Reports: Partner Progress Reports, October – November Public Comments Report, November Public Meeting Minutes, November – December Public Comments Report, January Public Meeting Notice, and February Public Meeting Notice.

11. **Other Business (Old or New):** No items were provided.

12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on February 28, 2025.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.