

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL Thursday, December 12, 2024

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following RTC members or representatives were present: Daniel Alemán, Bruce Arfsten, Steve Babick, Rick Bailey, Adam Bazaldua, Alan Blaylock, Ceason Clemens, Michael Crain, Theresa Daniel, Jeff Davis, Pat Deen, Andy Eads, Michael Evans, Gary Fickes, Carlos Flores (representing Elizabeth Beck), George Fuller, Raul Gonzalez, Lane Grayson, Mojoy Haddad, Julie Holmer (representing John Muns), Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jill Jester, Brandon Jones, Marcus E. Ray (representing Tammy Meinershagen), Stephen Mason, Cara Mendelsohn, Cesar Molina, Jesse Moreno, Omar Narvaez, Matthew Porter, Manny Ramirez, Paul Ridley (representing Chad West), Tito Rodriguez, Jim Ross, David Salazar, Gary Slagel, Bobby Stovall, Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, and Duncan Webb.

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Renee Arnold, Rachel Bagley, Berrien Barks, Emily Beckham, Kenny Bergstrom, Alberta Blair, Michelle Brewer, Jason Brown, Randall Bryant, Farhan Butt, Brandi Byrd, Jack Carr, Molly Carroll, Angie Carson, Dina Colarossi, Tara Crawford, Dawn Dalrymple, Clarence Daugherty, Brian Dell, Jennifer DeWitt, Gwen Dorko, Bob Dubey, Chris Dyser, Mike Eastland, Chad Edwards, Andrew Fortune, Eric Gallt, Carmen Garcia, Rebekah Gongora, Christie Gotti, Tony Hartzel, Kyle Hoener, Mark Holliday, Joseph James, Jim Jarratt, Dan Kessler, Madiha Khan, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Chris Kym, Dan Lamers, Eron Linn, Aaron Long, Malcolm Mayhew, Chad Marbut, Dillon Maroney, Gregory Masota, Rich Matyiku, Jon McKenzie, Bill Medina, Jessica Mendoza, Monte Mercer, Brian Moen, Jason Moore, Jonah Murray, Jenny Narvaez, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Dylan Niles, Joe O'Brien, Cintia Ortiz, Michael Peters, John Polster, Kelly Porter, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Abbas Rastandeh, Randy Richardson, James Rogge, Kathryn Rotter, Toni Stehling, Stephen Tanner, Kimberlin To, Jonathan Toffer, Daniela Tower, Lauren Trimble, Brendon Wheeler, Glen Whitley, Brian Wilson, and Hannah Witcher.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda:** Clay Lewis Jenkins, Regional Transportation Council Chair and Dallas County Judge asked if there were any public comments. Chair Jenkins noted that no members of the public chose to speak at the meeting or provide written comments.
2. **Approval of October 17, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the October 17, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Theresa Daniel (M); Duncan Webb (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:**
 - 3.1. **February 2025 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council approval of the revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

- 3.2. **Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council approval on Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Funding Programs of Projects. The action included direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and other planning/administrative documents as needed to incorporate funding on the approved projects.
- 3.3. **City of Everman Signal Funding:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$300,000 in RTC Local funds for a new traffic signal in the City of Everman. The action included direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and other planning/administrative documents as needed to incorporate funding on the project.
- 3.4. **Blue-Green-Grey Application for New Ideas Round 4 – Project Funding Recommendations:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$248,300 in RTC Local funds for three projects in the Blue-Green-Grey Program: 1) Allen Inlet Filter Pilot Program, 2) Dallas Area Rapid Transit Vermiculture Food Waste Composting Lawnview Station, and 3) Frisco Median Bioswale Retrofit Parkwood Boulevard. The action included direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and other planning/administrative documents as needed to incorporate funding on the approved projects.
- 3.5. **Backstop Funding: Supporting Vehicle Procurement for the Advanced 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) authorization to utilize up to \$1,004,000 in RTC Local funds as a temporary backstop to support contract obligations and expenditures for the purchase of electric buses and in-plant inspection services within the Southern Dallas Inland Port.
- 3.6. **Strategic Highway Network Proposed Additions:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council approval of the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed addition of United States (US) 287 from Interstate Highway (IH) 45 to IH 20 to the Strategic Roadway Network (STRAHNET).
- 3.7. **Endorsement of Community Noise Mitigation Program Grant Submission:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to endorse the North Central Texas Council of Governments' grant applications for the Community Noise Mitigation Program (CNMP); recommend approval of \$281,000 in RTC Local funds to advance pre-application consultant activities to backfill Regional Joint Land-Use Study activities, provide NCTCOG's portion of the CNMP local match, and provide additional local match for Regional Joint Land-use Study activities; and approve staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide TIP and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes should be project be selected for funding.
- 3.8. **City of River Oaks, Meandering Road Right of Way Acquisition Loan:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to advance right-of-way acquisition funding in the amount of \$950,000 in RTC

Local funds for the reconstruction of Meandering Road from Roberts Cut-Off in River Oaks to LT JG Barnett Road in Fort Worth. The City of River Oaks is acquiring the right-of-way at the request of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the other project partners. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local funds will be returned upon River Oaks receiving federal reimbursement.

A motion was made to approve Items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8 on the Consent Agenda. Jim Ross (M); Daniel Alemán (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris briefly highlighted items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 14.
 1. Recognizing Regional Successes in Energy Efficiencies, Air Quality, Mobility Award Recognition Luncheon Recap
 2. Regional Transportation Council Service Awards—
 - Mo Bur, Texas Department of Transportation
 - Commissioner Gary Fickes, Tarrant County
 - Commissioner Roy Brooks, Tarrant County
 - Former County Judge B. Glen Whitley, Tarrant County
 - Mike Eastland, Executive Director, NCTCOG, Retirement
 3. Receipt of United States Department of Transportation 2023 Transportation Conformity Determination
 4. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery – Transit Data Update
 5. 2025 Regional Transportation Council and Surface Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Schedules: Irving Summit is scheduled for August 7, 2025. Michael will coordinate with the Chair for the August RTC meeting.
 6. Sandy Wesch Passing; Celebration of Sandy Wesch's life is scheduled for January 9, 2025.
 7. Executive Director's Recommended PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards Designations
 8. Swyft Cities Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology Program Update
 9. Texas Department of Transportation Rider 48 Report: Evaluation of Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Capacity (<https://www.txdot.gov/content/dam/docs/government/rider-48-report.pdf>)
 10. Air Quality Project Spotlight: Arlington Multimodal Drone Delivery Demonstration Results
 11. Engine Off North Status Report
 12. Attendance Report: Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Committee
 13. Reminder of Annual Required Local Government Energy Reporting – Due March 4, 2025
 14. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing
 15. Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
 16. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
 17. September – October Public Comment Report
 18. October – November Public Comment Report
 19. October Public Meeting Minutes
 20. November Public Meeting Notice
 21. November Public Meeting Minutes
 22. Recent News Articles

23. Recent Press Releases

5. **Fiscal Year 2024 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program:** Jeffrey Neal requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to submit a project for the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant Program. Applications are due to the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) by December 16, 2024.

A motion was made to approve the submittal of the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Corridor Double-Tracking Project for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Federal-State Partnership (FSP) for Intercity Passenger Rail Program. Approval included use of up to \$2.4 million in Regional Toll Revenue and RTC Local funds as a backstop in lieu of a partnership with Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Trinity Metro for the 20 percent non-federal match to complete FSP Track 1 (Project Planning) and FSP Track 2 (Project Development) tasks for an application total of \$12 million; and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide TIP (STIP), as well as other planning and administrative documents, for inclusion of the proposed project if selected for a FY2024 FSP Grant award. Theresa Daniel (M); Omar Narvaez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Project Status Report: Fiscal Year 2024 Project Tracking, Fiscal Year 2025 Project Tracking and Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Round 2:** Brian Dell provided the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) with a status report on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Project Tracking, FY2025 Project Tracking, and Milestone Policy Round 2 projects. RTC approval of various updates to Milestone Policy project deadlines was requested.

A motion was made to approve staff recommendations detailed in slide 5 for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Update as follows: Union Pacific (UP) Railroad Crossing Project (Haltom City); staff recommendation: establish a letting deadline of December 2025; United States (US) 81/US 287 Projects (Texas Department of Transportation -Fort Worth); staff recommendation: extend letting deadline to December 2026; and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) along with other administrative/planning documents as needed to incorporate any changes to affected projects. Matthew Porter (M); Tito Rodriguez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Call for Projects to Reduce Diesel Emissions:** Jason Brown provided an overview and requested Regional Transportation Council approval on the criteria and schedule for a new, competitive Call for Projects (CFP) to award rebates through the North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 utilizing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds.

A motion was made to approve North Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Project 2024 including opening the Open Call for Projects, with details of eligibility screens and scoring criteria; and the schedule for the Call for Projects (Call opening on December 16, 2024, and a Rolling 90-Day application deadline to fully award funds). Theresa Daniel (M); Bruce Arfsten (S). The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Strategic Traffic Signal Equipment Selection Upgrades:** Michael Morris requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the strategic selection process for traffic signal coordination equipment upgrades.

A motion was made for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the process, criteria, and schedule for the strategic selection of traffic signal coordination equipment; and to administratively amend the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide TIP, as well as other planning and administrative documents. Duncan Webb (M); Matthew Porter (S). The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Fiscal Year 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program:** Jeffrey Neal briefed the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program, dedicated for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Details highlighting grant requirements, merit criteria, and possible multimodal project candidates were provided to the Council.
10. **End of 2024 Ozone Season Recap:** Jenny Narvaez provided a summary of the 2024 ozone season activity and other air quality updates for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The ozone season is from March 1 to November 30.
11. **Demographics Forecast 2050 and Mobility 2050 Key Updates:** Dan Kessler presented a summary of the recently completed Forecast 2050, the region's new population and employment forecasts for the year 2050. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board approved these forecasts on November 21, 2024. These forecasts will be used to support the upcoming development of Mobility 2050: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. Brendon Wheeler presented a status report on the development of Mobility 2050 highlighting anticipated revenue forecasts, preliminary cost estimates, and key focus areas.
12. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 12.1 and Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes were provided in Electronic Item 12.2.
13. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
14. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is scheduled for 1:00 pm on January 9, 2025, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.