



June 2024

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

Commit to a better air quality on June 7



June is historically the time of year when air quality across the Dallas-Fort Worth area is thrust to the forefront of people’s minds. With summer temperatures settling in, this

is typically when the region begins experiencing days with elevated levels of ozone pollution.

Prolonged exposure to elevated concentrations of ground-level ozone may result in health issues such as reduced lung function, more asthma episodes and less resistance to respiratory infections, according to clinical studies. North Texans can do their part to boost the region's air quality without making significant changes. Clean Air Action Day will take place on June 7 this year.

This is the annual day when North Texas residents, businesses and governments are encouraged to make slight changes to their routines that might help enhance air quality throughout Dallas-Fort Worth. There are many ways people can make a difference in regional air quality. They can avoid commuting entirely by working from home. If they must go to the office, they can find an alternative commute, such as carpooling or using transit. Limiting unnecessary idling and taking lunch to work can also help. Governments are encouraged to consider implementing strategies in three categories: public services, programs and enforcement, and communication with employees.

Businesses can help through operations, communication with employees or vehicle operations. Ten counties in the region (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise) are in nonattainment for ozone, and Air North Texas is one way the North Central Texas Council of Governments works to ensure air quality remains a focal point throughout the transportation planning process. For a full list of clean air strategies individuals, businesses and governments can enact to help the region move closer to attainment, and to take the pledge to complete one action to benefit regional air quality, visit airnorthtexas.org/cleanairactionday. Signing up for air quality alerts at airnorthtexas.org/signup can keep you informed of when action is recommended.

Additionally, Dallas and Tarrant counties face the potential of being declared in nonattainment for particulate matter, commonly called soot, following the federal government's announcement it would toughen the standard by 2026.

North Texans are encouraged to maintain their Clean Air Action Day commitments made on June 7 throughout all of ozone season, which ends Nov. 30. Be sure to use #CAAD2024 and tag us on social media to show your commitment to clean air in your community and to get others involved.

Drone delivery pilot takes off in Arlington



A collaboration that aims to use uncrewed aircraft and robots to deliver food to Arlington residents in need has officially gotten off the ground. NCTCOG and Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition joined representatives from the City of Arlington, the University of Texas at Arlington, Tarrant Area Food Bank and private-sector providers at a kickoff event for this pilot project, funded in part by a \$780,000 grant from the US Department of Energy.

During a two-year study, approximately 300 boxes of food will be delivered by uncrewed aircraft and robots to Tarrant Area Food Bank clients in east Arlington, according to the city. The deliveries will be made by Aerialoop's ALT6-4 VTOL Delivery Drone aircraft and Clevon's autonomous delivery robot, CLEVON 1.

The ALT6-4 VTOL Delivery Drone is battery powered and can carry nearly nine pounds. The CLEVON 1 is equipped with a cargo bay that clients can unlock with a code to access deliveries. Routes will be developed to avoid flying over residential areas and high-traffic roadways, and onboard sensors will use data only for navigation purposes according to the City of Arlington.

The Regional Transportation Council is involved in another project that aims to use technology to increase access to food, medicine and other necessities. The North Texas Innovation Alliance has relaunched an effort to expand broadband access

throughout the region. In partnership with NCTCOG and representatives from the Texas Governor’s Broadband Council, the Internet for North Texas Coalition (I4NTX) represents a regional collaboration to prioritize broadband infrastructure and access, supporting digital equity for all residents.

Irving City Council adopts bike plan



Until recently, Irving was the largest community in Dallas-Fort Worth without an adopted plan for on-street bicycling as a mode of transportation. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) partnered with the city to develop the Irving Bike Plan, a guiding document identifying a citywide bikeway network that connects to neighboring cities and serves bicyclists of all ages and abilities. The Irving City Council adopted the plan in May.

A 20-member stakeholder committee representing residents, businesses and people interested in bicycling helped guide the planning process. The committee and the public emphasized the importance of addressing safety, encouraging bicycle ridership, implementing a network that is safe and comfortable for bicyclists of all ages and

abilities, and increasing driver awareness of bicyclists to improve safety of all roadway users.

The plan identifies the infrastructure necessary for citywide travel by bicycle, with an emphasis on the ability to make short bicycle trips, including connections to Dallas Area Rapid Transit stops and stations, employment, education facilities, recreation, and other major destinations. The plan includes recommended phasing of bikeway corridors for implementation, action steps for enhancing bicycling in the community, and performance measures to gauge long-term progress and accountability.

Read more about the plan [here](#).

50th Anniversary Focus: Air Quality



NCTCOG is celebrating the 50th anniversary this year of its status as the metropolitan planning organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This month, we focus on Air Quality, which has been important to transportation in the region for decades. Dallas-Fort Worth is pursuing two ozone standards: 75 parts per billion (2008) and 70 ppb (2015). This [graphic](#) demonstrates the progress made in improving the ozone concentration and some of the ways you can help the region meet these standards.

NCTCOG to launch public input opportunity June 10

TRANSPORTATION ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

MONDAY, JUNE 10 - TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

SUBMIT COMMENTS & QUESTIONS TO NCTCOG:

nctcogJune24@PublicInput.com | PublicInput.com/nctcogJune24

Phone: (855) 925-2801 (Enter code 6129) | Fax: 817-640-3028

P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005-5888



NCTCOG is hosting an online input opportunity from June 10 to July 9. This opportunity will allow residents to learn more about and participate in the regional transportation planning process. To submit comments and questions to NCTCOG, email nctcogJune24@publicinput.com or visit publicinput.com/nctcogJune24.

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) provides a summary of transportation and related air quality planning activities to be conducted in the region over a two-year period. Proposed modifications to the FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP will be posted in the files tab near the bottom of the page. For more details on the UPWP, visit nctcog.org/upwp.

Information will also be provided about the following initiatives and programs: Interactive Public Input: Map Your Experience, NCTCOG Spatial Data Cooperative Program, the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition.

For special accommodation due to disability or language interpretation, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or 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.

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