



APRIL 2025

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

CELEBRATE REGION'S GROWING TRAIL NETWORK APRIL 26



It's the time of year for people to get outside more. Between the nice weather, beautiful flowers and extended daylight hours, people have more of an incentive to do something active in the spring.

North Texans may want to meet their friends at one of the many community festivals happening throughout the area. Or maybe they prefer to pack a picnic lunch for the family to enjoy at the neighborhood park. Along the way, they may find a bicycle-pedestrian trail – and feel the urge to get their bike out of the garage and explore.

The [Rails to Trails Conservancy](#) invites people across the country to hit the trails on Saturday, April 26, for the annual [Celebrate Trails Day](#), a national event meant to

highlight the importance of the nation's 42,000-plus miles of multiuse trails currently open. Across Dallas-Fort Worth, there are more than 1,000 miles of trails to explore, with thousands more funded or planned.

Whether you want to go for a morning jog on your neighborhood trail, find a new route for your family bike ride or take your bike out for the first time, it's likely Dallas-Fort Worth's growing trail system has what you are looking for.

To learn about the trails near you, visit NCTCOG's trails and on-street bikeways [page](#). If you participate in Celebrate Trails Day, take a picture of your journey and post it on social media along with your choice of trails. And remember to tag us using @nctcogtrans.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

AN EYE ON ROADWAY SAFETY



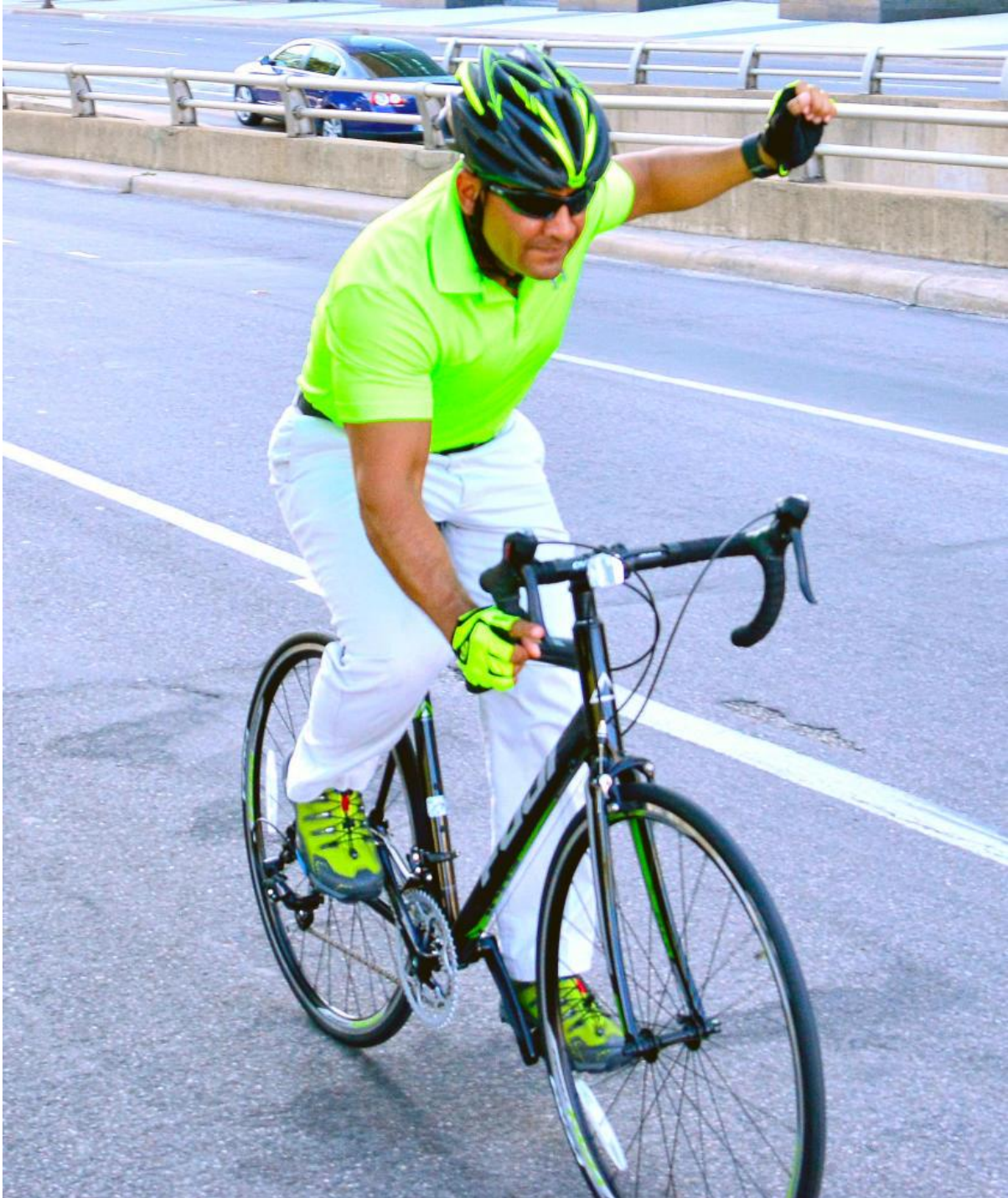
We've all been tempted. A quick glance at a text, a moment spent adjusting the radio, a tap on our car's touchscreen. All are seemingly small actions that can lead to tragic outcomes.

Despite ongoing driver awareness campaigns and a 2017 state law banning texting and driving, distracted driving continues to plague Texas roadways. Distracted driving was responsible for 94,330 crashes in Texas in 2023, according to the Texas Department of Transportation; nearly 2,800 people were seriously injured as a result, and almost 400 died.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, so the North Central Texas Council of Governments is devoting the Topic of the Month to exploring the multifaceted challenges of roadway safety such as distracted driving.

Read more about what NCTCOG and its partners are doing to improve roadway safety by visiting the Topic of the Month [webpage](#).

HELP IMPROVE BICYCLE SAFETY: TAKE THE REGIONAL SURVEY



On average nearly 500 crashes between a bicyclist and motor vehicle are reported to public safety officers each year in North Texas. In the past five years there have been 429 fatal and serious bicycle crashes and over 1,100 minor injuries to bicyclists on North Texas roadways.

NCTCOG is developing a Regional Bicycle Safety Action Plan to analyze crash patterns, identify perceived challenges to safe bicycling, and develop strategies to prioritize the implementation of safety countermeasures in areas and corridors with a high frequency of bicycle crashes. The Action Plan will include policies and programs intended to save lives and support safe, bicycle-friendly communities.

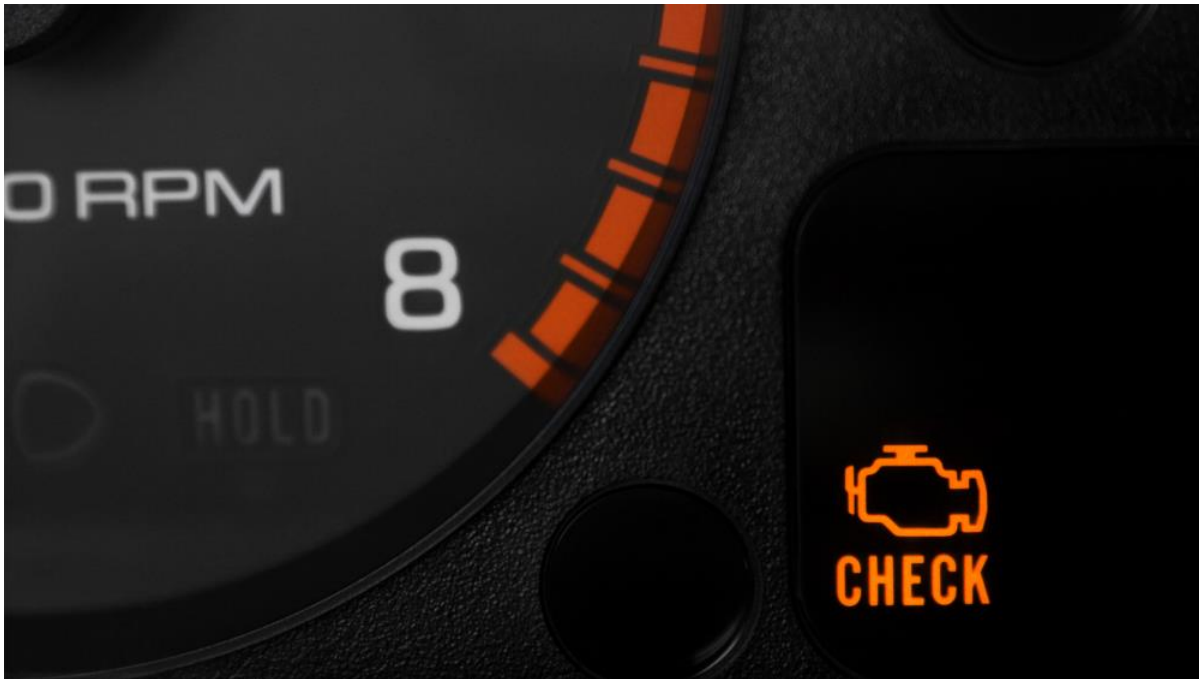
A survey is underway through June to solicit public input on bicycle safety across the region. Survey questions ask respondents about:

- Perceptions of safety
- Challenges to bicycling
- Priorities for safety improvements

Whether you are a first-time rider or seasoned cyclist, your views on roadway safety will be essential to the development of the Regional Bicycle Safety Action Plan. Complete the survey and enter for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card! The survey will only take 5 minutes.

Have your voice heard! Take the survey: PublicInput.com/bikesafety.

STOP PUTTING OFF YOUR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE



April is National Car Care Awareness Month, a perfect time to ensure your vehicle is in top shape for the seasons ahead. Preventative maintenance can save you time and money, keep the air clean, and ensure safety on the road.

If your check engine light comes on, get it checked out as soon as possible by a qualified technician. This can save you money and help reduce pollution, ensuring you pass your annual vehicle inspection. Addressing issues early can prevent more serious problems down the road.

Ensure your tires are properly inflated and have sufficient tread depth, as properly inflated tires can improve your gas mileage and keep your tires lasting longer. Replace windshield wipers if they are cracked or torn, as clear visibility is crucial, especially during spring showers. Regularly checking and topping off all essential fluids can prevent engine damage and extend the life of your vehicle.

As temperatures rise, it's crucial to check your cooling system to avoid overheating. An overheated engine can lead to costly repairs. Maintaining your cooling system can also improve your vehicle's performance.

Stay safe and be Car Care Aware! Find more information at NTXCarCare.org.

ENGINE OFF NORTH TEXAS HELPS SAVE MONEY, BOOST AIR QUALITY



Striving for efficient regional deliveries, many fleets believe they must idle their engines instead of cutting them off. But in reality, idling wastes fuel, damages vehicles and harms the environment. No one benefits from this costly habit.

The Engine Off North Texas program aims to educate the region about the hazards of idling and help reduce its harmful effects.

To address concerns associated with engine idling, Engine Off North Texas coordinates with governments across the 10-county nonattainment area to encourage the adoption and enforcement of idling restrictions for heavy-duty commercial vehicles (with a 30-minute limit for buses) and to inform them of options to enforce such ordinances. The program provides support to all 28 ordinance-adopting municipalities by providing signage upon request to facilitate awareness about idling limits and penalties (fines reach up to \$500 per violation).

Engine Off North Texas offers educational materials, including posters, brochures and online resources to drivers and the public at EngineOffNorthTexas.org. The program also offers a toll-free number as an option for reporting this activity, at 877-NTX-IDLE (877-689-4353).

INPUT SOUGHT ON NEXT LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN APRIL 7



NCTCOG invites public input on the region's next long-range transportation plan and other transportation initiatives during a hybrid public meeting at noon on Monday, April 7. The meeting will be held in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG offices, located at 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington. Those unable to attend in person can view the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogApr25. Residents can also participate by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 11203. Public comments will be accepted until May 6.

The meeting will feature presentations on Mobility 2050, the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and updates on Transit Asset Management and Public Transit Agency Safety Plan performance measures. Staff will discuss progress, next steps, and new draft Public Transit Agency Safety Plan performance targets for public input, which need approval by the Regional Transportation Council by the end of Fiscal Year 2025. For more information, visit PublicInput.com/nctcogApr25.

For more information about topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

--Imagery provided by NCTCOG and Getty Images.

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