

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL July 11, 2024

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 1:00 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following members or representatives were present: Daniel Alemán, Bruce Arfsten, Steve Babick, Rick Bailey, Elizabeth Beck, Gyna Bivens, Alan Blaylock, Ceason Clemens, John Cordary (representing David Salazar), Jeff Davis, Pat Deen, Andy Eads, Michael Evans, Carlos Flores (representing Michael Crain), George Fuller, Raul Gonzalez, Lane Grayson, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Brandon Jones, Stephen Mason, Tammy Meinershagen, Cara Mendelsohn, Ed Moore, Omar Narvaez, Matthew Porter, Tito Rodriguez, Jim Ross, Gary Slagel, Bobby Stovall, Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, Duncan Webb, and Chad West.

Others present at the meeting were: Angela Alcedo, Vickie Alexander, Susan Alvarez, Micah Baker, Berrien Barks, Jeff Baska, Carli Baylor, Curtis Bergthold, Kenny Bergstrom, Natalie Bettger, Brandi Bird, Alberta Blair, Lonnie Blaydes, Chris Bosco, Carlton Brewer, Jason Brodigan, Rick Carmona, David Carranza, Molly Carroll, Angie Carson, Dina Colarossi, , Tara Crawford, Alyssa Cunningham, Dawn Dalrymple, Clarence Daugherty, Bob Dubey, Chad Edwards, Staron Faucher, Joshua Fedler, Justin Galloway, Jillian Giles, Christie Gotti, Calvin Grigsby, Scott Hall, Tom Hammons, Tony Hartzel, Amy Hodges, Courtney Holt, James Hotopp, Joseph Jackson, Joel James, Sam Jeffrey, Jill Jester, Dan Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Aaron Long, Aylin Lozano, Paul Luedtke, Stanford Lynch, Clem Maddox, Dillon Maroney, Kit Marshall, Omayra Mata, Rich Matyiko, Cesar Molina, Joaguin Moreno, Michael Morris, Mark Nelson, Dylan Niles, Cintia Ortiz, Martin Phillips, John Polster, Bob Pruitt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Andrei Radu, Jessica Ramirez, Marcus E. Ray, Joseph Reasoner, Hailey Richardson, Randy Richardson, Bethany Rustz, Kay Shellton, Devon Skinner, Sidney Sonck, Toni Stehling, Stephen Tanner, Kimberlin To, John Tobin, Lauren Trimble, Whitney Vandiver, Brendon Wheeler, Amanda Wilson, Marcus Wood, and Ann Zadeh.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda:** This item allows members of the public an opportunity to comment on agenda items. Regional Transportation Council Chair Clay Lewis Jenkins asked if there were any public comments. David Carranza spoke on Agenda Items 3.1, 3.2, 4, 9, and 13; Marcus Wood spoke on Agenda Items 3.2, 4.17, 9, and 13; and Jessica Ramirez spoke on Agenda Items 3.2, 7, and 13. Written comments were provided and can be found in the Public Comments Report under the Director's Report agenda item.
2. **Approval of June 13, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the June 13, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Gyna Bivens (M); Michael Evans (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 3.1 **Ratification of Emergency Funding: Backstop Funding for Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant:** Regional Transportation Council (RTC) ratification was requested of emergency funding authorization in the amount of \$100,000 for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant to backstop local match requirements and avoid project implementation delays.

- 3.2 **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program:** Regional Transportation Council approval of Amendment #3 to the FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (Electronic Item 3.2.1) was requested, as well as direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program, and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications.
- 3.3 **Opportunity to Support Sponsorship of the Infrastructure Summit 2024 in Recognition of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's 50th Anniversary:** Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval was requested to utilize \$25,000 in RTC Local funds to support sponsorship of the Irving Infrastructure Summit 2024.

A motion was made to approve Items 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 on the Consent Agenda. Gyna Bivens (M); Ed Moore (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris expressed appreciation to his Executive Assistant, Angela Alcedo, for her service and remarkable work with him and the Transportation Department as she transfers to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Workforce Development Department. Electronic Item 4.2 contained an official stamped copy of the resolution on high-speed rail from the City of Dallas mentioned at the high-speed workshop held prior to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting. Michael highlighted the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies, a program with Tier 1 universities that are funded to create opportunities for the private sector utilize assistance from universities to help advance the next generation of various technologies. Additional details and progress reports were provided in Electronic Items 4.3 and 4.4. NCTCOG and the RTC will celebrate their 50 years as a metropolitan planning organization on August 8, 2024, at the Irving Infrastructure Summit in partnership with the City of Irving and the North Texas Commission. Michael noted that Transit 2.0 is proceeding by communicating with the cities and reminded local governments of the importance of working directly with the consultants. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 4.5. Michael expressed appreciation to Dallas County, Dallas Councilmember Omar Narvaez, and NCTCOG staff member Jeff Neal, who partnered again for the fourth time on the Dallas County Inland Port Multimodal Connectivity Project's submittal under federal initiative. The project was awarded \$25 million. In addition, Michael noted that Swyft is one of the Google technology companies that's part of the Certification of Emerging and Reliable Transportation Technology (CERTT) program where the private sector is being encouraged to deliver private-sector solutions. Electronic Item 4.6 contained an article describing the progress being made with different communities within the region through the Swyft Cities Feasibility Study. When it is closer to implementation, more information will be provided to the Council. Michael mentioned that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) continues to suspend the RTC tolling policy regarding Dynamic Pricing. The Dallas-Fort Worth Reclassification of 2015 Ozone Standard data effective as of July 22, 2024, was provided in Electronic Item 4.7. Transportation Conformity and Ozone Season update data was provided in Electronic Item 4.8. The remaining items were not presented.
5. **Federal Transit Administration Transit Oriented Development Pilot Grant Fiscal Year 2024 Trinity Railway Express Transit Oriented Development Strategic Plan:** Karla Windsor presented a request for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to submit a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant application for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) planning for the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) corridor with

RTC Local funds provided as a match. FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning has \$10.5 million (FY 2024) available in competitive grants for comprehensive or site-specific planning associated with new fixed guideway and core capacity improvement transit projects. Karla highlighted the required statutes that plans must study improving economic development and enabling mixed-use near transit stations, plan to increase ridership potential, examine multimodal connectivity, accessibility, pedestrian and bicycle transit access, engage the private sector, identify infrastructure needs, and must have partnership between transit agencies and cities to be eligible. Karla briefly provided an overview of the TRE TOD strategic plan to be developed with the goal to increase TOD, density, mixed-income, economic development and ridership on the TRE. A map of the TRE stations included in the Pilot grant was presented and the grant application's deadline is July 22, 2024. NCTCOG will be coordinating with cities and transit agencies to have letters of intent for partnership signed by all entities including Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Trinity Metro, Trinity Railway Express, and the Cities of Fort Worth, Irving, and Dallas. Details were provided in Electronic Item 5.

A motion was made to approve the submittal of a Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program grant application for the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan requesting \$800,000 in federal funding and an approved \$200,000 in RTC Local funds for non-federal match should the project be selected for funding award; and to direct staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Statewide TIP and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes, if awarded funding. Elizabeth Beck (M); Gyna Bivens (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Application to the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program:** Savana Nance presented a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants program, which is a brand-new program created under the Inflation Reduction Act. There are two sub programs, a school bus program and a vocational trucks program. Examples of vocational vehicles are dump trucks, refuse haulers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, and for the purposes of this program, transit buses. There's an opportunity to replace existing trucks that are fueled by anything other than battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell (gasoline, diesel, natural gas, etc.) with a zero-emission version (battery electric or hydrogen fuel cell). If it's a truck in that category, there's an opportunity for public agencies to apply directly to EPA. Savana highlighted there's value in pursuing a regional proposal because the private sector is not able to apply directly to the EPA. Also, a regional proposal opens up opportunities for an organization to request a small pilot project because EPA requires a minimum of three vehicles in a single application. Each individual application can request anywhere from \$500,000 to \$60 million per proposal. Savana presented additional technical details about the existing vehicle versus what the new vehicle would have. This program provides new opportunities for the region, including increased funding levels for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and electric vehicles, and allows for replacement of non-diesel (gasoline, compressed natural gas, propane) vehicles, flexible scrappage alternatives, funding for infrastructure, renewable on-site power generation systems, and workforce development activities related to zero-emission vehicles. The proposed NCTCOG application would request up to \$60 million from the EPA CHDV grant vocational vehicle sub-program on behalf of the region and reserve all EPA funds for project implementation by using the NCTCOG Grants Management and RTC Initiative Fund to fund project

administration/grant management. Savana provided a schedule including seeking approval at the July 25, 2024, Executive Board meeting; the EPA application deadline is July 25, 2024, with anticipated notification of selection in November 2024, anticipated awards in February 2025, and if awarded, NCTCOG opens Call for Projects during the April-May 2025 timeline. An overview of the proposed projects was contained in Electronic Item 6. For more information visit: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/chdv>.

A motion was made to approve the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) application to the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants Program for up to \$60 million, and amendment of the Unified Planning Work Program, along with any other planning/administrative documents as necessary, if awarded. Carlos Flores (M); Michael Evans (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Blue-Green-Grey Round Four Application for New Ideas:** Karla Windsor provided a request for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to open the Blue-Green-Grey (BGG) applications for New Ideas Round 4 on July 15, 2024, with a pre-application workshop hosted on July 17, 2024, and applications due on August 16, 2024. The application for New Ideas funding amount is \$250,000 total of RTC Local; with no local match required with approximately three anticipated awards. The purpose of the BGG program promotes the planning and construction of green or sustainable infrastructure in the region, to advance small projects with innovative outcomes that can be scaled and/or replicated regionally with the focus on three elements: blue = water, green = environment, and grey = transportation. Karla briefly explained the BGG program and that the previous funding rounds have been allocated with a total of \$449,080 in RTC Local funds. She mentioned project examples that may be either a feasibility assessment and/or planning for a BGG project, or a project is ready for construction and implementation. The project deliverables may look like guidelines or planning documents for a pilot construction project that other entities can use, various test sites for a specific project, development/feasibility assessment of new technology or processes that could be integrated into any project. Karla presented the evaluation criteria in Electronic Item 7.1 with the pre-application workshop flyer provided in Electronic Item 7.2. The schedule for Round 4 opens the call on July 15, 2024, and the pre-application workshop is scheduled for July 17, 2024. While the call is open, questions from applicants will be accepted for Frequently Asked Questions that will then be published online for those interested to review. Applications will be due at 5:00 pm, on August 16, 2024. Final recommendations for projects to be awarded will be presented for action by the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and RTC in the October and November timeframe.

A motion was made to approve the opening of Round 4 of the Blue-Green-Grey application for New Ideas and elements related to eligible activities, funding and local match requirements, program rules, and schedule. Matthew Porter (M); Daniel Alemán (S). The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Discussion on High-Speed Rail Workshop:** Michael Morris provided an overview on the High-Speed Rail workshop held prior to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting on July 11, 2024. The next steps from the workshop were presented with August action items highlighted including project team meetings and a hybrid public meeting being scheduled prior to the August RTC meeting. The workshop proposed a resolution to the City of Dallas' position in not supporting a downtown alignment with the possibility of a new route to explore in the City of Dallas, if the city's position is maintained. The City of Dallas, City of

Fort Worth, and City of Arlington are doing an economic development study to determine the economic impact of the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail project to their cities and the region. The action at the August meeting will direct the project team in how to proceed. There were several RTC members that expressed their appreciation for the tone and cooperation during the workshop.

9. **2025 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan:** Christie Gotti highlighted the proposed recommendations for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) regarding the Regional 10-Year Plan Update. Texas House Bill (HB) 20 requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) develop 10-Year Plans using performance-based planning and project selection methods. The 10-Year Plan includes projects funded with Category 2 (MPO selected), Category 4 (Texas Department of Transportation [TxDOT] District selected), and Category 12 (Texas Transportation Commission [TTC] selected) funds. The Regional 10-Year Plan was originally approved by the RTC in December 2016. This plan is updated annually in conjunction with the development of TxDOT's Unified Transportation Program (UTP). Christie noted that TxDOT began developing the 2025 UTP in fall of 2023 and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff coordinated with the TxDOT districts regarding project updates (e.g. costs/funding, environmental clearance and let dates), potential new projects, and 2024 projects that need additional funding to cover cost overruns at letting. Christie provided the principles for the development of the Regional 10-Year Plan: project should be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and be something that is supposed to be implemented by 2036, with the focus on "system" versus new, stand-alone projects, fully fund existing projects before funding new projects (with a focus on projects letting in the next 2-3 years), ensure equity of county allocations, maintain toll lanes/toll managed lanes on selected corridors, re-fund previously unfunded projects when possible, ensure all RTC projects are approved in 2025 UTP (including "placeholders"), and projects must be scored and should have a score sufficient to qualify for funding. Christie briefly provided an overview of the historical funding allocations for Category 2 and 4 and the amounts awarded by the TTC for Category 12 over time going back to 2017. An overview of the next steps in the process, including incorporating changes to listings resulting from TTC's proposal to add \$740 million in new Category 12 funding to the United States (US) 380/SPUR 399 project, and the removal of \$25 million of previously approved Category 12 funds on Interstate 30 in the East Corridor section. Staff is finalizing project listings in coordination with the TxDOT districts and TxDOT headquarters, bringing back the listings for approval, including Category 12 amounts and changes to the let/completed projects list (e.g., 2024 cost overruns), providing an update on the region's Category 2 carryover balances and latest information on West/East non-formula fund tracking, and bringing back any project changes to the committees if the TTC action is different than proposed project listings. She mentioned the timeline during the month of July with public involvement and action sought at the Surface Transportation Technical Committee meeting on July 26, 2024; action requested at the RTC meeting on August 8, 2024, TxDOT public involvement for the 2025 UTP during July and August of 2024, and anticipated TTC approval of the 2025 UTP in August 2024. Electronic Item 9.1 included additional information about the process. Electronic Item 9.2 contained the proposed list of planned projects for the Regional 10-Year Plan. Electronic Item 9.3 contained the 10-Year Plan projects that have let or been completed. Commissioner Duncan Webb expressed appreciation to the RTC, TTC, and NCTCOG staff for all of the hard work to help continue moving forward with TxDOT on the US 380 and Spur 399, in addition to TxDOT continuing to advance the right-of-way acquisition, utilities, and fully fund the freeway of the SPUR 399 for Collin County. Mayor George Fuller echoed Commissioner Duncan Webb's appreciation.

10. **Invitation to Participate in Charging Smart Program:** Amy Hodges presented an update and invited local governments to participate in Charging Smart, a new designation program that rewards municipalities for electric vehicle (EV) readiness. Charging Smart is funded by the United States (US) Department of Energy Vehicle Technologies Office and is led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council with key project partners. The program provides best practices and policies to streamline planning, permitting, and inspections to support the deployment of EV infrastructure. She provided an overview of the program benefits: signals to EV service providers and project developers that communities are open to EV charging development, provides chargers throughout the community, chargers on city-owned property facilitates staff adoption of EVs, enables access to technical assistance at no cost, improves efficiency of local government processes, and the creates another opportunity to showcase community achievements. The Charging Smart framework's action categories are planning, regulation, utility engagement, education and incentives, government operations, and shared mobility. Interested parties should contact cleancities@nctcog.org by Monday, July 15, 2024, to join a cohort of peer participants. Initial steps will include a self-assessment and commitment letter. Electronic Item 10 included additional details found at <https://www.dfwcleancities.org/charging-smart>.
11. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 11.1 and Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes were provided in Electronic Item 11.2.
12. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
13. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for 2:00 pm, Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the Irving Convention Center, 500 West Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, TX 75039, during Infrastructure Summit 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm.