

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, September 27, 2024

North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda

(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connections Password: rangers!)

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of August 23, 2024, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Gus Khankarli, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the August 23, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.

Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40

2. Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

1:40 – 1:50

3. 2025 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Daniel Snyder, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview and request action to open the 2025 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the North Central Texas Region including eligibility, criteria, and schedule.

Background: Approximately \$50 million is anticipated to be available to fund active transportation projects in the large Urbanized Areas of the North Central Texas region. Eligible applications under this program include the construction of on-and-off road pedestrian and bicycle facilities and Safe Routes to School plans. Staff will present a program overview for the Call for Projects, areas of eligibility, required documentation, and schedule. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Vision Zero Health Policy**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Daniela Tower, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request action on a recommendation for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to approve the “Vision Zero for Human Health” Policy (P24-02).

Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region continues to remain in nonattainment for the pollutant ozone with classifications of severe under the 2008 standard and serious under the 2015 standard. Regulatory monitors in current attainment counties are continuing to rise with many already exceeding both ozone standards. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency has lowered the annual standard for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) to 9 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). Two regulatory monitors in the region’s most populous counties - Dallas and Tarrant - currently exceed the new PM_{2.5} standard. Elevated concentrations of ozone and PM_{2.5} are correlated with adverse health effects and are especially prevalent in disadvantaged communities. Increased stringency of federal standards and rising monitor values indicate increasing importance to better understand the influence of local sources, including the role of transportation, as well as the influence of potential exterior sources, meteorological patterns, and resulting spatial distribution of pollutants. Development of a non-regulatory monitoring network to track movement of air pollutants into and within DFW with a focus on counties that are in nonattainment and near nonattainment for ozone and fine particulate matter standards will improve understanding of the spatial and temporal distribution of pollution levels and associated health risks. For more information, please see Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Update on Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Projects and Request for Matching Funds**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jared Wright, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI) Community Award and other upcoming electric vehicle (EV) charger investments in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) region. Staff will also request a recommendation for Regional

Transportation Council (RTC) approval for NCTCOG to use Transportation Development Credits (TDC) to satisfy match requirements for the FHWA CFI Community Award.

Background: NCTCOG is involved in deployment of three programs coming to the NCTCOG region, providing funding in excess of \$85 million to build EV charging stations. An upcoming kick-off meeting hosted by NCTCOG will provide detailed program information for local governments to consider as staff seeks input on implementation of each program. Additionally, NCTCOG will be requesting local governments complete a survey on EV charging interest in the communities to help coordinate regional project implementation. One of the programs being administered by NCTCOG is the CFI Community Grant Program. For this initiative, NCTCOG has been awarded \$15 million in FHWA funds to deploy EV charging stations in the NCTCOG region. To meet the non-federal share of expenses budgeted for NCTCOG administrative efforts and consultant services, NCTCOG will request up to 607,577 in TDCs. The remainder of the non-federal share is expected to be provided by private entities involved in the acquisition, construction, installation, operations, or maintenance of the EV charging stations. More information is provided in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:10 – 2:30

6. **Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 20

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of current transportation items will be provided.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

1. Member Orientation - Prior to the Regional Transportation Council Meeting Scheduled for October 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
2. Draft 2025 Regional Transportation Council Legislative Program and Status of Transit 2.0
3. Housing Policy for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Electronic Item 6.1)
(https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/metro_planning.cfm)
4. Houston to Dallas High-Speed Rail Receives \$63.9 Million Federal Grant (Electronic Item 6.2)

5. Safety Review of Older Freeway Sections
6. Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District Correspondence to the Texas Department of Transportation (Electronic Item 6.3)
7. United States Department of Transportation Correspondence on Federal Aviation Administration (Electronic Item 6.4)
8. Work-Zone Data Exchange Implementation Call for Projects
9. Current Hold on Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing of Managed Lanes During Reconstruction

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

7. Miles Matter Program Update and Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Report

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the Miles Matter Program as well as the auto occupancy/high occupancy vehicle quarterly report.

Background: Since February 2020, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been working in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), North Texas Tollway Authority and Lyndon B. Johnson/North Tarrant Express to implement the auto occupancy/high occupancy vehicle discount on the managed lane system during the peak periods. Using the same platform, NCTCOG, in partnership with TxDOT, has launched a new initiative, the Miles Matter Program. The Miles Matter Program is funded through the Surface Transportation Funding Alternatives federal grant program. This program will assess the feasibility and technical capability of utilizing smartphone technology for the purposes of understanding travel patterns on roadway facilities and other modes. In 2023, work began to design and implement an alternative user-based accounting tool to offer the ability to incentivize behavior through a credit system applied to users or vehicles. A soft launch of this system went live on September 3, 2024. The initial phase of the project will engage about 500 people who travel along the Interstate Highway 35 West corridor to participate and will offer incentives to adjust their travel time outside of the peak travel time. Based on feedback and engagement from the initial

phase, additional phases will be implemented. Staff will provide an overview of the Miles Matter Program as well as the auto occupancy/high occupancy vehicle quarterly report. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:40 – 2:50

8. Blue-Green-Grey Application for New Ideas – Round 4 – Project Funding Recommendations

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding the Blue-Green-Grey Application for New Ideas Round 4 funding opportunity, proposals received, evaluation process, and projects selected to advance for funding approval.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) issued the Round 4 Blue-Green-Grey funding opportunity on July 15, 2024. Applications were due on August 16, 2024. Eligible projects are within the 12-county Metropolitan Planning Area and incorporate three elements – Blue (water), Green (environment), and Grey (transportation infrastructure). The goal of the Blue-Green-Grey program is to support innovative pilot projects that provide resources for cities and organizations to replicate these ideas throughout the metroplex. Eligible applicants include teams of individuals, private firms, educational facilities, and governmental agencies. The total of available funds is \$250,000 Regional Transportation Council Local. A project evaluation committee reviewed the nine applications received and has selected two projects for funding recommendation.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

2:50 – 3:00

9. Mobility 2050: Key Updates and Ongoing Development

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a report regarding efforts to develop the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2050, including a review of the project selection process and draft plan revenue forecast.

Background: Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every 4 years and forecast at least 20 years into the future.

In addition, Mobility 2050 must demonstrate federal Transportation Conformity and be financially constrained. The updated plan will include a new financial plan, updated demographics and technical analysis, updated project recommendation listings, and robust public involvement.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

3:00 – 3:10

10. **Transit Strategic Partnerships Program: Selected Project from the May 2024 Cycle**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dora Kelly, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present a summary of the project evaluated through the May 2024 cycle of the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program to provide funding to Feonix Mobility Rising for the pilot of a Transportation Assistance Hub in portions of Dallas and Ellis counties.

Background: In the May 2024 cycle, one project was reviewed as a carryover from the previous November 2023 cycle. Feonix Mobility Rising is proposing to address transit needs by using mobility navigators to connect riders with existing services and offer access to a volunteer driver program for mobility impaired residents and seniors where no other service is available or accessible. The selected project aligns with regional goals set forth in the 2022 Access North Texas, the regional public transportation coordination plan for the 16-county North Central Texas area, which documents the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes across the region. As part of the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program, staff will recommend this project for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding under Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities in an amount not to exceed \$475,000. Please see Electronic Item 10 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

3:10 – 3:20

11. **Low-Carbon Transportation Materials Grants Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Analisa Garcia, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the Federal Highway Administration's Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Low Carbon Transportation Materials Grants Program, including information regarding application and eligibility requirements.

Background: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the solicitation of applications for the federal FY 2022 Low Carbon Transportation Materials (LCTM) Grants Program. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, the LCTM Grant Program was established to provide funding for the use of construction materials – such as concrete (or cement), asphalt, glass and steel – with substantially lower levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on projects funded under Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.). On March 12, 2024, FHWA announced \$2 billion would be available to fund these efforts. The program made \$1.2 billion available for State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) through request for applications, which closed June 10, 2024. The program has now made \$800 million available for non-State DOTs through a NOFO, which is due to the FHWA by November 25, 2024. Electronic Item 11 contains additional detail.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

3:20 – 3:30

12. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Brief staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Aliyah Shaikh* – February 2025 Transportation Improvement Program Modification Submittal Deadline
2. *Camille Fountain* – Fall 2024 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement (Electronic Item 12.1)
3. *Daniela Tower* – 2024 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 12.2)
4. *Joslyn Billings* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
5. *Joslyn Billings* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. *Jackie Castillo* – August Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 12.3)

7. *Jackie Castillo* – October Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 12.4)
8. *Jackie Castillo* – July-August Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 12.5)
9. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 12.6)
13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on October 25, 2024.***