

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, January 24, 2025

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 December 6, 2024, Minutes
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Gus Khankarli, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the December 6, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.
Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40 2. Consent Agenda
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

2.1. Amtrak Heartland Flyer Funding Shortfall

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of up to \$100,000 in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds will be requested for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer passenger service from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City to ensure there are no service disruptions. In addition, staff will seek recommendation for RTC approval to inform the Legislature that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) request for funding is inadequate.

Background: In November 2024, staff learned that Texas' share of funding for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer Passenger service from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City has a potential funding shortfall of approximately \$72,000. Staff will request approval of up to \$100,000 in RTR funds to be used to supplement the State's funding shortfall. The Heartland Flyer travels along the Interstate Highway 35 Corridor located in both Denton and Tarrant counties. This action ensures that the Amtrak Heartland Flyer passenger service will not experience any disruptions. RTC previously approved \$700,000 for a shortfall for fiscal year 2023, which was ultimately not needed as TxDOT

resolved the funding gap. Staff previously reported this to the RTC. The current request is for the funding shortfall for the 2024 fiscal year.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2.2. **Endorsement of Funding for Riverfront Boulevard Cost Overrun**

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Surface Transportation Technical Committee endorsement will be requested for the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) approval of \$12,401,658 in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding to cover a cost overrun at letting on the Riverfront Boulevard project, including the ability to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and other planning and administrative documents as needed to incorporate the funding.

Background: Dallas County is implementing a project along Riverfront Boulevard from Cadiz Street to Justice Center Way in the City of Dallas. The project will reconstruct the roadway to six lanes with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and intersection improvements. The project currently has \$38,291,442 in RTR funds and \$18,149,497 from the County and City of Dallas. Bids for the project were recently opened, revealing a funding gap of approximately \$13.81 million. The County has requested funding assistance to cover a portion of this gap. This project is on RTC's Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy list and thus it is of particular importance that construction proceeds. Therefore, staff recommended RTC approval of \$12,401,658 in Dallas County RTR funds, with local funds covering the remainder of the gap. In addition, staff requested that additional cost overruns must be covered by Dallas County and/or the City of Dallas.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2.3. **2024 Transportation Development Credit Annual Report and Updates to Transportation Development Credit Allocations**

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of proposed updates to the Transportation Development Credit (TDC) allocations for several categories will be requested and the annual TDC

report submitted to Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is provided for information.

Background: Since 2012, the RTC has received 994,351,658 TDCs from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to be utilized in lieu of the local match on projects and programs with federal funding. Once TDCs come to the region, they are allocated into several categories with various goals. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff proposes to make allocation adjustments to several of those categories. Details on the proposed changes can be found in Electronic Item 2.3.1. The TDC Annual Report, which must be submitted annually to TxDOT, is included as Electronic Item 2.3.2. Electronic Item 2.3.3 contains correspondence sent to TxDOT requesting additional TDCs be allocated to the region.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2.4. Federal Funding Classification System Amendments

Presenter: Brian Flood, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of seven amendments to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS).

Background: While inclusion in the FFCS is based on a roadway's purpose and functioning capabilities, it is also used to determine eligibility for federal funding. Amendments to the FFCS occur as the function of existing roadway changes, or as roadways need to be added due to construction, new developments, and shifts in demographic trends. Staff is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on seven proposed FFCS amendments within the Dallas and Fort Worth TxDOT districts. These amendments involve the construction of new roadways and improvement of existing roadways resulting from a project development process involving North Central Texas Council of Governments staff, local governments, and external partners. Maps and tables detailing the proposed functional class changes are included in Electronic Item 2.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:40 – 1:50

3. **Potential Endorsement of Allocation of Funding for Potential Litigation Related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Environmental Assessment and Briefing on Correspondence from Attorneys for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and Hunt-Related Entities**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action on allocating RTC Local funds in preparation for potential litigation related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Environmental Assessment. The RTC is scheduled to consider this item at the January 23, 2025, RTC meeting. Staff will brief the STTC on numerous correspondence from Attorneys for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and other Hunt-related entities (Hunt-related entities).

Background: Since October 9, 2024, Attorneys for Hunt-related entities have sent numerous correspondence to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) asserting various legal and factual claims regarding the Environmental Assessment, the 1975 Master Agreement between Hunt-related entities and the City of Dallas, Alignment 2B, the City of Dallas June 12, 2024, resolution concerning high-speed rail, RTC's one-seat ride policy, the City of Arlington, among other items. Electronic Item 3.1 contains NCTCOG's responses to date and the corresponding Hunt letter. Electronic Item 3.2 contains additional Hunt correspondence as of January 3, 2025, (date of posting of January 9, 2025, RTC meeting which has been rescheduled). Electronic Item 3.3 contains correspondence received since the posting of the rescheduled January 9, 2025, RTC meeting. NCTCOG is preparing responses as warranted. This is in addition to approximately 2,500 pages of documents NCTCOG provided in April 2024 in response to an informal request from Hunt's Attorney. Included in Electronic Item 3.1 is an October 21, 2024, "formal request and demand" from the Hunt's Attorney for NCTCOG to "Preserve and Not Destroy" documents broadly related to High-Speed Rail and the Environmental Assessment in particular. Such a notice is often a precursor to litigation. Staff recommends that the RTC allocate \$1 million in RTC Local funds to be used in \$250,000 increments for additional legal support to assist in responding to these matters and other preparatory work in anticipation of litigation related to the Environmental Assessment. Staff proposes reporting expenditures of these funds on a quarterly basis to the RTC. If approved by the RTC, staff requests the RTC communicate its action to the Executive Board as follows:

“Upon a vote ___ to _____, the RTC requests the Executive Board to secure external legal counsel to supplement internal legal resources related to the Dallas-to-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Environmental Assessment.”

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Fiscal Year 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

Background: In November 2024, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2025 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity, with information and application requirements for the \$1.5 billion program, can be accessed at: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>. Applications are due to USDOT by January 30, 2025. Electronic Item 4 provides additional details regarding both the program and candidate projects. For regional agencies planning to submit their own candidate projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two to four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications.

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

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Funding Recommendations to Upgrade Existing Charging Stations**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jared Wright, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of several programs that are expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of funding recommendations for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) was awarded \$3,660,000 in federal funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Electric Vehicle Charger

Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator program in January 2024 to repair, replace, or upgrade existing but non-operational publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. FHWA limited eligibility for this program to a list of identified non-operational EV charging infrastructure stations published in October 2023. The full list is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Staff has evaluated EV charging infrastructure from the eligible site list as provided by FHWA to develop funding recommendations. A detailed ranking of eligible location recommendations for funding and eligible stations that were removed from consideration for funding can be found in Electronic Item 5.2. Electronic Item 5.1 provides an overview of staff's recommendations and more information on regional EV charging infrastructure opportunities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Work Zone Data Exchange 2024 Call for Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Vickie Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the 2024 Work Zone Data Exchange Call for Projects selection and east/west funding split.

Background: In March of 2022, a procurement was issued to secure vendors through the North Central Texas Council of Governments TXSHARE Cooperative Purchase for Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx). In June 2023, the RTC directed staff to engage regional partners on project scoping and execution to continue this effort. In addition, the RTC has set aside \$2.5 million to award local governments to implement WZDx services to continue to make progress in this area. On September 16, 2024, the Work Zone Data Exchange 2024 Call for Projects opened, and projects were due by November 15, 2024. Submissions were received and reviewed by staff. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 6.1 and a listing of the project recommendations are provided in Electronic Item 6.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:20 – 2:30

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

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. Transit 2.0 Policy Oversight Preparation for February Action (Electronic Item 7.1)
2. \$60 Million Received from Environmental Protection Agency Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program (Electronic Item 7.2)
3. Department of Defense \$4 Million Noise Mitigation Award for Elementary Schools in Lake Worth and White Settlement
4. Transportation Research Board January 5, 2025, (Washington, D.C.): Integrating Operational Change into Transportation Agencies to Optimize Project Delivery (Michael Morris and Ceason Clemons)
5. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Recommended PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (Electronic Item 7.3)
6. Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing No Longer Requested
7. Sandy Wesch Celebration of Life - January 24, 2025, at 3:30 pm

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Mobility 2050 Development**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the development of Mobility 2050, the region's next Metropolitan Transportation Plan. An overview of ongoing efforts and progress toward completing the plan with updates on key plan elements will be presented during the meeting.

Background: Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update its long-range transportation plan at least every four years and forecast transportation needs at least 20 years into the future. Mobility 2050 will build on the region's previous plans by incorporating updated demographic forecasts, financial projections, technical analyses, and public input to guide the development of transportation projects, programs, and policies. The plan must comply with federal requirements

to ensure it is financially constrained and aligns with transportation planning regulations. Mobility 2050 will serve as a critical blueprint for shaping the region's multimodal transportation system in the coming decades.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Pavement and Bridge Condition and System Performance, Freight, and Air Quality: PM2/PM3 Performance Measure Targets**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: James McLane, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present an update on two groups of Federally required performance measures: Pavement and Bridge Condition (PM2) and System Performance and Freight (PM3). Observed progress for the measures will be provided along with a proposal to reaffirm existing targets for the remainder of the current reporting period.

Background: In 2022, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted 2024 and 2026 targets for two sets of federally required performance measures commonly known as PM2 and PM3. PM2 includes measures related to pavement and bridge condition, while PM3 includes measures related to roadway system performance, freight, and air quality. The North Central Texas Council of Governments now has an opportunity to adjust or reaffirm the previously adopted 2026 targets, if appropriate, based on new data and analysis methodologies. As RTC took action to reaffirm 2026 targets for a subset of PM3 measures in September 2024, this item will cover the remainder of the PM3 measures not included with that action. A general update and schedule for all federal performance measures will be provided as well. Electronic Item 9 provides more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

2:50 – 3:00

10. **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. *Jesse Brown* – Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 10.1)
2. *Kimberlin To* – Air North Texas 2024 Partner Awards ([Air North Texas - Partner Awards](#))
3. *Irlenia Hermosillo* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 10.2)

4. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities
(www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
5. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
6. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 10.3)
 - October – November Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.4)
 - November Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 10.5)
 - November – December Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 10.6)
 - January Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 10.7)
 - February Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 10.8)

11. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

12. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on February 28, 2025.**