
LOCAL MOTION

FEBRUARY 2025

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

WORK ZONE DATA EXCHANGE COULD ROLL OUT THIS SUMMER



Let's say you're driving along Interstate Highway 30 and, suddenly, your phone alerts you of a lane closure ahead due to construction. Thanks in part to the Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx), that type of notification could soon become a reality.

Crucial to maintaining and upgrading the region's roadway system, work zones require changes in traffic patterns, narrowed lanes and other construction activities that often create a combination of factors that can, unfortunately, result in crashes, injuries and fatalities.

Such incidents may be avoidable if drivers know work zones are in their immediate area. In March 2022, NCTCOG took the first step in bringing this notion to life, initiating the development of a work zone data reporting system by issuing a request for proposals (RFP) through TXShare for roadway work zone data reporting services. Later that year, NCTCOG selected five vendors: Blynscy, iCone, Mixon Hill, Navjoy and One.Network.

The next step was funding. In 2024, the RTC approved \$2.5 million for the project; the local match would be covered by Transportation Development Credits (TDCs).

To be eligible, applicants needed to meet specific criteria, including being located in the NCTCOG 12-county area and actively involved in work zone management. After a call for projects was released, the project team received applications from Duncanville, Denton, McKinney, Lewisville, Garland, Frisco and Arlington. The Surface Transportation Technical committee on Jan. 24 recommended RTC approval of all seven applications, at a cost of \$2.43 million.

The next step in the process is consideration by the RTC in February, with hopes of implementation beginning this summer.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

PEOPLE IN TRANSPORTATION



There may come a day, whether it's a few years or a few decades from now, when we'll zip from one end of Texas to the other in a high-speed train. We'll soar above our roadways and highways in state-of-the-art gondolas. Robots will deliver our every want and need to our doorsteps – via wheels or wings.

These are just some of the projects the North Central Texas Council of Governments is working to bring to life. But every breakthrough in transportation begins with a good idea, and these concepts come from the people who've devoted their lives and careers to moving us – and the things we love – around the block or around the country.

For this month's Topic of the Month, we delve into the human element driving the transportation sector. We'll explore the roles played by planners, policymakers, partner governments and the very public they serve. Their collective insights are indispensable in shaping the future of how we move.

Read more about the roles people play in transportation planning by visiting the Topic of the Month [webpage](#).



CLEAN AIR CORNER

A BREATH OF FRESH INFORMATION



With ozone season fast approaching – it begins in North Texas March 1 and lasts until November – now is a good time to explore the many ways you can support clean air initiatives, not just during ozone season but year-round.

A good place to start is Clean Air Corner, the Air North Texas website blog, which is managed by North Central Texas Council of Governments. The blog serves as a vital resource for North Texans wanting to understand and improve air quality in their region.

With content that is both informative and entertaining, Clean Air Corner addresses a wide range of topics, from the science behind ozone formation and health impacts of pollutants to practical tips for reducing emissions in everyday routines. Recent posts have included:

- [A guide to eco-friendly shopping](#)
- [Reducing your carbon footprint while enjoying the great outdoors](#)
- [Kickstarting 2025 with a productive and health-conscious routine](#)

To ring in Valentine's Day this month, Clean Air Corner highlighted ways to show some love for the environment with tips on how to have an eco-friendly Valentine's Day. Tips include giving as

gifts potted plants or succulents, which contribute to cleaner air; planning an outdoor date to reduce your carbon footprint; and skipping balloons, which can be harmful to wildlife, to instead make decorations out of recycled or natural materials.

Beyond its informative content, Clean Air Corner serves as a vehicle to learn about upcoming events tied to various clean air initiatives and connect with organizations dedicated to environmental awareness. By building this sense of community, it helps create a network of informed and engaged residents working toward a healthier, cleaner North Texas.

89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE KICKS OFF WITH \$24 BILLION SURPLUS



Lawmakers returned to Austin in January, with the House and Senate each filing a budget that would provide the Texas Department of Transportation \$40 billion over the next two years to keep the state's growing population moving.

In addition to the proposed budgets, legislators have filed bills the Regional Transportation Council will track that could lead to enhancements in transportation, safety and air quality.

Here are a few highlights:

Transportation Revenue

House Bill 542/House Joint Resolution 58: Allow the State Highway Fund to be used for transit-oriented projects.

HJR 63/SJR 33: Permit Proposition 1 revenue to be used for constructing, maintaining and acquiring rights-of-way for public transportation, public bicycle paths and public sidewalks.

Safety

HB 341: Enable a study on bike lanes and their reduction of collisions involving bicycles, scooters. **HB 535** deals with passing a bicycle or pedestrian.

SB 47/HB 1357: Update current law on cell phone usage while driving.

Air Quality

HB 1361: Redistribute LIRAP funds to counties for air quality/transportation uses.

HB 464/HB 1463: Establish tire-disposal programs.

These are a few of the bills that will be monitored by the RTC, which will also actively pursue legislation that would ensure metropolitan areas receive their fair-share allocation for capacity improvements to highways or the ability to use public-private partnerships, and support of innovative funding to expand passenger rail and public transportation.

For more information, visit NCTCOG's [legislative affairs page](#).

\$1.6M AVAILABLE TO CUT DIESEL EMISSIONS

NCTCOG is offering approximately \$1.6 million in rebate funding for projects for private fleets and public sector entities seeking to implement eligible diesel emissions reduction projects.



**CALL FOR PROJECTS TO REDUCE
DIESEL EMISSIONS**

The North Texas Diesel Emission Reduction Project 2024 Call for Projects is open to private sector fleets and companies, as well as public entities (such as local governments and airports) for diesel vehicles, engines and equipment operating in the ozone nonattainment area. This call for projects supports upgrading older diesel on-road vehicles, engines and non-road equipment. This also includes installation of Environmental Protection Agency SmartWay-verified locomotive shore power connections or idle reduction technologies, replacement of locomotive engines, Transport Refrigeration Unit trailers, and drayage trucks.

Grant funding will provide a maximum of 45% of eligible costs for vehicles and equipment, up to 60% for engines, up to 50% for drayage trucks, up to 40% for locomotive shore power connections, and up to 100% for idle reduction technologies.

More information and the application are available at www.nctcog.org/ntdercfp. The application deadline is March 14, 2025. Email aggrants@nctcog.org with any questions.

NORTH TEXANS INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON MOBILITY 2050, OTHER INITIATIVES FEB.

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NCTCOG is seeking public input on transportation initiatives during a hybrid public meeting at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The meeting will take place in the Transportation Council Room at NCTCOG headquarters, located at 616 Six Flags Drive in Arlington. Those unable to attend in person can view the meeting online at PublicInput.com/nctcogFeb25. Viewers can also participate by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 10965. Public comments will be accepted until March 13.

The meeting will feature a presentation on the Federal/State Partnership (FSP) for the Intercity Passenger Rail Program. This grant program supports improvements to American passenger rail services by funding projects that enhance performance or establish new intercity rail services, including privately operated options. The proposed project involves double tracking the remaining single-track sections of the Trinity Railway Express (TRE), including areas near the IH 35 Stemmons Freeway and SH 360 bridges.

Staff will also provide an update on Mobility 2050, the region's upcoming long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This plan is being developed to guide transportation investments and address regional needs through 2050. Staff will discuss the current progress and the next steps in its development. More details are available at NCTCOG.org/PlanInProgress.

Another key topic will be the Community Noise Mitigation Program Grant. NCTCOG has secured funding from the U.S. Department of Defense to install noise-reducing insulation in six school district facilities near the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. An overview of the grant's activities will be shared at the meeting.

Additionally, NCTCOG staff will discuss the 2025 Strategic Transportation Funding Program. This program evaluates funding requests from agencies across the Dallas-Fort Worth region, allocating federal and regional funds to transportation projects designed to enhance mobility and infrastructure. Staff will present details of the program and a summary of recommended projects for funding.

These initiatives will be posted online for review: proposed modifications to the list of funded projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and changes to the Fiscal Year 2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

The following resources will also be available:

- Administrative revisions to the Mobility 2045 – 2022 Update
- Map Your Experience, an interactive map for public input on transportation needs (NCTCOG.org/mapyourexperience)
- Air quality funding opportunities
- The Try Parking It program

Residents planning to use public transportation to attend the meeting can take advantage of \$6 round-trip rides from the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG via the Arlington Transportation app. To download the app, visit [ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand](https://www.ArlingtonTX.gov/ondemand).

For special accommodations related to disabilities or language interpretation, contact 817-573-1719 or email hwitcher@nctcog.org.

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.

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