PROPOSED REGIONAL SINGLE-OCCUPANCY VEHICLE TRIP REDUCTION TARGET DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION

**Surface Transportation Technical Committee** 

Caryn Sanders, Transportation Planner III March 26, 2021

#### What is Travel Demand Management?

NCTCOG's Travel Demand Management (TDM) Goal: Implementation of strategies that reduce the demand for Single-Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) travel on roadways by offering alternatives to driving alone.

- Ridesharing: Carpooling and Vanpooling
- Transit: Bus and Rail
- Active Transportation: Biking and Walking
- Telecommuting: Work from Home
- Compressed Work Weeks: 4/40 and 9/80 Schedules
- Flexible Work Hour Schedules: Staggered Shifts

# **NCTCOG's Trip Reduction Perspective**

- TDM and trip reduction strategies are not a "One Size Fits All" solution
- An effective trip reduction program includes strategies that fit the needs of employers and commuters
- Employer buy-in is needed for maximum employee participation in trip reduction programs
- Mandatory remote work arrangements during pandemic have proven that teleworking on a larger scale is achievable without sacrificing work quality/quantity
- NCTCOG is taking a leadership position in establishing an agency-specific SOV trip reduction target

## **Trip Reduction Target Setting Areas of Consideration**

- Possible Public Policy Tradeoffs (Higher vs. Lower Target)
- Higher Target Results in:
  - Improved air quality
  - Decreased roadway congestion
  - Increased efficiency of the transportation system
- Possible Unintended Consequences of a Higher Target:
  - Decreased Safety: Less roadway congestion **\_\_\_\_** increased roadway speeds, increased fatalities
  - Completely removing trips may inadvertently impact transit
  - Impact to downtown livability and/or urban lifestyle
  - Negative impact to sales tax collections
  - Negative impact to downtown tourism
- Recommending a realistically achievable target that results in high benefits and reduced negative impacts

#### Proposed Regional Transportation Council Resolution

- Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a Regional Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trip Reduction Target to Reduce Drive Alone Trips in North Central Texas
- Sustaining Benefits of Changes in Travel Behavior on Congestion Experienced During COVID-19



Section 1. The Regional Transportation Council supports the establishment of a regional trip reduction target of 20 percent to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) commute trips during the peak period.

Section 2. The Regional Transportation Council encourages both public and private sector employers to reduce employees' SOV trips consistent with Section 1 of this resolution through the establishment of a formal Employee Commute Program.

Section 3. The Regional Transportation Council strongly encourages both public and private sector employers to monitor and track agency participation of the Program through an online commute tracking platform.

Section 4. To aid in Program tracking and monitoring activities, both public and private sector agencies are strongly encouraged to utilize TryParkinglt.com, the region's commute tracking and ridematching website and application. Employers may utilize an existing tracking platform comparable to Try Parking It for this purpose.

Section 5. For public sector agencies, the Regional Transportation Council will evaluate the agency's participation and implementation of the Program through a new policy established as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundles. Nonparticipation may impact the level of Transportation Development Credits received through the Policy Bundle Survey process.

Section 6. For private sector agencies, the Regional Transportation Council will monitor the agency's participation and implementation of the Program through TryParkingIt.com or a comparable tracking platform. Participation may result in awarding regional funding for TDM-related efforts (e.g., transit passes)

Section 7. NCTCOG staff will provide the Regional Transportation Council with annual updates on the status of the Regional Trip Reduction target to reduce SOV commute trips. Reported performance measures shall include Try Parking It utilization rates, number of users, trips reduced, and emissions reduced.

Section 8. This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

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#### Schedule

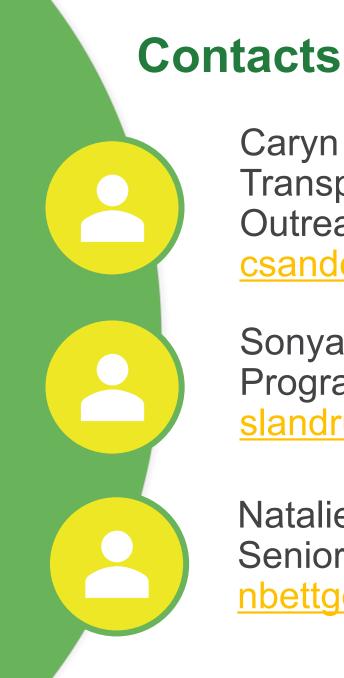
Date	Action
October 23, 2020	STTC (Information) – Presented Resolution Development Concept
December 10, 2020	RTC (Information) – Presented Resolution Development Concept
February 10, 2021	(Information) - NCTCOG Transportation Department Peer Review Presentation
February 24, 2021	(Information) - Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Presentation
March 26, 2021	STTC (Action) – Approval of SOV Trip Reduction Resolution
April 12 – May 11, 2021	Public Input Comment Submittal Period
May 13, 2021	RTC (Action) – Approval of SOV Trip Reduction Resolution



#### **Recommended Action**

#### **Recommend RTC Action to:**

Approve the Overall Principles of the Resolution to Develop a Regional Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trip Reduction Target to Reduce Drive Alone Vehicle Trips in North Central Texas



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