

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, April 22, 2022 North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda

- 1:30 – 1:35** 1. **Approval of March 25, 2022, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Tanya Brooks, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the March 25, 2022, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:35 – 1:35** 2. **Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes : 0
- 1:35 – 1:45** 3. **RAISE, Trinity Metro Partnership and “INFRA”: Making Partnerships in Constrained Scheduling Environments**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenters: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will update the Committee on the latest information on the RAISE grants submitted to the Regional Transportation Council. A proposed transit partnership with the City of Fort Worth and Trinity Metro and the resultant implications to the next round of “INFRA” grants.
Background: Electronic Item 3 contains the elements of a structured partnership in the western subregion, and the final RAISE project listing approved by the Regional Transportation Council. Staff is reviewing the next possible projects to be submitted to the US Department of Transportation in May 2022.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit
- 1:45 – 1:55** 4. **\$15M Dallas Area Rapid Transit/Garland Partnership that Expedited the IH 635 East Project**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action to finalize a \$15 million funding exchange with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and the City of Garland to fulfill the funding partnership originally approved by the RTC in September 2019.
Background: During the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) procurement process for IH 635 East, potential contractors submitted alternative technical concepts at Garland Avenue. As a result, the City of Garland, TxDOT, and RTC staff developed a plan for the Garland Avenue area, which led to a lower cost but was not ideal for the City of Garland. In order to build IH 635 East as one project versus having to split this area out into a separate project due to complications at the Kansas City Southern Railroad, the City of Garland accepted

the design and the RTC agreed to offset elements of the recommendation that were not consistent with Garland's interest in a \$15 million partnership on a future project. Since that time, the City has worked on a development plan in the area, which is part of, and adjacent to, the South Garland Transit Center. As such, DART, the City, and RTC staff have agreed to a three-party partnership to allow the City to use local funds from DART for the work. Instead of the RTC's federal funding going to the City directly, the RTC funds would pay for a DART project. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:55 – 2:05

5. **Regional Transportation Council Policy for Transportation Infrastructure Requiring Certification**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will introduce a draft policy outlining the guiding principles and process by which the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) may transparently coordinate with transportation infrastructure providers wishing to certify innovative transportation technology to move people and/or freight within the region. This draft policy serves to guide a consensus-building path among the RTC, interested local governments, and transportation technology providers in bringing innovative transportation solutions to our region with the end goal of a commercial application to serve a long-range transportation need.

Background: In February 2022, the RTC adopted Policy P22-01 to Advance High-Speed Rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study into the Phase 2 National Environmental Policy Act Process; this policy directed staff to advance high-speed rail on the Dallas to Fort Worth corridor along IH 30 and to monitor the advancement of hyperloop technology. The draft policy on a Transportation Infrastructure Certification Program is a follow-up to Policy P22-01 that provides a collaborative and transparent process for the RTC to pursue innovative technologies like hyperloop and others requiring certification. In recent months, the RTC and (NCTCOG) staff have been approached by other hyperloop companies and transportation infrastructure providers that are interested in proving their innovative transportation technology for the first time in the US or the world here in Dallas-Fort Worth. This outside interest began after the RTC responded to Virgin Hyperloop's Request for Proposals for a Certification Center site in early 2020 and continued through the Technology Forum outreach and coordination efforts as a part of the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study. With Dallas-Fort Worth being a leader in advancing new technologies in transportation in the US, staff is introducing a formalized approach via the attached draft policy to outline the process that transportation technology providers may coordinate with the RTC and the region to prove their technology while serving a public transportation

need. The draft policy is provided in Electronic Item 5.1. The RTC Policy, P22-01, is provided as Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Transit

2:05 – 2:15

6. **Title VI Program Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kate Zielke, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of updates to the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Title VI Program, including the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and Language Assistance Plan.

Background: The Federal Transit Administration requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations update their Title VI Program every three years. Title VI is a component of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Title VI Program identifies actions (NCTCOG) takes to ensure nondiscrimination based on race, color, and national origin, including limited English proficiency. The Title VI Program includes information on how NCTCOG monitors its transit subrecipients for Title VI compliance. The Language Assistance Plan describes how NCTCOG addresses the needs of residents whose native language is not English and who have a limited ability to communicate in English. It is part of the Public Participation Plan. Both the Title VI Program update and the Language Assistance Plan update have undergone a public comment period. The Title VI Program update can be downloaded from <https://nctcog.org/TitleVI>. The Language Assistance Plan update can be downloaded from <https://nctcog.org/LAP>. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 6.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:15 – 2:25

7. **2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Draft Listings**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) draft project listings and the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other planning/administrative documents. The Committee will also be briefed on changes being made to the TIP Development process as a result of recent discussions with the Federal Highway Administration.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Texas Department of Transportation, local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. Electronic Item 7 contains an overview of the TIP development process and schedule. The financially constrained draft project listings

for the 2023-2026 TIP are available at the following weblink: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/funds/tip/transportation-improvement-program/2023-2026tip>. Projects in FY2023-2026 will be included in the 2023-2026 TIP, and projects in FY2027 and later will be placed in the Appendix D of the TIP. Projects in FY2022 and earlier are provided but will not be included in the 2023-2026 TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:25 – 2:35

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current transportation items.

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

- Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery
- State safety efforts
- Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Executive Session follow-up
- Important Update Regarding Northern Collin County Rider Assistance Program
- RTC Bylaws Subcommittee announcement at RTC Meeting in May
- RTC Nominating Subcommittee announcement at RTC Meeting in May
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) D2 Interlocal Agreement
 - Dallas City Council-February 9, 2022
 - DART Board-February 22, 2022
 - NCTCOG Executive Board-April 28, 2022
 - RTC Requirements
- Spring 2022 Virtual Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement - May 5, 2022 (Electronic Item 8)

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Roadway

2:35 – 2:45

9. **Dallas-Fort Worth Regional East/West Funding Distribution – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Given that a new transportation funding bill has been enacted, staff will provide the Committee with information regarding proposed updates to the funding distribution between the Eastern (Dallas and Paris Districts) and Western (Fort Worth District) subregions. The latest East/West Equity quarterly report detailing transactions that affect the current distribution will also be provided.

Background: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) selects projects to be funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds. To ensure equity within

the region, once these funds are distributed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the RTC seeks to program funding to the eastern and western subregions based on the proportion of each area's emissions, demographics, and activity. Generally, the RTC re-evaluates the funding distribution after each new transportation funding bill is approved by the US Congress. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law in November 2021, so staff has initiated the process to update the region's funding splits. Based on updated inputs (e.g., demographics, emissions), adjustments to both percentages are being proposed. Electronic Item 9.1 provides additional information on the process for establishing the split and the proposed new splits for both mobility and air quality funds. Electronic Item 9.2 contains the final East/West Equity report for the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

- 2:45 – 2:55** 10. **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Updates**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Emily Beckham, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation goal for FY2023-FY2025 for United States Department of Transportation contracting opportunities.
Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is required by the Federal Transit Administration to revisit its DBE Participation Goal every three years. The current DBE Participation Goal is valid until September 30, 2022. Staff has developed proposed goals for the next three years and is ready to initiate public participation and comment. Electronic Item 10 includes additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

- 2:55 – 3:05** 11. **Mobility 2045 Update and Air Quality Conformity**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenters: Amy Johnson and Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Work continues on the region's next long-range transportation plan, Mobility 2045 Update, and corresponding 2022 Transportation Conformity. Staff will present a brief overview of the draft plan and draft conformity analysis results. In addition, staff will present information regarding:
 • Any recent revisions
 • Public comments received
 • Schedule for completion
The draft plan and the recommendations as identified graphically and in tabular format are available at www.nctcog.org/PlaninProgress.
Background: Mobility 2045 was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on June 14, 2018. Air quality conformity determination was achieved on November 21, 2018. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the

long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years. Development of the Mobility 2045 Update is currently underway, which will include a new financial plan, updated demographic forecasts, updated travel demand modeling tool, and necessary refinements to policies, programs, and projects in the current Mobility 2045 plan. The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations to perform an air quality analysis when a new Metropolitan Transportation Plan is developed to ensure the multimodal transportation system complies with applicable Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB) established for the region. Per the CAA, staff has conducted a successful analysis for the required MVEB analysis year (2023), the Metropolitan Transportation Plan horizon year (2045), and interim years (2026 and 2036). The Committee is expected to take final action on the Mobility 2045 Update and 2022 Transportation Conformity in May 2022. The RTC is expected to take final action on both documents in June 2022.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

3:05 – 3:10 12. **Status Report on Federal Highway Administration Alternative Fuel Corridors and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Bailey Muller, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Alternative Fuel Corridors, as well as new funding programs allocated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Important next steps and relevance to North Texas will be presented.

Background: Alternative Fuel Corridors are designated by FHWA and are part of a national network of roadways that provide sufficient alternative fuel and charging facilities. Through the BIL, two new funding programs totaling \$7.5 billion for electric vehicle or alternative fuel infrastructure were established and funding eligibility is now associated with corridor designation. Programs include the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program and the Grants for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure for Corridors and Communities. The Texas Department of Transportation is currently drafting a plan for use of funds from the NEVI Formula Program and is seeking public input. (NCTCOG) has several initiatives underway to help capitalize on these opportunities. Electronic Item 12 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:10 – 3:20 13. **Fiscal Year 2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jody Loza, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. This \$2.85 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project

Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL). Staff will provide details highlighting grant requirements. Additionally, staff will discuss how this program highlights need to continue consideration of a collaborative and comprehensive regional “conveyor belt” process and strategic evaluation matrix to optimize the targeting of various future projects considered for the multiple discretionary grant opportunities set to occur via the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Background:

In March 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) is announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY2022 MPDG Discretionary Grant Program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) combines three major discretionary grant programs in efforts to reduce burdens for State and local applicants, increase the pipeline of “shovel-worthy” projects now possible because of the BIL, and enable US DOT to get a more comprehensive view of projects in development nationwide. Applications are due to the US DOT by May 23, 2022, for the following funding programs (with additional details provided in Electronic Item 13:

- The National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) Program will provide \$1 billion in FY 2022 funding for major projects too large or complex for traditional funding programs. This is a new competitive grant program under the BIL.
- The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program is a continuation of the existing Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program, and it will provide \$1.55 billion in FY 2022 funding for highway, bridge, freight rail, intermodal, and marine transportation projects of regional and national significance.
- The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) will provide \$300 million in FY 2022 funding supporting projects to improve/expand rural area surface transportation infrastructure for increased connectivity and enhanced safety and reliability of people and freight movements to generate regional economic growth and greater quality of life. This is another new competitive grant.

For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Kyle Roy by Thursday, May 12, 2022, at kroy@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Goods Movement

3:20 – 3:20

14. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources>)
2. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
3. Status Report on Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding (Electronic Item 14.1)
4. 2022 Ozone Season Updated (Electronic Item 14.2)
5. Federal Register Comments sent to EPA/Clean School Bus (Electronic Item 14.3)
6. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 14.4)
7. March Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 14.5)
8. May Public Meeting Notice
9. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 14.6)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 14.7)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 14.8)

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

16. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on May 27, 2022.**