

## MINUTES

### **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL October 13, 2016**

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 1 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following members or representatives were present: Monica R. Alonzo, Bruce Arfsten, Douglas Athas, Brian Barth, Carol Bush, Mike Cantrell, David L. Cook, Andy Eads, Charles Emery, Gary Fickes, Robert Franke, Sandy Greyson, Mojoy Haddad, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jungus Jordan, Lee M. Kleinman, Brian Loughmiller, Scott Mahaffey, Ray Smith (representing Maher Maso), Cary Moon, Stan Pickett, George Conley (representing Mark Riley), Kelly Selman, Gary Slagel, Lissa Smith, Mike Taylor, Stephen Terrell, Tim Welch (representing T. Oscar Trevino Jr.), Oscar Ward, Bernice J. Washington, Duncan Webb, Kathryn Wilemon, W. Jeff Williams, Erik Wilson, and Ann Zadeh (representing W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman).

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, David S. Arbuckle, Greg Baker, Melissa Baker, Tom Bamonte, Berrien Barks, Carli Baylor, Bryan Beck, Adam Beckom, Natalie Bettger, Alberta Blair, Tanya Brooks, Bob Brown, Ron Brown, John Brunk, Ken Bunkley, Mo Bur, Loyl Bussell, David Cain, Rickey Callahan, Marrk Callier, Jack Carr, Angie Carson, Dixie Cawthorne, Kirk D. Clennan, John Cordary, Hal Cranor, Clarence Daugherty, Brian Dell, Gordon Dickson, Kim Diederich, Jerry Dittman, David Dryden, Chris Dyser, Mike Eastland, Chad Edwards, Jackson Enberg, Traci Enna, Keineth Fuller, Nora Garcia, David R. Gattis, Richard Grady, Philip Haigh, Tommy Henderson, Rebekah Hernandez, Jesse Herrera, Axel Herrmann, Mark Hilderbrand, Jodi Hodges, Rebekah Hodges, Maritza Kalley, Dan Kessler, Tony Kimmey, Ken Kirkpatrick, Paul Knippel, Dan Lamers, James Lance, April Leger, Amanda Long-Rodriguez, Sonny Loper, Paul Luedtke, Rakhshanda Mahar, Mickey Marlow, Steve McCullough, Chad McKeown, Michael Miles, Cliff Miller, Anthony Moffa, Cesar Molina, Amy Moore, Brian Moore, Michael Morris, Mark Nelson, Lance Olaniyan, Kevin Overton, Nick Page, Jamie Patel, John Polster, Greg Porter, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Chris Reed, Molly Rendon, Bill Riley, Christina Roach, Tito Rodriguez, Carrie Rogers, Kyle Roy, Greg Royster, Steve Salin, Russell Schaffner, Kelli Schlicher, Lori Shelton, Walter Shumac, Randy Skinner, Patrick Stallings, Shannon Stevenson, Jahnae Stout, Dean Stuller, Rhonda Taylor, Gary Thomas, Jonathan Toffer, Christopher Tolar, Gretchen Vasquez, Mitzi Ward, Sandy Wesch, Cheryl Williams, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, and Ed Wueste.

1. **Approval of September 8, 2016, Minutes:** The minutes of the September 8, 2016, meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 1. Mike Cantrell (M); Jungus Jordan (S). The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
  - 2.1. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** A motion was made to approve revisions to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program provided as Reference Item 2.1.
  - 2.2. **Unified Planning Work Program Modifications:** A motion was made to approve modifications to the FY2016 and FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program provided as Reference Item 2.2.1. A presentation summarizing the modifications was provided in Electronic Item 2.2.2.

Bernice J. Washington (M); Mike Cantrell (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris thanked Regional Transportation Council (RTC) members who represented the RTC at recent events: Councilmember Mike Taylor (National Drive Electric week [Electronic Item 3.1]); Councilmember Lee Kleinman, David Laney, Gary Thomas (Kansas City Transportation Forum in Dallas); Councilmember Lee Kleinman (Dallas Streetcar); and RTC Chair Ron Jensen (upcoming Texas Department of Transportation [TxDOT] IH 35E Lowest Stemmons event on October 18).

Mike Eastland, Executive Director, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), recognized members of the RTC with a gift of chocolates commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Agency. He noted that NCTCOG would not be possible were it not for elected and other policy officials that have been a part of the Agency from the beginning, and thanked members for their commitment to the region.

Mr. Morris noted AirCheckTexas communication materials distributed to members at the meeting. In addition, he noted the upcoming national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Conference in Fort Worth October 25-28. Members interested in attending the AMPO reception on October 27 were asked to contact Amanda Wilson of NCTCOG. He also noted action is proposed on the continued partnership with Tarrant County on the Hemphill/Lamar funding swap at the November 10 RTC meeting. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) inactive project list was provided in Electronic Item 3.2 and projects included in the current FHWA 10-Year Preliminary Engineering Audit were provided in Electronic Item 3.3. A copy of the presentation presented as staff testimony at a recent Texas Legislative subcommittee meeting was provided in Electronic Item 3.4. Current air quality funding opportunities for vehicles were provided in Electronic Item 3.5, information on the North Central Texas Energy Forum on October 26 was provided in Electronic Item 3.6, and an ozone season update was provided in Electronic Item 3.7. September public meeting minutes were provided in Electronic Item 3.8, and an automated vehicle fact sheet was provided in Electronic Item 3.9. Electronic Item 3.10 contained an announcement for the next Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course. Recent correspondence was provided in Electronic Item 3.11, recent news articles in Electronic Item 3.12, and recent press releases in Electronic Item 3.13. Transportation partner progress reports were distributed at the meeting.

4. **BigX Events:** Molly McFadden, Director, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Emergency Preparedness Department, presented information about the upcoming BigX events. BigX 2016 is a full-scale training exercise that will take place November 11-13, 2016. A video was shown of the previous full-scale exercise in 2013, Urban Shield. During the BigX events, specialized response teams will practice scenarios of real-world emergency events in order to evaluate needed improvements. Over 3,500 individuals are anticipated to participate at over 40 sites in the region. Details were distributed at the meeting in Reference Item 4.1. NCTCOG Executive Board President Lissa Smith, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Plano has offered to host tours for interested elected officials on November 11 and November 12. Ms. Smith discussed the scope of the exercise and noted that this is an opportunity for elected officials to see the results of regional cooperation. She thanked the Regional Transportation Council for its vote to fund \$25,000 for transportation of elected officials to selected events as a backstop if enough funds are not raised to cover the cost of transportation. Ms. Smith read a letter from Congressman Sam Johnson dated September 21, 2016. The letter discussed the Congressman's vote for and the House Bill he cosponsored, the Community Counter Terrorism Preparedness Act that authorizes federal grant funding for law enforcement and emergency providers in major metropolitan areas to conduct counter terrorism exercises and active-shooter training. She

thanked members for their support and extended an invitation for all elected officials to attend events on November 11-12. Lee Kleinman encouraged members to observe the opportunity for first responders to train collaboratively. He expressed his appreciation to Jeff Williams, Mayor, City of Arlington and members of the Arlington Police Department for their support and security coverage during the City of Dallas memorial service for its fallen officers. Molly McFadden thanked local jurisdictions for hosting, staffing, and participating in the upcoming events. Elected officials interested in participating were asked to complete Reference Item 4.2, distributed at the meeting, to indicate the events they would like to attend.

5. **Traffic Signal Data Sharing Agreements:** Tom Bamonte presented an opportunity to work with partner agencies that operate traffic signals on agreements to share traffic signal information with third-party technology companies. Four related automated vehicle technologies were highlighted: 1) autonomous vehicle, 2) connected vehicle, 3) vehicle-to-vehicle, and 4) vehicle-to-infrastructure. The proposed initiative is a hybrid of connected vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure technologies. Traffic signal data is received from and sent to vehicles that use connected vehicle technology. Signal phase and timing data must then be refined by a traffic signal data expert that optimizes the data in real time for transmittal to auto manufacturers, application developers, and others for vehicle applications. A video was shown from an auto manufacturer active in this area of technology. Mr. Bamonte noted this is the first of many opportunities for public agencies to work with the private sector to build applications that will improve traffic flow. He discussed security protocols included in the agreements and the current status of efforts. Currently, there is partner agency interest in vehicle-to-infrastructure projects and automotive manufacturer interest for in-vehicle applications based on those projects. A sample agreement has been developed that local entities can use when developing their own data sharing with traffic data experts. Staff has also developed a draft agreement that would give the North Central Texas Council of Governments access to performance reports so that planners can work more effectively on traffic signal issues. Finally, a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) is being developed that will help identify other interested parties in vehicle-to-infrastructure traffic signal projects. If approved, staff plans to move forward and issue a Request for Partners, followed by a vehicle-to-infrastructure pilot program and briefing to traffic engineers in the region. The Regional Transportation Council and Surface Transportation Technical Committee will be provided a progress report in early 2017. Members discussed the concern of exposure to increased security risk and the type of information shared with third-party entities. In addition, Ann Zadeh asked if signalization data sharing is available for users other than motorists. Mr. Bamonte noted this type of data sharing has multiple layers of security and that no personal data from individual drivers is transmitted to third-party agencies. He also noted the Request for Partners will help determine interest in applications both within and without the automotive sphere. A motion was made approve the pursuit of traffic signal data sharing agreements in cooperation with regional partners to support automated vehicle applications in the region. Sandy Greyson (M); Kathryn Wilemon (S). The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Collin County Funding Partnership and Roadway Action Plan Update:** Michael Morris presented a continued funding partnership with Collin County related to the Low-Income Repair and Replacement Assistance Program/Low-Income Projects (LIRAP/LIP). Last year, Collin County entered into a funding partnership with the Regional Transportation Council to exchange LIRAP/LIP funds for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds. Collin County will continue to use the CMAQ funds for various air quality projects. Details were provided in Reference Item 6.1. In addition, Mr. Morris provided an update on the Collin County Roadway Action Plan, detailed in Electronic Item 6.2.

Four major initiatives were discussed. The first project is US 75 from SH 121 south. Efforts include operational improvements, a partnership with the North Texas Tollway Authority for ramp improvements, and use of shoulders during the peak periods. Some additional revenue may be requested from the Regional Transportation Council if necessary. The second project is the staged construction of the Collin County Outer Loop. Right-of-way must be preserved for the construction of a future two-directional frontage road until corridor volumes increase. The third corridor is US 380 through the center of McKinney. Efforts will include a countywide study, as well as a study for a potential bypass around northern McKinney. The fourth project is the Collin County Strategic Transportation Initiative, which is a study of non-tolled north/south roadway needs and opportunities. A motion was made to approve the continuation of a funding partnership with Collin County to exchange Low-Income Repair and Replacement Assistance Program/Low-Income Projects funds for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds as detailed in Reference Item 6.1. Bernice J. Washington (M); Duncan Webb (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Development of Regional 10-Year Plan Project Map:** Dan Lamers provided an update regarding regional priorities for the 10-year plan. Since adoption of Mobility 2040, staff has been performing analyses to rank and score projects to identify the next 10 years of significant roadway projects. This effort will also fulfil the House Bill 20 10-year planning requirement passed during the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. Funding allocations by the Texas Transportation Commission for Category 2 (Urban Mobility Corridors) Category 4 (Statewide Connectivity), and Category 12 (Commission Strategic Priority) have been confirmed. Based on these allocations, projects are being evaluated in three paths: 1) previously unfunded commitments or existing facilities under construction needing next-phase funding, 2) new freeway projects, and 3) new on-system arterial projects. Mr. Lamers highlighted the process of the project selection process for each of the three paths. Projects continue through each of the evaluation options and are balanced to the appropriate funding categories based on available funds.

Adam Beckom summarized the regional funding allocations for FY2017 to FY2026. Total funding to the region is approximately \$6.8 billion and split between Categories 2, 4, and 12. Funds have been distributed using the current east/west equity of 32 percent to the west and 68 percent in the east based on the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) transportation bill. Nine initial funding buckets have been identified. He noted the importance of being sensitive to Proposition 1 funding allocations for years two and three to ensure projects are not funded out of turn. In addition, he discussed the east/west equity status. Currently, based on the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users and MAP-21 cumulative totals, the equity share is at 28 percent in the west and 71 percent in the east. Staff is proposing that the equity share be balanced closer to the preferred distribution during this effort. Next, staff will finalize project performance measures and develop a draft project listing and map. Project needs will then be balanced to available resources. Over the next few weeks, staff will finalize consensus on the preliminary project list. Regional Transportation Council action is anticipated in December with final submittal to the Texas Transportation Commission on December 15.

Bernice J. Washington asked if the funds discussed were at risk. Michael Morris noted too often in the past the State has underestimated revenue. When additional funds were made available, the region was able to implement large regional projects while other regions used funding for maintenance. He added, it is better for the region to be ready to implement projects versus potentially losing funds if projects are not ready.

8. **Draft Legislative Program:** Amanda Wilson provided a federal legislative update. Before it recessed, the United States Congress passed a continuing resolution to keep the federal government open through December 9, 2016. Members will return in November and have several options to either pass an omnibus appropriations bill, a series of smaller bills, or a continuing resolution for an extended period of time. Staff will continue to monitor and provide updates to members. Regarding the Texas Legislature, the legislative session begins January 10, 2017. Ms. Wilson noted two meetings of the RTC Legislative and Finance Subcommittee held earlier in the year during which a draft RTC Legislative Program was presented. The draft has been revised based on input from RTC members and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff. A marked-up version of the draft RTC Legislative Program was provided in Electronic Item 8 and summarized at the meeting. She noted that staff's effort was to streamline the RTC Legislative Program into three categories. First, recognize and continue progress made toward improving transportation and air quality during recent legislative sessions. This includes supporting the continued full funding of Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 and the ending of diversions; retaining the ability to utilize tools such as debt financing; tolled managed lanes, etc.; continuing to fully appropriate revenues to the Low Income Repair and Replacement Assistance Program (LIRAP) and Local Initiative Projects (LIP); retaining eminent domain authority for transportation projects; and supporting efforts to utilize performance-based planning to select transportation projects. Second, invest in further progress toward meeting transportation and air quality needs. This includes authorizing a comprehensive development agreement on IH 635E and identifying additional transportation revenue. Options were included in Electronic Item 8 and members were encouraged to provide feedback on the options. Additionally, appropriating LIRAP's residual balance of previously collected funds (approximately \$200 million), modernizing and increasing the flexibility of LIRAP/LIP funding, and protecting the Texas Emission Reduction Program revenue to ensure funds are utilized on projects that meet the intent of the program including roadway/goods movement transportation projects. Finally, provide support for other topics to be addressed in legislation. This section will allow flexibility to address legislation such as improving air quality, increasing safety, relieving congestion, using innovative technology, maintaining active operations and management of the system, enabling transportation data sharing, and shared mobility solutions. Members were encouraged to provide feedback regarding Electronic Item 8 and it was noted the RTC would be asked to approve the RTC Legislative Program at its November 10 meeting. In addition, Ms. Wilson reminded members that staff will be providing weekly updates to members regarding legislative actions, bills, committee hearings, and bill tracking. Staff will also email members regarding upcoming hearings and potential opportunities to provide testimony. Michael Morris requested that members contact Amanda Wilson or Jungus Jordan, RTC Legislation and Finance Subcommittee Chair, regarding comments. Jungus Jordan noted Electronic Item 8 is consistent with recent RTC discussions and thanked staff for its efforts. He added that he believes local control will be discussed frequently during the upcoming legislative session, but that transportation is one of the areas members can identify as a local control success story. He requested members provide input regarding the draft RTC Legislative Program and noted a workshop including the committee of the whole would be scheduled in the near future.
9. **High-Speed Rail Update:** Michael Morris provided an update on recent progress regarding high-speed rail initiatives for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Eight tasks to be completed by staff were discussed and details were provided in Electronic Item 9. The first task is review of the federal submittals to the Federal Register Notice for high-speed rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The second task is the creation of a Local Government Corporation solely to implement high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth as a contingency. The third task is

coordination with the Congressional Delegation on the initial federal funding request before the current administration leaves office. Staff has been working with the Congressional Delegation on a mechanism to obtain unused federal funds for high-speed rail to help fund any gap in cost for high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth, if needed. The fourth task is the issuance of a Request for Information (RFI) for high-speed rail. The deadline for responses is November 18, 2016. The fifth task is to issue the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for each of the three segments for station area and high-speed rail alignment planning. The sixth task is to respond to the Federal Railroad Administration's letter to TxDOT. The letter states American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are being used to work on the Tier II Environmental document. ARRA funds expire and there is a questions about whether TxDOT can complete the process before the deadline to expend funds. Staff is working with TxDOT to ensure it can complete the environmental review by the deadline, and the RTC will seek financial partners if TxDOT is unable to complete the environmental document by the deadline. The seventh task is related to the Tier II Environmental completion. Mr. Morris noted he had an opportunity to attend an Irving City Council work session regarding how to best advance high-speed rail in the community. Staff will continue to work on the best alignment for high-speed rail to proceed from Dallas through Arlington to Fort Worth, and eventually to San Antonio and Austin. Finally, task eight is staff working with TxDOT consultants to complete ridership forecasts for passenger rail between Dallas and Fort Worth. He noted that action may be necessary on some institutional items that may need to be addressed. Gary Slagel asked if the issue raised by the City of Irving at the previous RTC meeting regarding the use of the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) corridor was resolved. Mr. Morris noted the City of Irving has been asked to take a position that supports high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth and in support of working with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and TxDOT staffs regarding the best route. NCTCOG will review routes that may have been dismissed prematurely and that are located south of the TRE and north of the IH 30 corridor. This would open up several options and may eliminate a potential fatal flaw since currently all of the corridors from Dallas are on the TRE corridor. Oscar Ward thanked Mr. Morris for attending the Irving work session. He noted the City of Irving is not against high-speed rail, but sensitive to an above-grade rail line in the TRE corridor.

10. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle Voluntary Measures:** Dan Lamers briefed the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle voluntary measures and schedule. Mobility 2040 includes a voluntary list of policies that local governments and transportation agencies can choose to adopt. These policies aim to encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions to achieve the goals of the MTP. To encourage the adoption of these policies, entities that voluntarily decide to adopt 50 percent of the eligible policies will receive an offset of local funds for federal transportation projects in the form of Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). The total number of policies and requirements by agency type were reviewed. Details were provided in Electronic Item 10. A survey has been developed and sent to eligible agencies to be completed annually to indicate what policies have been adopted. TDCs would be eligible for existing projects and programs already selected by RTC and for new future projects which follow the existing Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. He also noted that for existing projects, no new funding would be available if TDCs are used. A workshop will be held prior to the November 10, 2016, RTC meeting to discuss the voluntary adoption of policies in detail. Special focus will be placed on policies and coordination with school districts. Mr. Lamers reviewed the draft schedule for implementation of the policy bundle voluntary measures. Staff would like to receive early submittal from eligible entities by February 3, 2017, to allow staff an opportunity to work with entities on details. March 3, 2017, is the deadline for agencies to complete the survey and

provide required documentation. Since this process will change the funding source and may be on new projects, projects must go through the TIP modification process due in April 2017. Projects would be eligible to proceed in late August or September. Members and Texas Department of Transportation staff discussed how copper theft is related to transportation. Andy Eads noted he was apprehensive about the adoption of voluntary measures that might put an entity at a competitive disadvantage, which makes the adoption of the measures seem less than voluntary.

11. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Reference Item 11.1, Surface Transportation Technical Committee meeting attendance and minutes in Electronic Item 11.2, and the current Local Motion in Electronic Item 11.3.
12. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
13. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2016, 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.