

MINUTES

Regional Transportation Council Thursday, January 23, 2025

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 9:30 am in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following RTC members or representatives were present: Bruce Arfsten, Steve Babick, Adam Bazaldua, Alan Blaylock, Tandy Boroughs (representing Daniel Alemán), Ceason Clemens, Michael Crain, Jeff Davis, Pat Deen, Vernon Evans, Renee Franklin (representing Michael Evans), Raul Gonzalez, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jill Jester, Matt Krause, Ray E. Marcus (representing Tammy Meinershagen), Ed Moore, Jesse Moreno, Omar Narvaez, Tito Rodriguez, Jim Ross, David Salazar, Nannette Samuelson (representing Rick Bailey), Michael Schaeffer (representing Matthew Porter), Gary Slagel, Bobby Stovall, Jeremy Tompkins, William Tsao, Chad West, and Cheryl Williams (representing Duncan Webb).

Others present at the meeting were: Vickie Alexander, Berrien Barks, Carli Baylor, Alberta Blair, Angie Carson, Dina Colorossi, Tara Crawford, Angela Cruz, Clarence Daugherty, Gwen Dorko, Chad Edwards, Eric Gault, Tony Hartzel, Robert Hinkle, Mark Holliday, Joel James, Dan Kessler, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Eron Linn, Terry Lynne, Dillon Maroney, Rich Matyiku, Malcolm Mayhew, Michael Morris, Randy Morrison, Mark Nelson, Cintia Ortiz, Michael Peters, John Polster, Kelly Porter, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Harlinda Resendz, Sidney Sonch, Toni Stehling, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, Hannah Witcher, and Marcus Wood.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda:** Clay Lewis Jenkins, Regional Transportation Council Chair and Dallas County Judge asked if there were any public comments. Chair Jenkins noted that no members of the public chose to speak at the meeting or provide written comments.

2. **Approval of December 12, 2024, Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted in Electronic Item 2. Ed Moore (M); Jesse Moreno (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1. **Amtrak Heartland Flyer Funding Shortfall:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$100,000 in Regional Toll Revenue funds for Amtrak's Heartland Flyer passenger service from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City to ensure there are no service disruptions. In addition, staff sought RTC's approval to inform the Legislature that the Texas Department of Transportation's request for funding was inadequate.

3.2. **Funding for Riverfront Boulevard Cost Overrun:** This item contained a request for Regional Transportation Council approval of \$12,401,658 in Dallas County Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding to cover a cost overrun at letting on the Riverfront Boulevard project with local funds covering the remainder of the gap, along with 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. In addition, staff requested additional cost overruns must be covered by Dallas County and/or the City

of Dallas. Staff requested Dallas County and the selected construction company to monitor communication on the location of utilities that may impact column placement for high-speed rail.

A motion was made to approve Items 3.1 and 3.2 on the Consent Agenda. Steve Babick (M); Tito Rodriguez (S). The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris briefly highlighted items 1 through 6.
 1. Transit 2.0 Policy Oversight Preparation for February Action
 2. \$60 Million Received from Environmental Protection Agency Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program
 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. Sandy Wesch Celebration of Life: January 24, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.
 6. Regional Transportation Council Policy – Temporary Suspension of Dynamic Pricing No Longer Requested
 7. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight
 8. Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
 9. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (www.dfwcleancities.org/events)
 10. November – December Public Comment Report
 11. January Public Meeting Notice
 12. Recent News Articles
 13. Recent Press Releases

Michael introduced Matt Krause, Commissioner with Tarrant County. He noted the Presidential Executive Orders on all of the projects that have been funded through Federal Legislation, a limited number of holds were placed on Electric Vehicles and Energy. Michael announced the August 2025 Regional Transportation Council meeting will be held August 7, 2025, to coincide with the Irving Infrastructure Summit.

5. **Fiscal Year 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant Program:** Jeffrey Hathcock requested Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

A motion was made to approve of proposed projects to submit for funding consideration through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability (RAISE) and Equity Program: State Highway (SH) 183/SH 356/Belt Line Road Interchange, Ennis Avenue/United Pacific Rail Road grade separation, SH 183 – Pumphrey Drive Reconstruction Project, along with allocation of new Regional Transportation Council funds for SH 183/SH 356/Belt Line Road Interchange; \$100 million in Category 2/Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds (including \$20 million non-federal match) via future Regional 10-Year Plan/Unified Transportation Program (UTP) updates and/or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) revisions; \$70 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds, specifically surplus revenues from the SH 183

corridor; and to administratively amend North Central Texas Council of Governments and State TIPs, as well as other planning and administrative documents, to include proposed projects and funding if selected for FY 25 RAISE Grant awards. Jeremy Tompkins (M); Ed Moore (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Request Approval to Allocate 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:** Ken Kirkpatrick briefed the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on numerous correspondence from Attorneys for Hunt Realty Investment, Inc., and other Hunt-related entities (Hunt-related entities). Ken requested RTC's approval to allocate up to \$1 million in RTC Local funds in \$250,000 increments in preparation for potential litigation related to the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Environmental Assessment. Staff recommended reporting back to the RTC quarterly regarding high-speed rail activities and the level of expenditures. If approved, the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board, as the RTC's fiduciary agent, would be requested to go through the contracting process to secure external legal services to supplement internal staff. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to amend staff's recommendation for approval of up to \$1 million in Regional Transportation Council Local funds by allocating \$1 million with authorization to expend up to an initial \$250,000 and requiring staff to return to the RTC for approval of each additional \$250,000 increment. In addition, staff was directed to provide monthly updates on the status of the High-Speed Rail project and funding expenditures. Adam Bazaldua (M); Nannette Samuelson (S). The motion passed. Jim Ross, Raul Gonzalez, and Pat Deen opposed. The three members in opposition noted that their opposition was due to their preference to approve staff's initial request for approval of up to \$1 million dollars, not in incremental portions.

7. **Federal and State Legislative Update:** Rebekah Gongora provided an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area.
8. **New 511 Dallas-Fort Worth Traveler Information System:** Natalie Bettger provided an overview of the new 511 Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Traveler Information System highlighting the public-facing and agency user interface.
9. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 9.1 and Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes were provided in Electronic Item 9.2.
10. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
11. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.