

PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on November 8, 2018.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Friday, November 20, through Saturday, December 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. Air quality and bicycle and pedestrian comments were in the majority.

Air Quality

Twitter –

1. "Clean cities" and a focus on highways rather than ways of fostering less autodependent communities; the poison of our #autocentric culture. – Loren S. (@txbornviking)



2. Thanks, @NCTCOGtrans! You're a valued #EPASmartWay partner! – EPA Region6 (@EPARegion6)



No question, together you've made DFW air quality what it is today. – Downwinders at Risk (@cleanerair)

Facebook –

1. Today the City of Denton, TX - City Hall was awarded the 🏆 Arlo Ambassador Award by NCTCOG Transportation Department for the City of Denton Sustainability air quality efforts. For more information, visit AirNorthTexas.org. – City of Denton Sustainability



2. The Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities coalition is celebrating 25 years as a Department of Energy program, helping north Texas improve air quality through initiatives and partnerships that reduce transportation emissions, improve efficiency, and strengthen the local economy. The coalition's work has resulted in over 2 million pounds of ozone forming nitrogen oxide (NOx) reductions in the past 3 years, as well as 68,000 tons of greenhouse gas reductions annually. Watch more here: <https://youtu.be/vaGw6TWQ0Uo>. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Happy anniversary!! – Rock Robinson IV

Thank you! 😊 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Looking forward to helping with sustainable transportation in Texas! –
NCTCOG Transportation Department

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter –

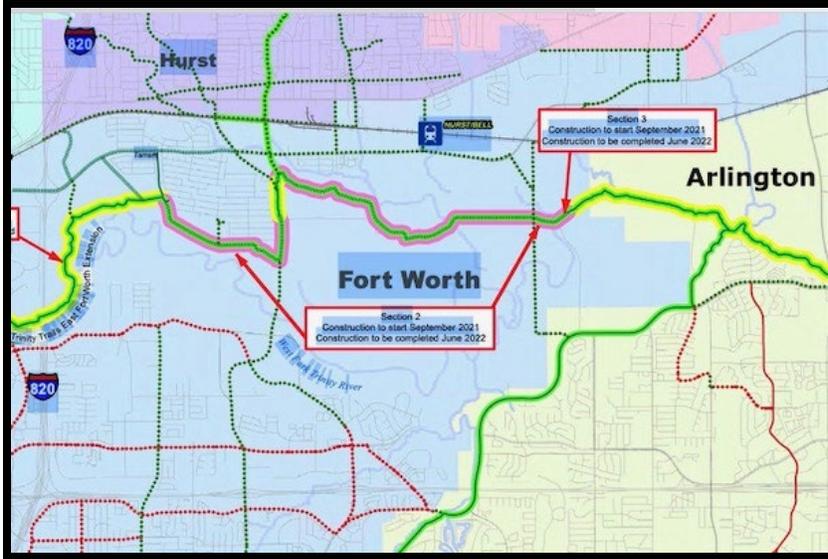
1. Find a @LewisvillePard trail in and go for a ride this weekend.
<https://playlewisville.com/parks/hike-and-bike-trails> – City of Lewisville (@LewisvilleTexas)



2. Happy Go for a Ride Day!! – BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)

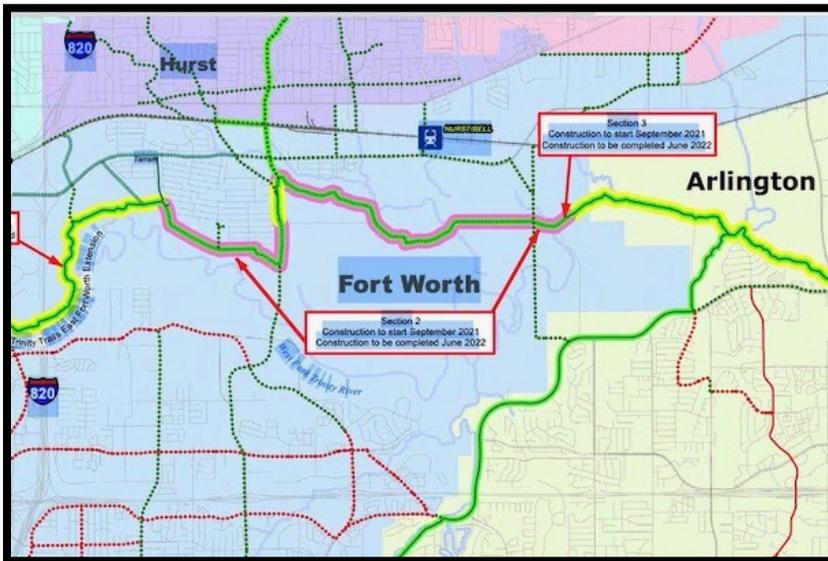


3. Arlington vote brings dream of biking between Dallas and Fort Worth closer: <http://bit.ly/38cSavV>. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



Good luck with the robbery and murder along the way. – NBF (@Whitemantyping)

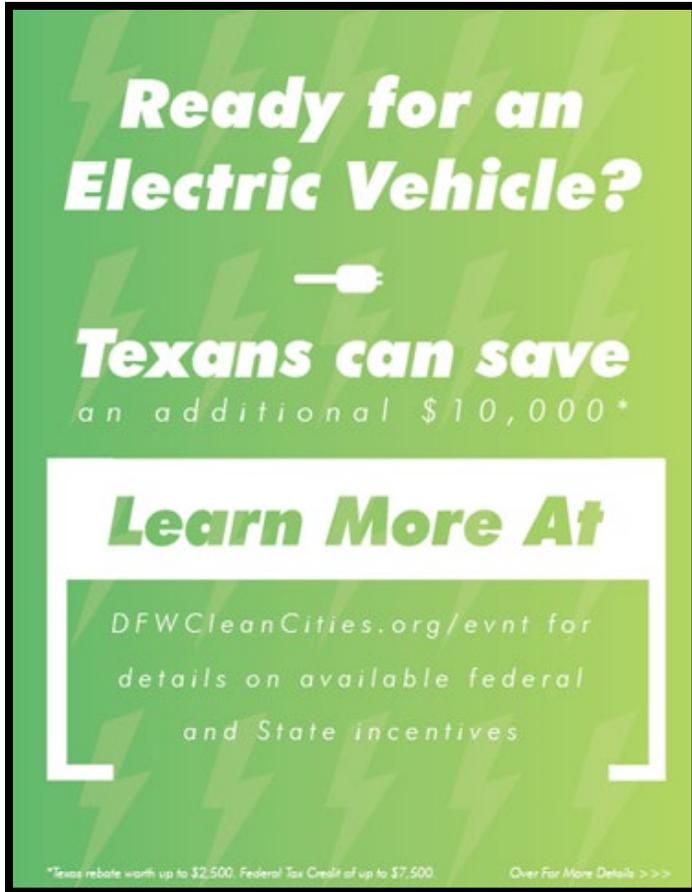
4. So exciting! – Natalie Tull (@Flixtress)



Electric Vehicles

Twitter –

1. TX EV rebate expires on Jan 7, 2021. For battery electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles, get up to \$2500 back. Apply if you purchased or leased btw 9/1/19-1/7/21. 871 rebates remain. Combo with federal tax incentives. Details at <https://tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/ld.html>
 @NCTCOGtrans #AirNorthTexas - Green Dallas (@GreenDallas)



Any prospect of an program to support the purchase of e-bikes in 2021?

Now that's something I'd love to partake in! – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

That would be cool! Let me see if I can find an answer for you. –

NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

Hi, Loren! Did some asking around and, unfortunately, there are no programs that provide funding or assistance with purchasing bikes of any kind. –

NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)

High-speed Rail

Twitter –

1. Dear Santa 🎅...

cc @PeteButtigieg 🇺🇸 – Jonathan Berkie (@berkie1)



Mayor (Secretary?) Pete, let's make sure any HSR network goes through both Downtown Fort Worth and Downtown Dallas, not just one, not out in the suburbs, but in center of both cities. @TrinityMetro @NCTCOGtrans – Andrew Blake (@andrewccblake)

Project Planning

Email –

1. Ned Woodbridge

To the Transportation department of NCTCOG,

This email is to provide comments on the proposed US 380 alignments as presented by TxDOT in the Virtual Public Meeting held December 2, 2020, attached hereto. I understand NCTCOG has been involved with this study as well. I refer to the alternative alignments by their colors in the above-referenced presentation pages 19-24.

I am writing in favor of the proposed blue alignment along the existing US 380. The Orange alignment is second-best as an alignment to address future growth when & if it develops. To be clear, I am strongly opposed to the purple and yellow alignments for environmental, mobility and economic cost reasons.

The presentation of December 2, 2020 laid out alternatives being considered and the key Evaluation Criteria to be considered, including Engineering/Mobility, Environmental and Economic. The proposed blue alignment by far maximized these priorities, and should be chosen.

Engineering/Mobility

Expanding the existing 380 roadbed in the blue alignment best optimizes the serving of existing communities and the future growth pattern – the shortest, cheapest and most convenient

distance is a straight line! (best serving the communities along 380). Second, 380 is a major east-west corridor that extends from Greenville (connecting with I-30) all the way west through Texas and through much of New Mexico – the straight line optimizes where people will want to travel. Safety and the crash rate are best with the blue alignment. The purple and yellow routes are unnecessary and would add undue traffic and congestion onto FM 428 and its feed into the 288 Loop.

Environmental

The Greenbelt and Clear Creek flood plain are ecological, environmental and recreational treasures to be preserved and on which the impact should be minimized to the greatest extent possible. There is little need to create another alignment such as the purple and yellow so close to the blue. These latter alignments would bifurcate and destroy Environmentally Sensitive Areas which are critical to habitat and water quality in the area.

Impact on existing businesses in the blue alignment can be minimized by engineering creativity: by moderately altering the route as shown, PLUS creating either sunken through-traffic lanes in the congested areas (only a mile or so) or elevated lanes (which I prefer less) to displace as few existing businesses as practical. By sunken lanes, I refer to the LBJ expressway in Dallas where express lanes were excavated, compressing the total ROW required yet creating the necessary traffic capacity.

Economic

The length, construction costs, and acquired right of way all are maximized by the blue alignment, as outlined in the presentation. Impact on existing businesses in the blue alignment can be minimized by engineering creativity, as noted above.

In conclusion, the blue alignment by far represents the optimal solution, followed by the orange alignment. US 380 should remain the primary east-west route to handle Collin and Denton Counties as well as the cross traffic further east or west. The purple and yellow alignments should be ruled out completely. The teal alignment is undesirable in that it would funnel traffic to a choke point, create significant congestion at the intersection of FM 428 and the 288 Loop, and create a major separation of communities in the northern part of the City of Denton by a highway; instead, if done at all (I think it unnecessary), this outer loop should remain an outer loop and connect due west to I-35 north of Milam Rd.

Thank you for your consideration.

Twitter –

1. Help develop a vision for better transportation access and recreational opportunities in NW Dallas. Take the Bachman Area survey from @NCTCOGtran.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNbEJWo03vRCNTTjEwHekWMBhnb4WrTWPnCE4qd056-C-wg/viewform>. – Jeff Kitner (@JeffKitner)

Bachman Lake & Love Field Area Planning

Help craft a vision for better transportation access and recreational opportunities in Northwest Dallas - [Take the Community Survey](#)

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is leading a transportation and land use study of the Bachman Lake/Northwest Highway area, in collaboration with the City of Dallas and coordinating with the National Park Service (NPS) on the Love Field Loop Trail project.

Potential focus areas for this ongoing project include:

- Safety for walking and bicycling
- Access to parks and trails
- Changes to DART Buses and trains
- Access to Love Field
- Other transportation projects

Love Field Loop Trail Project

The National Park Service (NPS) is assisting the City of Dallas as they create a concept plan for the [Love Field Loop Trail](#), which will identify a route around airport property, local neighborhoods, and public parks to connect residents to destinations and recreational services.

Get Involved

Tell us about your transportation needs in the Bachman/Love Field area: [community survey](#)
 Help us develop our public engagement ideas and reach the community:
[public engagement feedback form](#)

For more information, visit: www.NCTCOG.org/BachmanArea

North Central Texas
Council of Governments

2. Lonestarsuv.com 📞 469-265-4527

Who is based just N. Of #US380 in #DentonCounty understands the importance of regional management of public transportation needs. The issue is resulting in too many fatal accidents and injuries on this road. – Lonestarsuv.com #SUV & #Limo Transportation (@LoneStarSUVLimo)

Public Meetings & Forums

Twitter –

1. REGISTER for the #PROPANE #AUTOGAS SCHOOL BUS WEBINAR on 12/17/20 hosted by the @PropaneCouncil & @NCTCOGtrans #DFW Clean Cities. LEARN more about low emission school buses, school bus grants, reduced maintenance & more. REGISTER at <http://ow.ly/UZrs50CGPw7> #schooltransportation – Propane:FuelingTexas (@FuelingTexas)



2. Technology in Transportation panel! We're now hearing from @TexasCentral's Carlos Aguilar, @Toyota's Jamie Boone, and @NCTCOGtrans' Michael Morris. Moderated by @NTxCommission's Chris Wallace! #NDCC – North Dallas Chamber (@NDCC)



3. REGISTER for the #PROPANE #AUTOGAS SCHOOL BUS WEBINAR on Thursday, 12/17/20 hosted by the @PropaneCouncil & @NCTCOGtrans #DFW Clean Cities.LEARN more about low emission school buses and school bus grants.REGISTER at <http://ow.ly/UZrs50CGPw7> #schooltransportation #betterourbuses – Propane:FuelingTexas (@FuelingTexas)



Transit

Email –

1. **Robert Brown (Re: Rural Healthcare & Transportation)**

Is there a topic or agenda item where this issue is measured?

I am suffering from chronic pain related to spinal cord damage from a syrinx running T3 to T11. Weather like today impacts me terribly. I also have HIV, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Tachycardia, Anxiety, Depression.

Because my spinal cord damage went undiagnosed for years, I lost my IT job with our US National Archives supporting Fort Worth, Chicago, and Atlanta. It wouldn't be until HIV finding in 2017 that I had a path back into our terrible healthcare system. Oh don't get me wrong, it's great when your employed but without a job and a payor, we're left out in the cold. And the double slap in the face for me was an unreported rape in 1999 from someone I had trusted.

Yeah, I've been through the wringer. Lost my home in NRH in 2017 and had to be back home to Dad's land in Greenville. Well, out here, good luck finding the specialists I need to manage everything I have to worry about.

That leads me to the terrible lack of transportation to medical providers in this day and age where pain management practices barely understand even the smallest syrinx can cause big pain. My experience with The Connection here in Greenville to my pain management office in Carrollton is cost-prohibitive at \$125 each way. SSDI does not pay that much and as I move from Obamacare to Medicare, my brunt of the cost for healthcare is going UP UP UP UP.

The lack of disability support from my State leaves me extremely angry. I can't even get affordable transportation once a quarter. Why is Texas so lacking with this type of support and what has to be done to get it addressed?

2. Tim Purvis

Hi,

I was thrilled when the Tex-Rail made it through RH and the Iron Horse areas. I live in Watauga. I still must drive my car to get to a station. I know more stations=more money, but I think something needs to be addressed about “last mile” access to the trains. I used to work in Europe (Sweden) and rarely was there a time I could not walk to a local station that connected with a larger transportation train system. Not here in Texas. Never. Only for a few fortunate people that live near

a station.

Has this issue ever been considered? Perhaps a per station roving driverless shuttle that had a sub-route for every station. One that could be summoned by an app? Or interim, a stationed shuttle with driver that (for a fee) would cover an area around the station?

There are many near people that cannot or will not drive or leave their car overnight at these stations.

I really think this should be a part of all planning. You are getting close, but missing many people because of this. Fairly simple solutions for interim and future. I am sure this would increase ridership if you would get the word out. I know it would in my neighborhood.

Twitter –

1. To quote @TamikaButler - “we are all dependent on the people who are transit-dependent. So, we’re all transit-dependent.” #SavePublicTransit – Rachel Jenkins, AICP Candidate (@raqueljenkins)



Other

Email –

1. **Andrea Gomez**

I just wanted to take a sec to let someone know how helpful the NCTCOG Transportation education page

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nctcog.org%2Ftrans%2Fabout%2Feducate%2Ftransportation-activities&data=04%7C01%7Ccbaylor%40nctcog.org%7C43e22a8f316c4cd6636808d8a0fefb98%7C2f5e7ebc22b04fbe934caabddb4e29b1%7C0%7C0%7C637436364295036772%7CUnknwn%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimc4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=QagdpKabOtofBCvccoqW9Yz4TyymrhUGI4HwqjnCSJE%3D&reserved=0> has been for my family and me.. My mother moved in with us before the COVID outbreak, and then with twin girls we've definitely had our hands full LOL.. But, I was able to find some excellent online resources to use with them (their school district is back to remote learning right now) Amy and Alexandra especially enjoy the virtual field trips.. they loved the national parks ones. Its been wonderful grandma/granddaughter bonding time !

The girls suggested that we should send a thank you note...or e-mail I guess haha. It does feel like a good opportunity to put a little positivity into the world and I figured you'd appreciate knowing someone was benefiting from it so here we are =) Thanks!!

And we also wanted to share another resource to repay the favor, so Alex, Amy, and GG all helped to pick out a great resource for virtual field trips, at <https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.titlemax.com%2F>

titles%2Froad-trip-from-home-virtual-field-trips%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ccbaylor%40nctcog.org%7C43e22a8f316c4cd6636808d8a0fefb98%7C2f5e7ebc22b04fbe934caabddb4e29b1%7C0%7C0%7C637436364295036772%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=XtK%2Fzam99Fp5FPeKKyrCgYWB%2BLPW1nl6n9GKB%2B6TCBY%3D&reserved=0 . It has awesome virtual trips and tours from all over the world.. They thought you'd want to add it to your educational resources, so that other families can use it! Hopefully its helpful..

Thank you again, Carli and have a good day. If you are able to add their suggestion to your page I'll make sure to show them.. everyone was excited to see if you liked it so I'm thinking they'll be proud seeing it on there. Stay safe and happy holidays! Thanks.