

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Work Program Modifications

Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings

Online Public Input Opportunity Dates

Monday, Jan. 13, 2020 - Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2020 – The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) posted information at www.nctcog.org/input for public review and comment.

Purpose and Topics

The online public input opportunity was provided in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Plan, 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. Staff posted information regarding:

1. Work Program Modifications
2. Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings

The NCTCOG online public input opportunity was provided to inform and seek comments from the public. Comments and questions were submitted by email at transinfo@nctcog.org, online at www.nctcog.org/input, by mail at PO Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005 and by fax at 817-640-3028. Printed copies of the online materials were also made available by calling 817-608-2365 or emailing cbaylor@nctcog.org.

Summary of Presentations

Work Program Modifications handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/01/UPWP-Mods.pdf>

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) summarizes transportation activities for NCTCOG's metropolitan planning area, which covers a 12-county region. The UPWP is divided into five major task areas:

- Administration and Management
- Transportation Data Development and Maintenance
- Short-Range Planning and Programming and Air Quality and Transit Operations
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Special Studies and System Operations

The modifications included in this round of amendments address funding adjustments for air quality management, land-use initiatives and regional aviation planning and education.

The RTC will take action on the FY2020 and FY2021 UPWP modifications in February 2020.

Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/01/Public-Comment-at-RTC-Pres.pdf>

Draft Rules

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/01/Draft-RTC-Speaker-Rules.pdf>

Recent State legislation (House Bill 2840, 86th Texas Legislature) took effect on September 1, 2019. This bill states that members of the public must be allowed to make comments to a governmental body before or during the body's consideration of an item. If no simultaneous translation equipment is used, a member of the public using a translator must be given double the amount of time to comment. A governmental body may adopt reasonable rules regarding public comments, including rules that limit the amount of time for each public comment. The body may not prohibit public criticism of the body.

Opportunities for the public to speak on RTC agenda items began September 12, 2019. A single public comment period now occurs at each RTC meeting following the pledges and before any action is taken on agenda items. NCTCOG staff created a Speaker Request Card, which must be completed by each speaker prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers must provide their name, city of residence, zip code, the agenda item(s) on which they plan to speak (or provide written comments on) and whether or not they are speaking on, for or against the item(s). All comments that are received are documented in the RTC minutes and Public Comments Report.

The draft rules are currently posted for public review and comment until February 26, and the RTC will take action on them in March 2020.

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, MAIL, EMAIL and SOCIAL MEDIA

Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings

Email

Gary Hennessey

I wanted to commend the Texas Legislature for making public input a requirement for these meetings.

Darl Easton

Draft rules for Public Comment at RTC meetings appears to be reasonable and IAW the statute.