



September 2024

Welcome to Local Motion, a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department.

North Texas leaders help RTC celebrate 50 years of transportation planning



The North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Regional Transportation Council have served as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization since 1974. Much has

changed in the over 50 years since the day in April 1974 when the NCTCOG Executive Board voted to authorize the MPO.

The region has added roadways, transit and bicycle-pedestrian lanes to the facilities that existed 50 years ago to support the addition of 5 million new residents. The success achieved was made possible by the strong partnerships developed over the years across government entities and the business community. Leaders from the public and private sectors joined together in August to celebrate the accomplishments of the Regional Transportation Council over the past 50 years.

Cedar Hill Mayor Stephen Mason, former Texas Transportation Commission Chair Deirdre Delisi, former Fort Worth Mayor Kenneth Barr, Texas Rangers Executive Vice President of Business Operations Rob Matwick and Hillwood President Mike Berry helped commemorate 50 years of transportation planning during a special luncheon August 8 at the Irving Convention Center. They shared stories about how the RTC has made Dallas-Fort Worth a national leader in transportation and prepared it for population and employment growth.

“I’ve always been welcomed by the staff, by the RTC with what I’d call a listening ear and a positive response,” Barr said, “and a commitment to address whatever I was working on and figure out a good strategy for it.”

For more on the celebration and a look back at 50 years of transportation planning in Dallas-Fort Worth, visit nctcog.org/mpo50.

Students, lace up those sneakers Oct. 9 for Walk & Roll to School Day



Students across the Dallas-Fort Worth area are encouraged to prepare for an active commute to school October 9 as the nation celebrates Walk & Roll to School Day.

Currently, more than 80 Texas schools are signed up to host Walk & Roll to School Day events, with over 60 of them in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, according to the national [website](#).

NCTCOG is hosting a promotion again this year filled with toolkits, safety resources and giveaways. Schools that [pledge](#) to host a Walk & Roll event are entered into a raffle to win free safety-themed giveaways, and their students are eligible to enter a raffle for a new bicycle. NCTCOG conducted a similar bicycle giveaway in conjunction with Bike to School Day in May.

Schools located in NCTCOG's [12-county Metropolitan Planning Area](#) can register to participate by September 4. Be sure to get permission from your school's administration and then complete the participation pledge [here](#) to register.

Walk & Roll to School Day is led by the National Center for Safe Routes to School, which is committed to helping communities champion safe, active trips to school for all students. In 2016, the organization began the [Vision Zero for Youth](#) initiative, promoting safety near schools and other places students typically walk and ride their bikes in an effort to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes.

RTC approves \$1.6 million for further engineering of high-speed rail project



The Dallas-Fort Worth high-speed rail project will continue to advance through preliminary engineering and environmental documentation as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process after the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved additional funding August 8.

The RTC approved an additional \$1.6 million to review and advance engineering on alignment options west of downtown Dallas and their effect on the environmental process. This allows the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and project consultant staff to continue to advance the project and coordinate with federal transit and rail officials without significant delays. Meetings with project partners and stakeholders were held after the July 11 RTC high-speed rail workshop to inform the RTC decision.

In April 2020, NCTCOG staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study. High-speed rail generally following the Interstate Highway 30 corridor was recommended in 2021 as part of the first phase of the study. The second phase includes preliminary engineering and an environmental analysis within the NEPA process. For more information, visit nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs.

EV owners to gather in Fort Worth on Oct. 6 for annual celebration



National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) is right around the corner, and North Texans can celebrate electric vehicle technology at 10 a.m. Sunday, October 6 at Fort Worth's Tanger Outlets.

This event will showcase various makes and models of electric vehicles, which are growing in popularity across Dallas-Fort Worth and the state. The goal of the Fort Worth NDEW event is to educate the public on the benefits of owning and operating EVs. This annual North Texas celebration is among more than 170 EV-themed events planned September 28-October 6 throughout North America as part of National Drive Electric Week.

In addition to EV displays, attendees can enjoy food, games, prizes and EV ride-and-drives. They will also have an opportunity to visit with community members and industry professionals involved with sustainability. To attend the event or participate as an exhibitor or sponsor, visit dfwcleancities.org/ndew. Registration is free.

Event Details

Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Date: Sunday, October 6

Location: Tanger Outlets
15853 North Freeway
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Survey: Help shape Access North Texas 2026 update



Public involvement efforts for the next update of Access North Texas are underway, and two separate surveys will help shape the public transportation plan for 16 counties in North Central Texas. The first is available for the public and can be completed by visiting the program's [website](#). A separate survey is open to agencies and organizations that provide public transportation services or serve transit-dependent populations. It can be accessed [here](#). Staff will utilize survey results in the plan's 2026 update.

The plan documents available transportation options and identifies gaps in service as well as the needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. It is required to be updated every four years. Upon completion, local governments, transit agencies, regional partners and stakeholders may use Access North Texas as part of their transportation planning efforts.

NCTCOG to host transportation public meeting Sept. 9



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING

Sept 9, 2024 at 12 P.M.

NCTCOG is seeking input on transportation planning initiatives during an upcoming public meeting at noon on Monday, September 9. The session will be held at NCTCOG's Arlington offices, located at 616 Six Flags Drive. For those unable to attend in person, the meeting will be streamed live at publicinput.com/nctcogSept24. Participants can also join the discussion by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 10502. Public comments will be accepted until Tuesday, October 8.

An update on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study will be presented, highlighting recent project developments. In response to concerns from the City of Dallas about the proposed downtown alignment, the RTC held a workshop on July 11 to address these issues. On August 8, the RTC decided to proceed with the federal environmental review process, incorporating flexibility to explore alternative routes for downtown Dallas that address stakeholder concerns. NCTCOG staff will provide an overview of the project's planning, engineering and stakeholder engagement efforts to date, along with next steps for this transformative initiative.

The Miles Matter Program, a collaborative project with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Carma Technologies and the Texas Department of Transportation, aims to utilize smartphone technology to analyze travel patterns on Dallas-Fort Worth roadways. Set to launch in September 2024, this initiative will involve approximately 500 participants along the Interstate Highway 35W corridor, who will be incentivized to shift their commute times outside of peak travel periods. The project is designed to gather insights and will include additional phases based on initial feedback and engagement.

Information related to interactive public input, air quality funding and initiatives, Try Parking It and Access North Texas will also be available online for review and comment.

Residents planning to use transit to attend the meeting can take advantage of \$6 roundtrip rides from the CentrePort/DFW Airport Station to NCTCOG via the Arlington Transportation app. To download the app, go to arlingtontx.gov/ondemand. For special accommodations related to disabilities or language interpretation, please contact 817-695-9255 or email jcastillo@nctcog.org.

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

--Imagery provided by NCTCOG, Canva and Getty Images.

Sent on behalf of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) by [PublicInput](#)
2409 Crabtree Blvd, Suite 107, Raleigh, NC 27604

[Unsubscribe](#) | [My Subscriptions](#)

[View this email in a browser](#) |