

## **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, March 20, through Sunday, April 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. Comments in the “Other” category, regarding Census Day 2020 and COVID-19, were in the majority.

#### **Air Quality**

##### **Twitter –**

1. EPA’s recent grant of nearly \$2.5M to @NCTCOGtrans will fund rebates to replace diesel-powered engines and equipment with cleaner-burning equipment. – EPA Region6 (@EPAregion6)



#### **Bicycle & Pedestrian**

##### **Twitter –**

1. Thank you to @FortWorthParks & @TRWD\_News for building & maintaining the trails. Remember to keep your social distancing when you are out on the trails or at city parks. #FortWorthTrails @CityofFortWorth @StreamsValleys @TrinityMetro @FWBikeSharing @TarrantCountyTX @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL\_FW)



## Programs

### Email –

#### 1. viperboy0098

Hello, the website I have been referred when I asked about how pricing is determined states “TEXpress Lanes use variable congestion-management pricing to help manage traffic flow and provide faster, more predictable travel. Roadside equipment recalculates real-time prices every 5 minutes, 24 hours a day, aiming to ensure the lanes are moving at 50 mph or faster.”

I find this interesting because I am always able to sustain a speed of 70+ from end to end. For example at 6:30 this morning, ofcourse with tons of people not going to work and such, traffic is super light, but it was still over 6\$ to go through the entire section. The traffic load was the same as when it was at 7am yesterday morning and the day prior. Is there simply a timing structure at which you guys use to vary rates based on expected demand as opposed to the above statement?

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

For information on our TEXpress Lane system, please contact Robert Hinkle. I've enclosed his information below:

Robert Hinkle, Corporate Affairs

LBJ Express / NTE / 35W

rhinkle@northtarrantexpress.com

Dear TEXpress Lanes Customer,

We appreciate your question regarding the TEXpress lanes.

As we are all trying to navigate during these unprecedented times we have been particularly mindful of the speed and volume of vehicles on the roadway. We are constantly monitoring the toll rates and adjustments will occur based on those factors.

Again, we appreciate your feedback and for reaching out with your question.

### **Projects & Planning**

#### **Email –**

##### **1. Jon Donhy**

Recently, traveling Hwy 121, NE of Hwy.75 was a nightmare. One lane was open for many miles. Speed and travel time was greatly impacted.

It looks like the work could be broken down in sections so traffic could move a bit more easily. Just saying.

#### **Twitter –**

1. \$15 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grants for a free parking garage, which creates congestion and worsens air quality. And another \$25M from city of Plano: - patrick kennedy (@WalkableDFW)

### **COLLIN CREEK MALL MIXED-USE REDEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

#### **• Requested Action:**

- Approval of parking and transit
  - \$30 million federal with a \$15 million payback for parking garage
  - \$25 million local
  - Approximately 3 transit vehicles for shuttle purposes
- Anticipated funding source is either federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement Program or Surface Transportation Block Grant funding (FTA funding may assist with Transit)
- Specific agreement terms to be finalized, but would include elements highlighted in this presentation
- Direct staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other planning/administrative documents to include this project and funding

This seems like one of the craziest and most reckless funding decisions by @NCTCOGtrans in recent years. How did Dallas' reps vote? – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie\_H\_Dallas)

I suppose Michael Morris gonna Michael Morris... Thumbs down 👎 – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

## Public Meetings & Forums

### Twitter –

1. Busy day of conference calls by audio or video. Listened earlier to audio meeting of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). <https://nctcog.org/trans/about/committees/regional-transportation-council> @CityofFortWorth @TrinityMetro @TarrantCountyTX @NCTCOGtrans – Sal Espino (@SAL\_FW)

### Facebook –

1. NCTCOG Transportation Department wants your input on regional transportation!

Check out the full flyer here: <http://argyletx.com/.../NCTCOG-Regional-Transportation-Online...>

Or learn more here: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/meetings>. – Town of Argyle



**TRANSPORTATION  
PUBLIC INPUT**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US.**

Information will be posted online at [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input) for public review and comment April 13 - May 12, 2020. To request printed copies of the information, call 817-608-2365 or email [cbaylor@nctcog.org](mailto:cbaylor@nctcog.org).

**Attorney General Announces Open Meetings Act Provisions Subject to Temporary Suspension**  
The Texas Open Meetings Act ensures that governmental entities conduct business in an open and transparent manner. Staff will summarize the recent flexibility in conducting governmental body meetings in light of public health recommendations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining transparency and public participation principles.

**Status Report: Transportation & RTC Emergency Policies & Procedures**  
The NCTCOG Transportation Department has taken actions to protect the health of our communities and will provide updates on how department employees are continuing to work on important regional planning, programming and projects as well as on how Regional Transportation Council meetings will be conducted during the current health situation.

**10-Year Plan Update**  
In December 2016, the RTC approved a 10-Year Plan identifying major projects to be implemented in the region by Fiscal Year 2026. An updated draft of the project list out to FY 2030 will be provided for review and comment.

**Congestion Management Process**  
Federal regulations mandate areas with populations over 200,000 must implement a Congestion Management Process (CMP) for measuring transportation congestion levels and prioritizing management strategies. Staff will provide a brief overview of federal requirements as well as elements to be considered in the CMP update.

**TxDOT's American Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan**  
The ADA covers many issues from workplace services to public transportation accommodations. Access and awareness are keys to ensuring the needs of disabled citizens are met. TxDOT developed a plan for reporting and will discuss how the agency provides opportunities to assist those with disabilities and how citizens can take an active role in making changes.

**Incident Management 2020 Call for Projects Recommendations**  
Traffic incident management plays an important role in improving safety and reducing congestion in North Texas. \$1.5 million was available through a call for projects for the purchase of equipment used to aid and mitigate traffic incidents, keep people safe and improve air quality. Proposed funding recommendations will be provided for review and comment.

**RESOURCES AND INFORMATION**

- Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP): [www.smokingvehicle.net](http://www.smokingvehicle.net)
- Vehicle Incentives & Funding Opportunities: [www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
- Mobility Plan Administrative Revisions: [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input)

**REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
ONLINE INPUT  
OPPORTUNITY**

Learn about transportation in the region and help set future priorities. The Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments, together serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, are seeking public input.

**Submit comments and questions to NCTCOG:**  
Email: [transinfo@nctcog.org](mailto:transinfo@nctcog.org)  
Website: [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input)  
Fax: 817-640-3028  
Phone: 817-695-9240  
Mail: P.O. Box 5888  
Arlington, TX 76005-5888

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language translation, call 817-608-2365 or email [cbaylor@nctcog.org](mailto:cbaylor@nctcog.org). Reasonable accommodations will be made. Para ajustes especiales por discapacidad o para interpretación de idiomas, llame al 817-608-2365 o por email: [cbaylor@nctcog.org](mailto:cbaylor@nctcog.org). Se harán las adaptaciones razonables.

 **NCTCOG**  North Central Texas Council of Governments

Thanks for sharing! – NCTCOG Transportation Department

### **Railroad**

#### **Email –**

##### **1. Alan Guard**

Good morning – Would you know who I can contact at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to discuss fixing a very poor railroad crossing on FM 407 here in New Fairview? Thank you for your assistance.

### **Transit**

#### **Email –**

##### **1. Paul McManus**

Hello,

As people have traveled less in the past week or so due to the Coronavirus, I've read and noticed that not only are many more people throughout DFW including where I live in Lantana here in Denton County going outside and walking, running, or riding bicycles, but air pollution is decreasing and air quality is improving in many parts of the U.S. and around the world due to the reduction of car traffic and other factors as well. As a result, I believe it's absolutely critical going forward that the NCTCOG Transportation Dept. and Regional Transportation Council (RTC) focus even more on policies and action items that emphasize and encourage people to use multimodal forms of transportation here in DFW, including DART's, Trinity Metro's, and DCTA's bus and train services. Plus, focusing on improving and expanding these transit services and other forms of transportation can also help reduce car traffic and road congestion, as well as to help improve air quality, regional mobility, and the overall quality of life here in DFW as our region continues to grow very rapidly.

I appreciate your consideration of my suggestions, and please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thanks so much!

Your timing could not be better. The Regional Transportation Council funded efforts last year and they are ready to go. Over the last year we have been working on efforts to expand transit service. Three consultant contracts will go to our Board on Thursday. They are for Collin County, Southern Dallas County and Tarrant County. Shannon will give you more details. Please keep in touch. Our Board meeting is through a conference call do to social distancing.

Carli will make your comments available to the RTC . – Michael Morris

#### **Facebook –**

1. DCTA has created a survey regarding the Discount Pass Programs. Take the survey here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYTL5CK> – NCTCOG Transportation Department

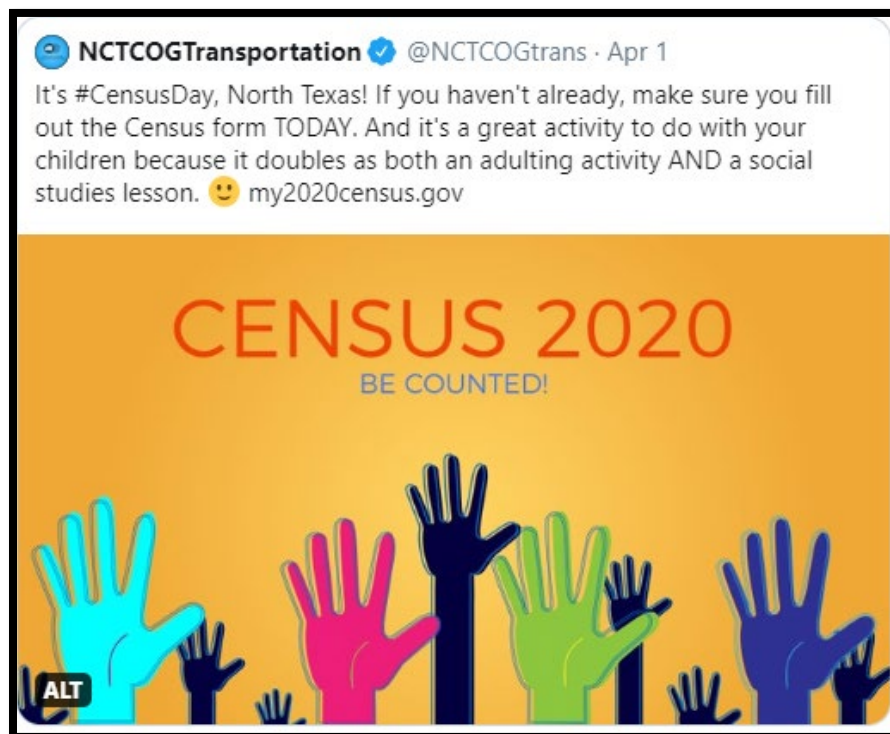


Thanks for sharing! - KL – Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA)

#### Other

#### Twitter –

1. #CensusDay2020 📍 – LaDryian Cole (@laydriancole)



2. We owe a debt of gratitude to workers everywhere:

Healthcare, janitors, grocery cashiers, Pharmacists and their staff, transportation, those keeping our power grid and our water plants working, delivery drivers, food banks, all those who are risking their lives for us everyday. –

#SaveAmerica  #resister  HonorHeatherHeyer#NoBernie (@NoraBrup)

YES!! @AmerMedicalAssn .@NationalNurses .@USDOT .@NCTCOGtrans ... I don't know other nat'l twitter accts but THANK YOU to all who have been serving the public – Alexandra Allred (@alexandraallred)

### **Facebook –**

1. Certain requirements regarding vehicle registration, titling and disabled parking placards have been waived due to the current state of emergency. For more information, visit: <http://txdmv.gov/covid-19>. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Thanks. Good to know. – Ronnie Brady