

MINUTES

Regional Transportation Council PUBLIC MEETING

Mobility 2045 Update

Autonomous Vehicles 2.2/2.3 Projects: Round 2

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Regional Parking Utilization Database

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Modifications

Meeting Date and Location

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) held a hybrid public meeting Monday, March 14, 2022, at noon at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) in Arlington. Patrons could attend in person, via phone, or view the live stream at www.nctcog.org/input. Dan Lamers, Senior Program Manager, moderated the meeting, attended by 57 people.

Public Meeting Purpose and Topics

The public meeting was held 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, and amended on November 8, 2018. Staff presented information about:

- Mobility 2045 Update – **presented by Brendon Wheeler**
- Autonomous Vehicles 2.2/2.3 Projects: Round 2 – **presented by Clint Hail**
- 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – **presented by Cody Derrick**
- Regional Parking Utilization Database – **presented by Catherine Osborn**

Modifications to the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) were also posted online for public review and comment.

The public meeting was held to educate, inform, and seek comments from the public. Comments were solicited from those attending who wished to speak for the record. The presentations made during the meeting as well as a video recording were posted online at www.nctcog.org/input.

Summary of Presentations

Mobility 2045 Update presentation:

[https://nctcog.org/getmedia/3070b3db-1e89-45d0-aae3-b18ce0165e76/Mobility-2045-Update 1.pdf.aspx](https://nctcog.org/getmedia/3070b3db-1e89-45d0-aae3-b18ce0165e76/Mobility-2045-Update%201.pdf.aspx)

Mobility 2045 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that defines a long-term vision for the region's transportation system and guides spending of federal and State transportation funds. This includes funding for highways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and other programs that reduce congestion and improve air quality.

The Plan was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on June 14, 2018, and Transportation Conformity was achieved on November 21, 2018. Mobility 2045 has nine goals and its vision is to improve the region's mobility today and tomorrow by embracing technology and innovation.

NCTCOG staff is working on an update to Mobility 2045 and focused on finalizing the draft plan as well as financial forecasts. Updates to the Plan include information related to financial plan expenditures, maximizing the existing system of infrastructure maintenance, and land use strategies. Additionally, strategic infrastructure investments include rail, bus, managed lanes, freeways, tollways, and arterials.

The official comment period will begin April 1, 2022 and end on May 31, 2022. The RTC will take action on the Mobility 2045 - 2022 Update on June 9, 2022.

Autonomous Vehicles 2.2/2.3 Projects: Round 2 presentation:

<https://nctcog.org/getmedia/00ea725e-482c-4150-b1e8-196fc6db93c6/Autonomous-Vehicles-2-22-3-Projects-Round-2.pdf.aspx>

NCTCOG staff is seeking approval from the RTC for a second round of project proposals for the Automated Vehicle 2.2 and 2.3 programs. The first round of projects was approved in July 2021 as part of the larger Automated Vehicle 2.0 (AV2.0) initiative. The purpose of AV2.0 is to deepen transportation innovation within the region, provide a level playing field for all communities to participate, and apply relevant technology solutions to transportation challenges in situations where the market may lag.

In Round 2, funding was allocated to projects located in Arlington, McKinney, Dallas, and Fort Worth. Some of the benefits of utilizing autonomous vehicle technology include improving air quality, mobility, and access to needs.

For more information and a break down of the funding allocations, visit www.nctcog.org/input and click on "public input archive."

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) presentation:

<https://nctcog.org/getmedia/35edf999-f916-4aac-98a5-0776729e70e3/2023-2026-Transportation-Improvement-Program.pdf.aspx>

The TIP is a funding document and inventory of transportation projects within the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan planning boundary. It is mandated by the federal and State governments and contains funding from federal, State, and local sources. A new TIP is developed every two years and updated on a quarterly basis.

NCTCOG staff are currently reviewing existing projects, gathering information on additional locally funded projects, making needed revisions to existing project schedules and funding, and developing revised project listings for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2026.

The draft 2023-2026 TIP roadway and transit listing includes approximately \$8.09 billion in funding and 955 roadway and transit projects. Members of the public can provide feedback on the draft through April 12, 2022.

The RTC will take action on the 2023-2026 TIP on May 12, 2022.

Regional Parking Utilization Database presentation:

<https://nctcoq.org/getmedia/d008cdf9-ea17-40a3-b064-cbed2d6f9696/Regional-Parking-Utilization-Database.pdf.aspx>

NCTCOG is launching a Regional Parking Database to study the demand and options for more efficient parking in the DFW region. The effects of too much parking can include car dependence, less tax base contributions, increased development costs, and the loss of land for housing and other development.

The Regional Parking Database will aid in better communication on how to develop more efficient parking and collect information related to utilization and supply, building occupancy, site characteristics, and area context. NCTCOG staff is currently recruiting sites for the study, and a final data analysis and report is expected to be completed some time in 2023.

Citizens are encouraged to share the study with property owners and managers and can also submit a property to participate in the study by filling out a property characteristics survey. For more information, visit www.nctcoq.org/parking.

Summary of Online Review and Comment Topics

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects handout:

<https://nctcoq.org/getmedia/91733584-322a-4bc4-9d47-fbf086f325a6/May-2022-TIP-Modification-Public-Meeting-Report.pdf.aspx>

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2024 is maintained in the TIP. Projects with committed funds from federal, State, and local sources are included in the TIP. To maintain an accurate project listing, this document is updated on a regular basis.

The current modification cycle includes project updates and funding adjustments for transportation initiatives in Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise Counties. Additionally, financial adjustments related to public transportation services managed by the Denton County Transportation Authority are also included.

Work Program Modifications handout:

<https://nctcoq.org/getmedia/e77bb995-12de-4df5-bd9b-b4dead2f6e49/Unified-Planning-Work-Program-Modifications.pdf.aspx>

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 in this round of proposed modifications to the FY 2022 and FY 2023 UPWP address new project updates and funding adjustments. The RTC will take action on the FY2022 and FY2023 UPWP modifications on April 14, 2022.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE MEETING

Autonomous Vehicles 2.2/2.3 Projects: Round 2

Eric Pirayesh, Community Impact

- A. Vision for automated vehicle technologies

Question: What is the big picture vision for regional automated vehicle implementation?

Summary of response by Clint Hail: It's tied to the larger industry and how it develops. It'll only take one or two projects to make it a reality. We picture it unfolding with automated freight movement since it's generally easier to move things and not people, and our region has become a hub for automated trucking. Other things are happening already too. For example, here in Arlington we're conducting smaller on-demand shuttle movements. Sidewalk delivery robots, especially in corporate and university settings, are also happening.

Regional Parking Utilization Database

Phyllis Silver, Citizen

- A. Example of regional parking utilization

Comment: I used to hear about shared parking years ago. For example, at a transit center there would be spaces for people to park their vehicles during the day so they could take the train to work and then at night, nearby restaurants and businesses would utilize the spaces for patrons and customers.

Summary of Response by Catherine Osborn: For this particular study, we're focused on one specific parking site. What you're describing is more on the district level. We are more than happy to take down your contact information and connect with you offline to provide additional information.

Adam Polter, Citizen

- A. Factors that should be considered during the study

Comment: When reviewing parking space utilization, please include retail centers with excess/insufficient parking, and also multi-family residential development parking standards. With inflation and increasing housing costs, multi-generational housing is expanding and thus

the number of occupants and vehicles per unit. Current standards requiring 1.5 spaces per unit are insufficient.

Summary of Response by Catherine Osborn: The elements you are referring to will be considered in the scope of this study.

Other

Adam Polter, Citizen

A. Electric vehicles

Comment: When or where might we receive an update related to the regional need to expand public EV charging stations and movement of municipal fleets to EV? Rising gas prices are increasing the urgency for this move which also parallels new and pending EV releases from our major vehicle manufacturers.

Summary of response by Dan Lamers: We don't have a presentation today on electric vehicles, but it's something our staff works on regularly. More information can be found at www.dfwcleancities.org.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE COMMENT PERIOD VIA WEBSITE, EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA & MAIL

Website

Mobility 2045 Update

Megan Morris, Citizen

A. Alternative forms of transportation in Parker County

Comment: Please consider adding a passenger train from Weatherford, with a stop in Aledo, going to one or both passenger train stations in Fort Worth. The commute west of Tarrant County is much more congested during peak hours than your map displays. Parker County residents are in need of alternative forms of transportation.

Autonomous Vehicles 2.2/2.3 Projects: Round 2

Nirav Patel, Citizen

A. Autonomous Vehicles

Comment: I applaud your efforts in modernizing transportation in North Texas. The Arlington project is especially exciting. Closed loop autonomous shuttles on demand will allow most users to construct a plan to avoid many solo auto trips. The car agnostic technology chosen for Arlington will allow repurposing of existing vehicles for autonomous transport. As more of these come online, the cost for each will decrease and soon we will have usable public transport for North Texas without expensive rail. Also, consider improving level 3 charging access so that rideshare drivers with EVs can lower their cost per mile.

Mail

Other

Phyllis Silver, Citizen

Please see attachment for comments submitted via postal mail.

March 22, 2022

Comments on Regional Transportation Plan
Input Opportunity due April 12, 2022

Mobility 2045 Update - March 14, 2022 Public Meeting

Comments
Page 6 Shows the no-build map which shows the dramatic spread of severe congestion and delays if there would be no roads or improvements in public transportation. Clearly, we do have to build. It is a little discouraging, though, to see that the areas of congestion/delays are expected to expand even with the proposed improvements (Pages 5). It appears that it is projected that in 2045, current areas of severe congestion will remain and that severe congestion will expand to additional areas.

Question - With these projections, is it possible to devise additional methods so that congestion and delays will be further mitigated in the next 20+ years? Perhaps making public transportation more attractive would entice more people to use it. Currently, when a bus breaks down or when there are not enough bus operators to cover the routes on a given day, riders have to endure long delays in completing their trips. I realize this is a function of the individual transit agencies. If NCTCOG would work with the transit agencies, perhaps some solutions can come about. Currently, in the North Texas Region, not enough people are taking public transit thereby not reducing congestion. If it was a more attractive alternative, more riders would choose it.

I think that additional innovative strategies can be developed to further reduce future congestion/delays.

AV 2.2/2.3 "Round 2" Projects - Public Meeting - March 14, 2022

Comment
With the current situation of driver shortages (in the trucking industry and in public transportation), the development of AV technology has become even more important for the mobility of goods and people.

Phyllis Silver

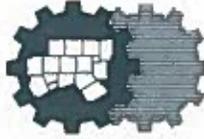
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over, please →

North Texas Regional Parking Database

comment

The creation of the Parking Database is an innovative initiative to maximize the efficiency of land use. I think this a worthwhile project



North Central Texas Council Of Governments

April 7, 2022

Ms. Phyllis Silver
15720 Artist Way, Apt. 4912
Addison, TX 75001

Dear Ms. Silver:

Thank you for taking the time to write us regarding the Mobility 2045 Update. As always, we value your feedback and your keen interest in improving transportation planning throughout the North Central Texas region. Comments from the public are a key element in our efforts to create a safe, efficient, and excellent transportation network for all residents.

Our forecasts for the Mobility 2045 Update Build and No-Build scenarios are based on a combination of existing population and traffic data, as well as projections for where subsequent growth will occur in the region. As the scenarios suggest, we expect continued population growth over the next two decades and increased congestion along with it. The Transportation Department Director, Michael Morris, has reiterated to the Regional Transportation Council that we will not be able to build our way out of this congestion by only focusing on roadway capacity, though we are planning for substantial improvements to it.

Your identification of transit as a possible solution to the increasing congestion the region is expected to experience is very much in line with the Regional Transportation Council and recommendations in the mobility plan. As such, increasing utilization and the overall attractiveness of public transportation in the region is a major focus for NCTCOG. Through our policies, programs, and project recommendations in the mobility plan and coordination and support our staff provides the area transit authorities, NCTCOG is advancing a layered and balanced transit system throughout the region to respond to the increasing congestion forecasted by 2045. Additionally, the Regional Transportation Council has adopted policies and staff prepared support to encourage cities to change their land use policies to make public transportation a more attractive option for travelers. NCTCOG provides support to the major transit authorities in funding procurement of cleaner vehicles for their fleet and participated in recent bus network redesign efforts to better serve the transit authorities' respective service areas with increased frequency and overall access.

As we continually update our mobility plan, NCTCOG will remain committed to delivering plans for a better, safer, and more accessible transportation system. Through comments and engagement with citizens, we can work together to make that system a reality.

Sincerely,

Brendon Wheeler, P.E., CFM
Program Manager

MB:cmg

Mr. Brendon Wheeler, P.E., CFM
Program Manager
North Central Texas Council of
Governments
P.O. Box 5888
Arlington, TX 76005-5888

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Thank you for your April 7, 2022 letter in response to my public input comments regarding the Mobility 2045 Update.

I appreciate the COG's continuing efforts to promote public transportation to alleviate the congestion that we currently experience and is forecasted to increase by 2045. I am concerned, though, that despite an improvement in the number of sidewalks leading to bus stops and at bus stops in the North Texas area over the last 30 years or so, that public transportation in our Region is not an attractive option for many people. A few reasons for the negative attitude on the part of some potential riders is the lack of easy access to some bus stops due to rocky, hilly, and grassy areas that one must navigate to reach bus stops, lack of reliability of schedules, and lack of cleanliness. My concern is that although the service is available, public transportation is underutilized. Many people, including senior citizens, are quite mobile and would prefer using regularly scheduled buses rather than a shared ride. Due to lack of convenience, they choose not to use public transportation. I would like to see more convenience and comfort, including the availability of benches while waiting for buses. This would help attract more customers.

Your letter indicates... "the Regional Transportation Council has adopted policies and staff prepared support to encourage cities to change their land use policies to make public transportation a more attractive option for travelers." I would be interested to learn specifically what this means.

Thank you and thank you to NCTCOG for bringing these issues to the forefront and to try to improve conditions over time.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Silver

RECEIVED

APR 28 2022