

North Central Texas
Council of Governments

Transit Bulletin

Topics

- ❖ DFW High Speed Rail Environmental Study
- ❖ DART/DCTA Joint Rail Operations Facility
- ❖ 2020 Census Urban Areas Update
- ❖ Transit Resources
- ❖ BIL Updates to PTASP
- ❖ New NCTCOG Staff

Mark Your Calendars!

Event	Recurrence	Due Date
Transit Provider Meeting	Annual	February 16, 2023
Charter Service Reports	Quarterly	April 13, 2023
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Mods	Quarterly	Mod Requests for August TIP cycle by April 28, 2023
Monthly Reporting	Monthly	The 13 th of each month

Reminders

- Email invoices to trgrants@nctcog.org
- Email board packets to transit_ops@nctcog.org

Celebrate Your Staff

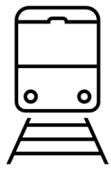
Do you have
extraordinary staff?

Let us highlight them in our next bulletin! Send ideas to transit_ops@nctcog.org

Bernard Jackson, Dallas Area Rapid Transit



Bernard Jackson joined Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) as Chief Operations Officer on May 23, 2022. In that short time, he revitalized the Agency's Operations Teams, including Bus, Light Rail, Facilities Maintenance, GoLink and Mobility Management. After leading an aggressive hiring campaign for bus and rail operators, Bernard oversaw the hiring of numerous new operators, with many more operators in training. These improvements allowed DART to return major bus routes to the more frequent schedules, originally introduced in January 2022, on Monday, December 12, 2022. The remaining bus routes reduced due to operator shortages were reinstated January 23, 2023. As Bernard likes to say, "DART is back, baby!" Jackson brings over 30 years of transit operations experience to DART, including stints with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Chicago Transit Authority. Jackson's extensive list of distinctions includes the Eno Transit Senior Executive Program and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Loyola University in Chicago.



Transit in the News



DART Launches Redesigned Website

DART recently launched a redesigned website which provides riders with a user-friendly experience and new trip planning capabilities. The new website features real-time trip planning with GoLink integration through an upgraded trip planner tool which replicates the results of the GoPass app. It also provides consistent multi-language translation using Google Translate, which allows visitors to convert text to one for 14 languages. For more information on DART and to view the site, visit dart.org.

Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Begins Environmental Study

After over 180 meetings between the public, federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and community organizations, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is starting an environmental study of high-speed rail between Dallas and Fort Worth. The rail would run along Interstate 30 with three stations, downtown Fort Worth, Arlington's entertainment district, and Downtown Dallas, providing much needed connections. For more details on the project, visit the [website](#) or contact Brendon Wheeler at bwheeler@nctcog.org.

DART and DCTA Approve Joint Rail Operations Facility

Last fall, DART and DCTA approved an agreement for a Joint Rail Operations Facility for testing, operations, and maintenance of the new Stadler Fast Light Intercity and Regional Train commuter rail vehicles for the Silver Line regional rail project under construction. The facility in Lewisville will expand DCTA's existing A-train Operations and Maintenance Facility. By developing this facility, the two agencies continue to demonstrate regional benefits of strong cooperative relationships.

2020 Census Data on Urban Areas Released

In late December, the Census Bureau released a list of updated Urban Areas (no longer Urbanized Areas). The Census Bureau also released a series of maps, shapefiles and geodatabases with the updated Urban Areas.

There are several differences between the Final 2020 Census Urban Area Criteria and those from 2010. Key differences include the simplification of urban areas by considering all areas with a minimum threshold of 2,000 housing units or 5,000 people being designated as "urban area(s)".

These updates will impact transit providers and partners throughout the region greatly. NCTCOG and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) are working to determine the full impact of these changes. One of the biggest changes is that the former McKinney UZA now includes Frisco, which will change the way funding is allocated and provided to the area.

For more information on the new data, visit the [Census Bureau's website](#).

Transit Resources



Services & Resources available with South West Transit Association

SWTA is a regional transit association who provides services and advocates for eight states in the Southwest region. SWTA’s website includes numerous services and resources including jobs, RFP and RFQ postings, trainings, and sample policies. For more information, contact Rich Sampson at rsampson@swta.org.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law PTASP Requirements

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law added new requirements to Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans including:

- Safety committees with an equal number of management and frontline staff
- Risk reduction targets and performance measures
- Inclusion of maintenance staff in safety trainings
- De-escalation training requirements

To read more about how the BIL affects PTASP, read the FTA’s [Dear Colleague Letter](#), or watch the [Changes Webinar](#).

Transit Studies

NCTCOG’s three transit studies are going strong and will bring needed clarity on the needs and opportunities for enhanced transit in the region.

NCTCOG’s transit study for Eastern Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties is still in progress. The study will help to develop comprehensive transit planning and implementation plans for the area.

The Denton County transit study will help to identify transit options, funding and implementation strategies, governance structure and the institutional delivery approach of recommended services or projects, and potential impacts on the community.

The Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities study will help ensure that multimodal needs in and around college campuses are met and mobility options are integrated.

The Denton County transit study and the Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities study are expected to be completed in Spring 2023.



Upcoming Events



NCTCOG Annual Transit Provider Meeting.....	February 16, 2023
SWTA Annual Conference & Expo.....	February 22-25, 2023
Regional Mobility Managers Meeting.....	March 2023
TTA State Conference, Expo and Roadeo.....	April 11-15, 2023

NTI Trainings

-Various Monthly Trainings available at [NTI’s website](#)

New NCTCOG Transit Staff



Michael Makris is a planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning team. He began work as a transportation planner in August 2022. Michael was born in Chicago and has lived in many different cities throughout his life, but Germany was his favorite place to live. Prior to becoming a planner, he spent 6 years in the Air Force as an Aviation Meteorologist. Michael then earned his BS in Urban Ecology from the University of Utah. Outside of the office, Michael enjoys traveling, sewing, and house music. You can reach Michael via email at mmakris@nctcog.org.

Zoë Johnson is a planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning team. She began working with mobility management in October 2022. Zoë's an Arlington native but pursued a degree in public administration with a minor in nonprofit management for University of Central Florida (Go Knights! Charge On!). She went on to be a website developer before coming to transit. Zoë has a dog, Maverick, and a ferret, Momo. She enjoys reading, singing, and watching cheesy Hallmark movies. You can reach Zoë at zjohnson@nctcog.org.



Julie Anderson is a Senior Planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning Team. She began working with NCTCOG in February 2021 on the Sustainable Development team before moving to transit in November 2022. She has loved transit ever since living in New York City. She grew up in the intermountain west and has a masters degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Utah. Julie enjoys experiencing transit in new places when traveling, feeding, and fixing stray cats in her neighborhood, and going to the movies. You can reach Julie via email at janderson@nctcog.org.

Luke Offen is a planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning team. He began working with funding and reporting in October 2022. He is from Austin, Texas and most recently served as a Procurement Intern for NCTCOG before coming to transit. He has a BBA in Business Management and is currently pursuing an MBA and MPA, all from the University of Texas at Arlington. Luke's family is from Central Texas, and he frequently goes there to see them all. His interests include college football, health/fitness, video games, and reading. You can reach Luke via email at loffen@nctcog.org

