

Background: In July 2020, the Regional Transportation Council approved the Incident Management Blocking Equipment Pilot Project as part of the 2020 Incident Management Equipment Purchase Call for Projects. In support of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Traffic Incident Management Training Program, funding was made available for the purchase of scene management blocking equipment (e.g., crash barriers, attenuators, etc.) to provide protection to incident responders responding to traffic crashes in the North Central Texas nonattainment area. Due to Buy America compliancy restrictions associated with Federal Highway Administration funding, projects selected under the special pilot project were approved to be funded with Regional Toll Revenue funding. Based on multiple requests from member agencies to seek funding to purchase similar blocking equipment funded under the pilot project, staff requested Regional Transportation Council approval to utilize Regional Toll Revenue funding to fund projects selected under a 2021 Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment Call for Projects. Additional information on this funding source request is provided in Electronic Item 2.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

2.3. **Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Action on Ensuring Equity: Dallas Opportunity Zone 1 Funding Partnership and Federal Transit Administration Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant**

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) endorsement of a funding partnership with the City of Dallas and a proposed Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant application in the City of Fort Worth, including the ability to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and other administrative/planning documents, as needed, to incorporate these projects. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved this item at its August 12, 2021, meeting.

Background: Ongoing discussions have occurred about needed transportation improvements in southern Dallas. As part of the RTC action on the Assessment Policy in April 2019, the RTC committed to additional funding for Dallas Opportunity Zone 1. A funding request has been received from the City of Dallas for projects in that area. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff is proposing to fund several of these projects to help improve walkability, promote

revitalization in Environmental Justice communities, and address deficient pavement condition.

In July 2021, the FTA announced the FY2021 Areas of Persistent Poverty Funding Opportunity. Eligible projects include planning studies, engineering studies, technical studies, or financial plans and must be located in an Area of Persistent Poverty. A copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) detailing the grant program for FY2021, as well as the application requirements is available in Electronic Item 2.3.1. Applications are due by August 30, 2021. In response to the NOFO, NCTCOG staff requests approval to submit a proposal to study transit access to food, jobs, healthcare, affordable housing, and other needs as identified by the residents of the 76104 zip code in southeast Fort Worth. This zip code is an area of persistent poverty, as well as a food desert, and was identified by University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center as having the lowest life expectancy of any zip code in the State.

Details on the proposed partnership with the City of Dallas and the proposed FTA grant application in Fort Worth can be found in Electronic Item 2.3.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

2.4. **Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Action on Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative Grant Program**

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement of the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC's) action approving regional support for the City of Fort Worth's application for a grant under the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) 2021 Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) grant program will be requested.

Background: In July 2021, USDOT issued the announcement for the 2021 ATCMTD grant program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the \$60 million grant program for Fiscal Year 2021 is available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=334272>. The ATCMTD program is designed to accelerate deployment of existing transportation technologies to improve highway operations and safety. Applications are due to USDOT by August 23, 2021. The City of Fort Worth is submitting a grant application for a project on the North Tarrant Express (NTE) corridors (I-35W/SH 180). The project will include a variety of connected vehicle

technologies and infrastructure upgrades like technology-enhanced lane striping designed to improve safety and operations for all road users and provide a supportive operational environment for the operation of automated and connected vehicles. The project would help Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) gain leadership in the deployment of such technologies, which are expected to scale to similar corridors in DFW and beyond over the next decade. At its August 12, 2021, meeting, the RTC approved the use of up to \$2 million in Regional Toll Revenue funds as a regional contribution to the \$14 million project in the event USDOT awards the requested grant. The remaining project funding upon receipt of a grant award will come from Cintra, the operator of the NTE corridors (\$5 million), and USDOT (\$7 million). Electronic Item 2.4 contains more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Roadway

2.5. Air Quality Funding Recommendations Related to the Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program

Presenter: Huong Duong, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Committee approval of funding recommendations for the North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 Call for Projects (CFP) and North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP will be requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) opened three different Calls for Projects, under three separate Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program awards; Clean Fleets North Texas 2020 CFP, North Texas Emissions Reduction Project 2020 CFP, and North Texas Freight Terminal Electrification 2020 CFP. These CFPs award grant funds for diesel vehicle or equipment replacement projects and installation of EPA-verified electrified parking spaces and related infrastructure in North Central Texas. The most recent application deadline was July 9, 2021. For those applications received, staff has completed review, quantified emissions, and developed project funding recommendations. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 2.5.1 provides an overview of the calls for projects and staff recommendations. Electronic Item 2.5.2 and Electronic Item 2.5.3 provide detailed project listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:40 – 1:50

3. **SH 183 Segment 2 East: Request to the Texas Department of Transportation to Formally Request a Change Proposal from Cintra and Request to Cintra to Extend an RTC Financial Backstop for Design Costs**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is seeking approval for a Regional Transportation Council (RTC) request to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to formally request a Change Proposal from Cintra for SH 183 Segment 2E capacity improvements and request of Cintra to extend an RTC financial backstop for design costs.

Background: Staff has been working to advance SH 183 Segment 2E as the next phase of the North Tarrant Express (NTE). Cintra has an interest in certain capacity improvements to Segment 2E as a changer order under the Comprehensive Development Agreement for the NTE. In June 2020, the RTC approved a \$3 million financial backstop to permit Cintra to proceed with the design elements for Segment 2E, pending TxDOT formally issuing a "Request for Change Proposal." If TxDOT does not issue a Request for Change Proposal by August 31, 2021, the RTC financial backstop will be triggered absent an extension by Cintra. A map and latest financial information for the project is provided in Electronic Item 3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. **2021 Population Estimates and New North Central Texas Council of Governments Demographic Forecast Process**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Results of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 2021 Current Population Estimates will be highlighted as well ongoing efforts to develop revised 2045 Population and Employment for the Metropolitan Area.

Background: NCTCOG annually develops estimates of population by city as of January 1 for each year which are used by local governments and agencies. This data supplements estimates done by the US Census. NCTOG is also currently developing new forecasts of demographic activity out to the year 2045, which will be used to support the ongoing update of Mobility 2045: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. A summary of these estimates and forecasts will be provided.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Project Selection Overview**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Mobility 2045 was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on June 14, 2018. As part of updating Mobility 2045, staff will provide an overview of the process for projects

Background: to be included in the Plan, and once selected, the various pathways to funding through prioritization efforts. Following RTC adoption of Mobility 2045, staff and partner agencies have been working toward implementing the Plan. These efforts include planning and project development tasks, projects in construction, and coordination with the public and our transportation partners. Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan a minimum of every four years. In addition, the Mobility 2045 Update must demonstrate transportation conformity. The updated plan will include a new financial plan and necessary refinements to projects in the current Mobility 2045 Plan.

During the RTC meeting on June 10, 2021, staff was asked to provide an overview of the plan update process so new members can understand how projects are selected for Mobility 2045. Staff will present this process to the RTC at the September 9, 2021, meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Dallas-Fort Worth Regional East/West Funding Distribution**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee with information regarding the process for developing the funding distribution between the Eastern (Dallas and Paris Districts) and Western (Fort Worth District) subregions when a transportation funding bill is enacted into law. The latest East/West Equity quarterly report detailing transactions that affect the current percentage of funding received by each subregion will also be provided.

Background: At the June 10, 2021, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting, staff was asked to provide a briefing on the process for developing the east/west funding distribution formula. The RTC selects projects to be funded with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds (formerly STP-MM funds). To ensure equity within the region, once these funds are distributed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the RTC seeks to program funding to the eastern and western subregions based on the proportion of each area's emissions, demographics, and activity. Generally, the RTC reevaluates the funding distribution after a new transportation funding bill is approved by the US Congress and/or new Census demographic data. The current east/west funding distribution is 68 percent in the east and 32 percent in the west for STBG and other mobility funds, and 66 percent in the east and 34 percent in the west for CMAQ funds. Each quarter, staff provides the RTC and the Committee with an update on any non-formula funding received that impacts this distribution.

Electronic Item 6.1 provides additional information on the process for establishing the split. Electronic Item 6.2 contains the latest East/West Equity quarterly report. Electronic Item 6.3 contains the RTC policy pertaining to the tracking of non-formula funding awards.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:20 – 2:35

7. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of current transportation items.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

- D2 Light Rail Update/IH 345 Depressed Alignment (Electronic Item 7.1)
- IH 635/IH 35E “Y” Connector Revenue Tracking
- Early Completion of IH 635/SH 121 at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Opportunities (including Geometric Design for Autonomous Vehicles, Electric Vehicle Charging on the Move, and Next Generation Transit Signal Preemption) (Electronic Item 7.2)
- Comprehensive List of Projects in the Region and Latest Information on the 2022 Unified Transportation Program (Electronic Item 7.3)
- Texas Department of Transportation Names Brian Barth, P.E., as Deputy Executive Director for Program Delivery
- Regional Transportation Council (RTC) New Member Orientation on September 9, 2021
- Follow Up on Letter to the Secretary of Transportation, 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Approved
- Follow Up on Letter to the Texas Transportation Commission on IH 35E Phase 2 and SH 183
- Format of Future RTC meetings/Committee Meetings
- Letter to the Region on Margaret McDermott Bridge (Electronic Item 7.4)
- Fort Worth Bypass Channel and Alliance Airport Runway Extension

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:35 – 2:40

8. US 75 Implementation/Policy Position

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the US 75 corridor implementation and policy position.

Background: The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in partnership with local jurisdictions and the North Central

Texas Council of Governments, has been working to determine an option for the traditional high-occupant vehicle (HOV) lane along the US 75 corridor. TxDOT recently received grant funding to implement a pilot project on the corridor to evaluate the effectiveness of allowing single-occupant vehicles to utilize the HOV lane while providing an incentive to HOVs. The HOV incentive would be provided via the existing GoCarma application that is currently utilized on the TEXpress Lanes. Staff will provide an overview of the project, schedule, and policy positions to support this effort. Additional information can be found in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Congestion

2:40– 2:45

9. Fiscal Year 2021 Project Tracking Initiative

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Committee with an update to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Project Tracking Initiative that was initiated in order to reduce the region's carryover funding balances and expedite project delivery.

Background: Almost every year, Regional Transportation Council (RTC)-selected projects being implemented by local governments experience delays. While a one-year delay is of less consequence, projects tend to be delayed year after year. Over time, these delays led to the need to implement the Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy, which identifies projects that have not advanced to construction after being funded for at least 10 years. However, a 10-year project review does not create an action plan soon enough to reduce the region's growing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, and Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program carryover balances. As a secondary line of offense, staff has implemented a project tracking initiative that will highlight project schedule commitments to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the RTC on a regular basis and report local agency progress toward the committed project development schedules. A list of projects that were scheduled to begin in FY2021 and their current status can be found in Electronic Item 9.1. Additional details on this initiative can be found in Electronic Item 9.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

2:45 – 2:50

10. Status Report on Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Bailey Muller, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on Volkswagen Settlement activities, with a special focus on zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure. Comments recently submitted to the Texas

Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be highlighted, and staff will request outreach assistance to optimize ZEV infrastructure funding for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) area.

Background: The consent decree issued as part of the Volkswagen Settlement included an initiative to implement new emissions-reducing projects under the Environmental Mitigation Trust. The TCEQ administers the Environmental Mitigation Trust under the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP). Opportunities released under this program continue to progress, with portions of the program yet to be opened. Electronic Item 10.1 provides an overview of program funds requested thus far and recommended actions to promote further applications. Electronic Item 10.2 provides a copy of comments recently transmitted to the TCEQ on behalf of the Regional Transportation Council about distribution of funding not yet released.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:50 – 2:55

11. **Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Annual Fleet Recognition**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present an update on the status of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Clean Cities Coalition Annual Survey and will highlight Fleet Recognition awards.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments has been the host organization for DFW Clean Cities, a US Department of Energy (DOE) initiative to reduce total energy impacts in the transportation sector, since 1994. Clean Cities coalitions are required to complete annual reporting to DOE every March. The Coalition has a goal of increasing energy use impacts by 15 percent year-over-year. In order to complete this report and meet these goals, DFW Clean Cities seeks information from local fleets about alternative fuel use and other fuel-saving activities. DFW Clean Cities also uses this data to highlight fleets that demonstrate excellence in their fleet reporting through a Fleet Recognition program. Electronic Item 11 provides more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:55 – 3:00

12. **Update Regarding Lapsing Federal Funding**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Ken Bunkley, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the lapse of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and the potential lapse of Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program (TASA) funds that was discussed with the Committee earlier in the year.

Background: In April 2021, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) informed the North Central Texas Council of

Governments (NCTCOG) that \$23,940,109 of CMAQ funding had lapsed at the end of FY2020. At the time, NCTCOG was under the impression that \$16 million in carryover funds were available from FY2020 for obligation in FY2021. Staff will brief the Committee on discussions that have occurred with TxDOT since that time and implications to the region moving forward.

Earlier in the year, TxDOT indicated that \$7,095,497 in TASA funds were at risk of lapsing if not obligated by August 31, 2021. Through the efforts of TxDOT and awardees, sufficient funding was obligated to avoid a lapse in FY2021. The risk continues for FY2022, so project tracking efforts will continue. Additional information is available in Electronic Item 12.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3:00 – 3:00

13. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. Dallas Area Rapid Transit Red and Blue Lines Corridor Transit-Oriented Development Study Final Report Complete (Electronic Item 13.1)
2. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 13.2)
3. August Transportation Improvement Program Modification Cycle Canceled by the State (Electronic Item 13.3)
4. North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies Project Tracking (Electronic Item 13.4)
5. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources>)
6. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://dfwcleancities.org/events>)
7. Status Report on Ozone Season (Electronic Item 13.5)
8. Know Before You Fly Your Drone Workshops
(www.northtexasuas.com/UAS-Taskforce#Workshops)
9. August Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 13.6)
10. September Online Input Opportunity Notice (Handout)
11. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.7)
12. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.8)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.9)

14. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for **1:30 pm on September 24, 2021.**