

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Attorney General Announces Open Meetings Act Provisions Subject to Temporary Suspension

Status Report: Transportation & RTC Emergency Policies & Procedures

Congestion Management Process

TxDOT's American Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan

Incident Management 2020 Call for Projects Recommendations

Online Public Input Opportunity Dates

Monday, April 13, 2020 - Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) posted information at www.nctcog.org/input for public review and comment.

Purpose and Topics

The online public input opportunity was provided 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 (MPO), and amended on November 8, 2018. Staff posted information regarding:

1. Attorney General Announces Open Meetings Act Provisions Subject to Temporary Suspension
2. Status Report: Transportation & RTC Emergency Policies & Procedures
3. Congestion Management Process
4. TxDOT's American Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan
5. Incident Management 2020 Call for Projects Recommendations

The NCTCOG online public input opportunity was provided to inform and seek comments from the public. Comments and questions were submitted by email at transinfo@nctcog.org, online at www.nctcog.org/input, by mail at PO Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005 and by fax at 817-640-3028. Printed copies of the online materials were also made available by calling 817-608-2365 or emailing cbaylor@nctcog.org.

Summary of Presentations

Attorney General Announces Open Meetings Act Provisions Subject to Temporary Suspension presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/AG-Updates.pdf>

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Abbott declared a State of Disaster for the State of Texas on March 13, 2020. Texas Government Code Section 418.016 permits the Governor to

suspend certain statutes upon a Declaration of Disaster, and provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act were suspended on March 16, 2020.

The following provisions were suspended:

- Those that require a quorum or presiding officer to be physically present
- Those that require a physical posting of the agenda provided the agenda be posted on-line with a toll-free phone number or free video conference link for public participation
- Those that are interpreted to require face-to-face interactions between the members of the public and public officials
- Relaxed provisions to allow for two-way audio communication in lieu of two-way audio and video

Status Report: Transportation & RTC Emergency Policies & Procedures presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/Emergency-Procedures.pdf>

We hope members of the public are staying safe and healthy throughout these difficult times. NCTCOG is still open for business, and our employees are working from home. We are continuing to be as transparent as possible and want you to reach out to us regarding your transportation-related comments, concerns and questions.

Through the utilization of innovative technology, the Regional Transportation Council is still conducting monthly meetings and will be taking action on the allocation of \$341 million in emergency transit funding. Additionally, we understand there could be a potential reduction in State revenues and will do whatever is necessary to help ensure the maintenance of our regional transportation system. We will continue to focus on providing an array of transportation options for the Dallas-Fort Worth region and are also putting together real-time data related to safety fatalities, transit ridership, ozone levels, etc.

Thank you for your time and stay safe.

Congestion Management Process presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/CMP.pdf>

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federally-mandated planning document and required for urbanized areas with populations that exceed 200,000 people.

The CMP is developed, established and implemented as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning process and should include demand management strategies, traffic operational improvements, public transportation improvements, ITS technologies and additional system capacity where necessary.

Goals and objectives for the CMP center around mobility, quality of life, system sustainability and implementation. The Process also includes system identification, performance measures, system performance monitoring, strategy identification and selection, implementation, monitoring and project performance evaluation.

NCTCOG staff will present the CMP for review and comment during the September 2020 public input opportunity. The Regional Transportation Council will take action on the CMP in December 2020.

TxDOT's American Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/TxDOT-ADA.pdf>

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) extends protection to persons with disabilities against discrimination in the private sector and in State and local government. It protects access to employment, public transportation and public accommodations, and assures quality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency.

ADA goals include the following:

- Eliminating barriers for people with disabilities
- Expanding equal opportunities for people with disabilities
- Developing a communications and outreach plan regarding TxDOT's ADA program
- Developing a reporting system
- Providing ADA training to employees

The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) mission is to ensure that every program, service, benefit, activity and facility open to the public is fully accessible and usable by people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act covers many issues from workplace services to public transportation accommodations. TxDOT staff developed a plan for reporting and will discuss how the agency provides opportunities to assist those with disabilities in its planning activities and how citizens can take an active role in making changes.

Reporting goals include:

- Increase awareness of TxDOT's ADA Accessibility Program throughout the department and state
- Improve internal and external communications about TXDOT's ADA Accessibility Program
- Increase public participation during the design, planning and development phases
- Develop/maintain ADA training to employees, recipients and sub-recipients
- Develop and maintain a grievance process that is consistent with the US Departments of Justice and Transportation's ADA accessibility requirements
- Create a sub-recipient monitoring program that is consistent with Federal Highway Administration's requirements

Incident Management 2020 Call for Projects Recommendations presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/IM-CFP-Pres.pdf>

East Recommendations handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/IM-CFP-East-Recommendations.pdf>

West Recommendations handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2020/04/IM-CFP-West-Recommendations.pdf>

In December 2019, NCTCOG staff opened an Incident Management Call for Projects (CFP). Approximately \$1.5 million in funding is available through this CFP, and its purpose is to assist partner agencies in purchasing equipment and technology that aid in quick incident mitigation.

Eligible recipients included public sector partner agencies within the NCTCOG 10-county nonattainment area who are actively involved in incident management. Eligible activities included the purchasing of equipment and technology used in mitigating crashes, such as cones, flares, protective clothing, radio equipment and signs, among others. Personnel and staffing charges as well as vehicle purchases were not eligible to receive funding from this CFP.

NCTCOG received 21 application submissions. Staff is recommending allocating approximately \$989,774 in funding to the eastern side of the region and approximately \$510,000 to the western side. These funding recommendations are outlined in detail at www.nctcog.org/input

The Regional Transportation Council will take action on the proposed list of selected projects in June 2020.

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, MAIL, EMAIL and SOCIAL MEDIA

Attorney General Announces Open Meetings Act Provisions Subject to Temporary Suspension

Email

Joe M Bailey

Regardless of the Attorney General's announcement that open meeting laws are subject to temporary suspension, there are numerous effective methods available for conducting public meetings online. Transparency is essential to a democracy so I urge you to make arrangements for meetings to be conducted online and not suspended because of the Coronavirus. In fact, I would encourage this as a standard of practice for the future even after the coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

TXDOT's American Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan

Mail

Please see attachment for comment submitted via mail.

15720/Ar/Allyson Thomas
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Transportation Department
P.O. Box 5888
Arlington, TX 76005-5888

Dear Transportation Representative,

I appreciate receiving the material for the Regional Transportation Public Input opportunity that I requested. I understand that public comments are due to you by ^{RECEIVED} May 12, 2020. I am forwarding the following comments regarding ADA.

~~I have~~ I recommend improvements in accessibility to bus stops in multiple cities - Dallas, Farmer Branch, Plano, and other cities in the DART service area. Some bus stops are in the grass and/or on a hill. One example is the eastbound bus (Routes 402 and 403) along Belt Line Road. The stop closest to the Fretz Park Library and Recreation Center is on a grassy hill. The nearest accessible stop is the stop prior to the library and recreation center. A person would have to cross a busy street if they got off the bus there and wanted to go to the library or recreation center.

With regard to accessibility, some pathways leading to bus stops, although on concrete sidewalks, are not wide enough for wheelchairs to pass. This

is due to utility poles and other utility devices (Such as large boxes containing traffic management equipment) being in the way. Examples of this would be on Preston Road in Dallas, especially south of LBJ Freeway.

I appreciate your forwarding my comments for review and action to the appropriate areas.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Silver

Phyllis Silver

RECEIVED

APR 23 2020

TRANSPORTATION