



February 2024

Welcome to Local Motion, a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department.

Under Secretary of Transportation Carlos Monje Jr. announces \$100M in federal grants to Texas



North Texas is home to 90,000 of the state's almost 250,000 registered electric vehicles (EVs) and 900 EV charging stations. The region is also an important crossroads for freight transport with over 477 million tons of goods being shipped from and within it in 2022. Under Secretary of Transportation Carlos Monje Jr. visited Dallas on Jan. 30 to formally announce \$85 million in grant funding being awarded to the North Central Texas Council of Governments to improve EV charging infrastructure in the region and develop a hydrogen fueling network in the Texas Triangle.

Monje was joined by regional transportation officials at Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Illinois Station Park & Ride to announce Texas has won \$100 million in funding from the Federal Highway Administration's \$2.5 billion Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. (El Paso was awarded a \$15 million grant.)

A \$70 million grant will help build five hydrogen fueling stations across the Texas Triangle, which refers to the metropolitan areas of Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio. The hydrogen fueling network will be created for medium- to heavy-duty freight trucks and will allow trucks to haul their loads with zero tailpipe emissions and contribute to an improvement in air quality.

The remaining \$15 million will fund an additional 100 publicly accessible EV charging ports throughout the 16-county North Texas region and help create a more equitable charging network. These charging stations may occupy places such as libraries, parks, office buildings or shopping centers and will allow drivers to complete work or errands while charging their vehicle.

For more information on EVs, visit www.dfwcleancities.org.

MLK Jr. Blvd. wins federal safety grant



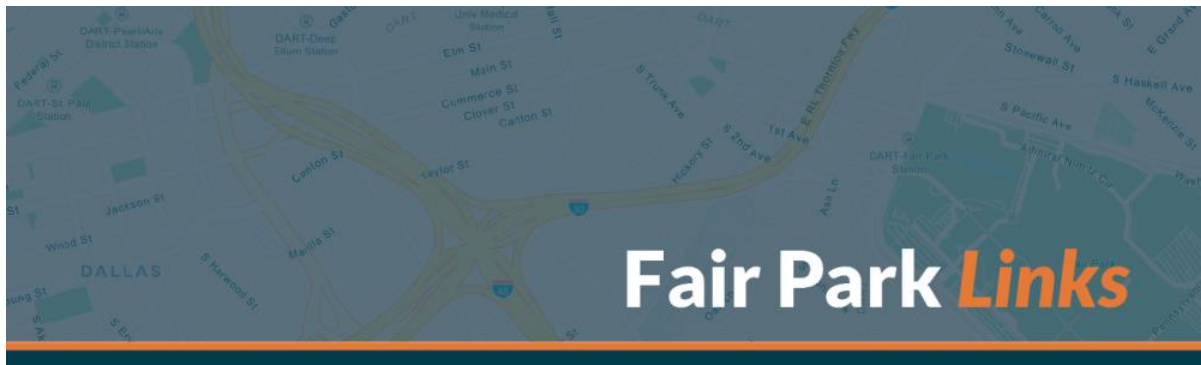
The City of Dallas was awarded a \$21.8 million grant in December to help fund safety improvements on Martin Luther King Jr./Cedar Crest Boulevard. The funding will be directed to engineering design and construction of improvements including dedicated bicycle lanes, improved pedestrian crossing signalization, raised crosswalks and bus shelter improvements to the corridor that will better connect multiple neighborhoods and schools to transit services and other destinations. The corridor in southern Dallas provides residents access to Dallas Area Rapid Transit's MLK Jr. light rail station, a community center, library, health centers, grocery stores, and other significant destinations.

In addition, roadway lighting will be improved and technological improvements from the installation of broadband infrastructure will provide new opportunities for the community.

The funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which established the Safe Streets and Roadways for All (SS4A) federal grant program managed by the US Department of Transportation. The City of Dallas coordinated with NCTCOG and DART to prepare the grant application.

NCTCOG's Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan identifies the 2.5-mile project area of Martin Luther King, Jr./Cedar Crest Boulevard from Fair Park southward to 11th Street as a prioritized corridor to improve safety.

Fair Park Links online mapping activity now open



NCTCOG hosted a public meeting Jan. 30 to discuss recommendations made for the multimodal transportation needs from downtown Dallas through Deep Ellum to Fair Park and consider designs that reconnect neighborhoods previously separated during the construction of Interstate Highway 30 and IH 345.

Public involvement opportunities giving the community the chance to provide input on how to best link these areas will continue. Residents who missed the meeting can participate in an online mapping activity. This mapping activity will let residents review the draft recommendations that were presented at the meeting and provide comments.

To participate in the online mapping activity, visit www.publicinput.com/fairparklinks. Responses will be accepted through the end of February.

By the Numbers:

\$85 million

Federal funding received by NCTCOG as part of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program to expand electric vehicle charging in North Texas and develop a hydrogen fueling network across the Texas Triangle.

Online input opportunity opens Feb. 12

TRANSPORTATION ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

MONDAY, FEB. 12 - TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

NCTCOG is opening an online public input opportunity beginning Monday, Feb. 12. Residents can provide comments and review information about proposed modifications to the List of Funded Projects, transit strategic partnerships and a Safe Routes to School update. Information will be posted online at www.publicinput.com/nctcogFeb24 through March 12.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) maintains a comprehensive list of federal, state and locally funded transportation projects through 2026. To maintain an accurate project listing, this document is updated on a regular basis and will be posted for review and comment.

The Transit Strategic Partnerships Program is a competitive grant program that funds innovative transit projects from public agencies looking to directly implement service as well as those seeking partnerships with an existing transit provider. These projects will directly support services for seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income populations. Proposed projects must be in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington and Denton-Lewisville urbanized areas. An update on projects from the November 2023 proposal submission cycle will be posted online for review and comment. More information on the Transit Strategic Partnerships Program can be found at www.nctcog.org/strategicpartnerships-transit.

NCTCOG's Community Schools and Transportation Program will post an update about Safe Routes to School activities, including program-related surveys. This program seeks to encourage and enable active transportation among school-aged children by promoting and supporting safer routes for students to walk and bike to school.

Resources and information about Map Your Experience, the Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP), vehicle incentive and funding opportunities, Try Parking It, and the business engagement program will also be made available.

For special accommodation due to a disability, language interpretation or to request printed copies of the information, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or jcastillo@nctcog.org. Reasonable accommodation will be made.

50th anniversary focus: Equity in planning



NCTCOG is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its status as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization throughout 2024. Throughout the year, we will highlight aspects of the planning process with a special series of videos and other interactive content.

We begin with equity, a cornerstone of regional planning. NCTCOG created the Environmental Justice Index in response to federal guidelines and the agency's mission to provide sound regional development. The EJI identifies the demographics of areas relevant to transportation projects to ensure EJ populations are treated equitably during the planning process. The index identifies segments of the population who are traditionally underserved, so planners can provide those North Texans access to full and meaningful participation.

We have developed a short video demonstrating how it can help NCTCOG plan for the entire region. Watch the video at www.youtube.com/nctcogtrans.

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

--Imagery provided by NCTCOG, DART, and Getty Images.

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