

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Regional Operations & Air Quality Funding Update

Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment 2021 Call for Projects: Final Recommendations

End of Ozone Season

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

Work Program Modifications

Online Public Input Opportunity Dates

Monday, December 13, 2021 - Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 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. Regional Operations & Air Quality Funding Update
2. Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment 2021 Call for Projects: Final Recommendations
3. End of Ozone Season
4. Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects
5. Work Program Modifications

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

Regional Operations & Air Quality Funding presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/12/M-O.pdf>

Project List:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/12/M-O-Project-List.pdf>

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2026 Management and Operations (M&O), Regional/Air Quality and Safety Funding Program provides funding in addition to Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) so staff can conduct various transportation operations and implementation activities. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), aka Mobility funds, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), aka Air Quality funds, and regional funds will be proposed for the FY 2023-2026 program.

Both the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and Regional Transportation Council (RTC) typically consider extending existing and funding new Air Quality and Management and Operations projects every few years. The last review occurred in 2018-2019 and projects were funded through FY 2022.

Some projects do not have sufficient existing revenues to continue without interruption through FY 2023, so additional funding is needed sooner than the entire M&O program is ready. Because of this, NCTCOG staff is proposing to split approval of the 2023-2026 M&O program into two phases. Phase 1 would cover funding needed for FY 2023 only, and Phase 2 would request funding for FY 2024-2026.

Next steps for the program include the following:

- Taking the interim 2023 funding proposals to the RTC for consideration
- Finalizing the amounts of funding to be requested for 2024-2026, along with the specific list of projects and programs to be recommended
- Bringing back the 2024-2026 list to the public and committees for review and approval

A full list of projects being recommended for FY 2023 funding can be found at www.nctcog.org/input.

Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment 2021 Call for Projects: Final Recommendations presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/12/Blocking-CFP.pdf>

In August 2021, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved the use of \$1 million dollars in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funding to support the 2021 Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment Call for Projects (CFP), which opened on September 3, 2021.

In support of the NCTCOG Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training Program, the funding was made available for the purchase of scene management blocking equipment to provide protection to emergency responders at crash sites in the 12-county North Central Texas metropolitan planning area. The goal of the program is to initiate coordinated responses to traffic incidents that build partnerships, enhance emergency personnel safety, reduce secondary traffic crashes, improve transportation system efficiency and improve regional air quality.

The NCTCOG staff received 16 applications for this CFP, and submissions were scored utilizing a point scale. A full list of the projects and funding allocations can be viewed at www.nctcog.org/input.

The RTC will take action on the recommended projects on January 13, 2022.

End of Ozone Season presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/12/Ozone.pdf>

Ozone is a gas composed of three atoms of oxygen and occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. Ground-level ozone is commonly referred to as "bad ozone" and forms when emission sources emit nitrogen oxides and/or volatile organic compounds that react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone can make it more difficult to breathe, aggravate lung diseases, and inflame and damage the airway.

North Texas is currently under two ozone standards, one for 2008 and one for 2015. Because the region did not meet attainment for either standard, NCTCOG staff is preparing for the region to be reclassified from marginal to moderate under the 2015 standard and from serious to severe under the 2008 standard.

Staff expects the attainment deadline for the new classifications to be no later than July 20, 2027 for the 2008 standard and no later than August 3, 2024 for the 2015 standard.

For more information on regional air quality, visit <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/ozone>.

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/12/TIP-Mods.pdf>

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2024 is maintained in the Transportation Improvement Program (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 Collin, Dallas and Denton Counties. Additionally, financial adjustments related to public transportation services managed by Trinity Metro are also included.

Work Program Modifications handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/12/TIP-Mods.pdf>

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 FY 2022 and FY 2023 UPWP modifications on January 13, 2022.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL, SOCIAL MEIDA, PHONE AND MAIL

Please see attachment for comment submitted via mail.

Regional Transportation Public Input opportunity
due 1/11/2022

Comments/Questions Submitted by Phyllis Silver

End of 2021 Ozone Season: Compliance with Federal Requirements and Future Outlook Dec. 2021

pg 4 - I notice that the air quality in 2021 was somewhat worse than what it had been in 2019.

Question: What factor(s) caused the 2021 air quality to be worse in 2021 than it was in 2019?

b) I can understand the improvement in air quality in 2020 due to fewer materials being on the road due to the pandemic and working from-home, but what happened in 2016 that resulted in air quality improvement? Question

Comment: I am pleased that continuing efforts are being made to improve air quality by increasing funding and by implementing programs that will clean our air.

2021 Incident Management Freeway Blocking Equipment
Call for Projects Recommendations

Comment: This is a great idea to increase the safety of first responders and to improve the overall safety of a crash scene.

Phyllis Silver 12/31/2021



PHYLLIS H. SILVER