

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, December 6, 2024

North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda

(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connections Password: rangers!)

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of October 25, 2024, Minutes

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Gus Khankarli, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the October 25, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.

Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40

2. Consent Agenda

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

2.1. February 2025 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications

Presenter: Charles Marsh, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program and other planning documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: February 2025 revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP are provided as Electronic Item 2.1 for the Committee's consideration. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the mobility plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2.2. Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Funding: Programs of Projects

Presenter: Shawn Dintino, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on FY2024 Public Transportation Funding Programs of Projects will be requested.

Background: As the designated recipient for Federal Transit Administration funds in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney-Frisco Urbanized

Areas, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has developed Programs of Projects (POPs) to suballocate approximately \$9.4 million in FY2024 Section 5307 and Section 5310 federal funding to public transit providers in the region. This is in addition to approximately \$190.2 million that the RTC approved in September 2024. Approximately \$7.7 million remains to be programmed in the future. Electronic Item 2.2.1 includes additional information. Electronic Item 2.2.2 contains the additional proposed FY2024 POPs.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2.3. City of Everman Signal Funding

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$300,000 in RTC Local funding for a new traffic signal in the City of Everman will be requested, including the ability to administratively amend planning and administrative documents as needed to incorporate this project.

Background: The City of Everman has requested funding assistance for a new traffic signal at the intersection of Shelby Road and Race Street. The intersection is currently controlled by a four-way stop sign and is experiencing considerable congestion, especially in the morning and afternoon due to the proximity of two high schools nearby. Development occurring on the northeast corner of that intersection will exacerbate existing congestion. It takes 20 minutes in good conditions and 40 minutes in peak periods to clear this intersection; therefore, staff is recommending an expedited approval of this project and requesting \$300,000 in RTC Local funds to cover the cost.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:40 – 1:50

3. Backstop Funding: Supporting Vehicle Procurement for the Awarded 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommend the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) authorization to utilize \$1,004,000 in RTC Local

funds as a temporary backstop to advance mobility enhancements within the Southern Dallas Inland Port.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) received a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for enhancing mobility within the Southern Dallas County Inland Port area. The project focuses on access to the Dallas Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and includes sidewalk construction, signal improvements, and additional transit service to connect people living and working within the Inland Port area to the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail system. Grant funds include the purchase of electric vehicles for STAR Transit to provide trips within the Inland Port and bring riders in and out of the DART system. NCTCOG completed competitive procurement processes to acquire vehicles and necessary in-plant inspection services. To retain negotiated contract prices, NCTCOG must proceed with these purchases by the end of calendar year 2025. However, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has not yet executed a grant agreement for the 2021 RAISE award. NCTCOG staff is seeking pre-award authority through a Letter of No Prejudice from FTA to ensure compliance with FTA rules for contract execution and cost eligibility through the grant. To further mitigate risks, staff is requesting to utilize RTC Local funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,004,000 as a temporary backstop to support contract obligations for the electric vehicle purchase and in-plant inspection services to prevent project delays and cost increases. Electronic Item 3 includes a presentation describing the proposed action.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

1:50 – 2:00

4. **City of River Oaks, Meandering Road Right of Way Acquisition Loan**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will; request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommend Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to advance right-of-way acquisition funding for the reconstruction of Meandering Road from Roberts Cut-Off in River Oaks to LT JG Barnett Road to Fort Worth in the amount of \$900,000 in RTC Local funds. The City of River Oaks is acquiring the right-of-way at the request of North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the other

project partners. RTC Local funds will be returned upon River Oaks receiving federal reimbursement.

Background: The cities of River Oaks and Fort Worth, in partnership with NCTCOG and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) initiated work on the reconstruction of Meandering Road/LT JG Barnet in River Oaks and Fort Worth in 2014. This corridor is of strategic military importance to the region and specifically the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NASJRB) as it serves as the path of access to the East Gate entrance at the Base. The RTC funded this project with federal funds in 2015. It has been through extensive planning, design, and public involvement to ensure its compatibility with the neighborhoods in River Oaks and Fort Worth impacted by the corridor improvements. Right-of-way acquisition began in the summer of 2024. The goal of the project is to replace a dilapidated four-lane undivided roadway with a three-lane center turn lane roadway while minimizing the impacts to neighborhoods. Additional right-of-way is needed for corner clips to construct sidewalks and to remove two structures to accommodate intersection improvements. The current right-of-way cost in River Oaks is estimated at approximately \$900,000. While funding for the right-of-way is included in the project, the City of River Oaks is responsible for acquiring this right-of-way and cash flowing the purchase until federal reimbursement is received. The reimbursement process takes 90 to 120 days. To reduce the financial burden of this project on the City of River Oaks, staff is proposing to advance RTC Local funds to River Oaks for this purpose. River Oaks will return the RTC Local funds to NCTCOG upon receipt of federal reimbursement. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Roadway

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Fiscal Year 2024 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeffrey Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to submit a project in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant Program. Applications are due to USDOT by December 16, 2024.

Background: In September 2024, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for FY24 FSP Grant Program funding, available at <https://railroads.dot.gov/federal-state-partnership-intercity-passenger>. This \$1.06 billion program provides three application tracks: (1) Project Planning, (2) Project Development and (3) Final Design/ Construction. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project (or group of projects) that improve American passenger rail assets through: (1) bringing rail assets into a State of Good Repair; (2) improving intercity passenger rail service; (3) expanding or establishing new intercity passenger rail service, and (4) planning, environmental studies, and final design for a project or group of projects. Electronic Item 5 includes a presentation describing the proposed action.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Project Status Report: Fiscal Year 2024 Project Tracking, Fiscal Year 2025 Project Tracking, and Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Round 2**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dylan Niles, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) with a status report on the FY2024 Project Tracking, FY2025 Project Tracking, and Milestone Policy Round 2 projects. A recommendation for the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of various updates to Milestone Policy project deadlines will be requested.

Background: The Milestone Policy was adopted by the RTC to focus on projects that have been funded for more than 10 years and have not gone to construction. By highlighting these projects, the policy creates agency accountability to implement projects in a timely manner. Staff coordinates with implementing agencies to assess project risk until they go to construction. Similarly, the annual project tracking effort focuses on projects slated for implementation in the current fiscal year. Projects are monitored early, allowing staff to highlight potential problems that could lead to delays, which enables the RTC to take corrective actions to avoid building up carryover balances in federal funding categories. Milestone Policy status updates, along with the latest risk ratings, can be found in Electronic Item 6.1. FY2024 Project Tracking status updates can be found in Electronic Item 6.2. FY2025 Project Tracking status

updates can be found in Electronic Item 6.3. A summary of the status reports can be found in Electronic Item 6.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Forecast 2050: Demographics**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) with a status report on Forecast 2050. Work has been completed on the development of population and employment forecasts for the year 2050 to support the upcoming development of Mobility 2050: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. A summary of this forecast will be presented.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been responsible for preparation of the demographic forecasts to support metropolitan transportation planning activities overseen by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) as part of the metropolitan planning process since the designation of NCTCOG as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 1974. Development of these forecasts represents one of the primary planning responsibilities of the NCTCOG Executive Board in carrying out its mission of planning for common needs. The forecasts are developed by NCTCOG's Research and Information Services Department in cooperation with the Transportation Department and local governments and are used to support the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, as well as a wide variety of transportation and infrastructure studies being carried out by NCTCOG, our State and local planning agency partners, and local governments throughout the region. Mobility 2050: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas is currently under development. Included in these forecasts are estimates of future population and employment at a detailed level for the 12-County Metropolitan Area. Development of these forecasts occurs every four years in keeping with the federal requirement of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan in this time frame. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:30 – 2:40

8. **Mobility 2050**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a report regarding efforts to develop the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2050.

Background: Federal guidelines require the Dallas-Fort Worth region to update the long-range transportation plan to a minimum of every four years and forecast at least 20 years into the future. In addition, Mobility 2050 must demonstrate federal Transportation Conformity and be financially constrained. The updated plan will include a new financial plan, updated demographics and technical analysis, updated project recommendation listings, and robust public involvement.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:40 – 2:50

9. **Fiscal Year 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program, dedicated for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Staff will provide details highlighting grant requirements, merit criteria, and identify possible multimodal project submittal candidates.

Background: In November 2024, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2025 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), providing details and application requirements for the \$1.5 billion program, can be accessed at <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>. Applications are due to the US DOT by January 30, 2025. For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two to four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) should be submitted to Jackie Castillo by Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at jcastillo@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Roadway

2:50 – 2:55

10. **Regional Parking Demand Database**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Travis Liska, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present findings from data collection on parking demand at 106 private properties and request ongoing local government participation and coordination. This regional data aggregation and analysis will help local governments with better parking policy and management.

Background: As growth continues to increase in the Dallas-Fort Worth region unmanaged parking can limit density and create more congestion. To aid local governments in using better parking ratios and management actions, the North Central Texas Council of Governments has launched a parking demand database as part of its Parking Toolbox. The database is a collection of observed parking use counts from around the region for common commercial land uses. This project will fill a gap in knowledge around minimum parking requirements. Staff will present findings from the initial sample of 106 private properties and also request regional assistance recruiting and studying more properties. Improving parking management can reduce vehicle miles traveled and enable more dense development that is supportive of transit and active transportation. Local government participation along with the private sector is important in addressing this challenging problem. The project website is www.NCTCOG.org/Parking.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Transit

2:55 – 3:00

11. **New 511 Dallas Fort Worth System**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Eric Quintana, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the new 511DFW Traveler Information System highlighting the public-facing and agency user interface.

Background: The 511DFW Traveler Information System was developed as a component of the Dallas Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project in 2007, which was an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation to help advance the state of the practice in transportation operations and manage congestion in urban areas. The 511DFW system provides travel time and speeds, transit trip planning, and road condition information accessible by web, telephone, and

Mobile Apps for iPhone and Android, in addition to basic weather information for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. The system is also available in Spanish language version of each, sharing Waze data, and providing a format for agency data sharing and performance measure evaluation. The previous 511DFW system ended in June 2023 as the North Central Texas Council of Governments went through a new procurement. On November 4, 2024, the new 511DFW Traveler Information System went live. Additional information can be found in Electronic Item 11.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

3:00 – 3:05

12. **End of Ozone Season Recap**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Daniela Tower, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of the 2024 ozone season activity and other air quality updates for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region. The ozone season is from March 1 to November 30.

Background: The end of November concluded another ozone season for the DFW region. The region continues to work towards compliance for both the 2008 and 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), but monitoring values show a continuing reverse trend with a current ozone 8-hour design value of 83 parts per billion. Staff have been tracking the exceedance days at each monitor and will provide a summary of the 2024 ozone season data for the North Central Texas 9-and 10-county nonattainment areas, compare against previous ozone seasons, and what the state has modeled. This 2024 calendar year is critical because it is the first of three years which will be used to determine how the region compares against federal requirements. Electronic Item 12.1 is correspondence to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requesting further analysis to understand the region's increasing ozone trend. For further information see Electronic Item 12.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

3:05 – 3:15

13. **Fast Facts**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Brief staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Joseph O'Brien* – 2025 Regional Transportation Council Legislative Program (Electronic Item 13.1)
 2. *Joaquin Escalante* – Reminder of Annual Required Local Government Energy Reporting (Electronic Item 13.2)
 3. *Daniela Tower* – Receipt of United States Department of Transportation 2023 Transportation Conformity Determination (Electronic Item 13.3)
 4. *Trey Pope* – Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 13.4)
 5. *Lori Clark* – Attendance Report – Dallas Fort Worth Clean Cities Technical Advisory Board (Electronic Item 13.5)
 6. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities (www.nctcog.org/AQfunding)
 7. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
 8. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.6)
 - October Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 13.7)
 - September – October Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.8)
 - 2025 Surface Transportation Technical Committee and Regional Transportation Council Meeting Schedules (Handout)
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 January 24, 2025**.