

North Central Texas
Council of Governments

December 2020

Transit Bulletin

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Mark Your Calendars!

Event	Reoccurrence	Due Date
Annual Reports	Annual	January 6, 2021 (Feb. 26 for CTS)
Charter Service Reports	Quarterly	January 15, 2021
TIP Modifications	Quarterly	January 22, 2021
Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Meeting	Once	Late January 2021
Provider Meeting	Annual	Early February 2021
DBE Reporting	Semi-Annual	April 2021

Local Spotlight

Diane Beck, Span Inc.

Reminder

Email Reimbursement Requests to TRGrants@nctcog.org

Celebrate Your Staff

Do you have extraordinary staff? Let us highlight them in our next bulletin! Send ideas to vfung@nctcog.org

Diane Beck is a New York native with over 17 years in non-profit, previously working in the mental health field and now focusing on mobility management with Span Inc. She's was a licensed clinician for 2 years as a mental health counselor and is bringing her passion as an advocate into her new role as a mobility

manager. She connects riders with essential transportation services in the nine city geographic region Span serves. She knows how critical mobility management is and credits her experience with the mentally ill and developmentally disabled for her preparedness for this new role. She's 6' and from New York, but she got to Texas as fast as she could. She enjoys hiking with her dog, swimming and playing basketball with her husband.



Transit in the News

DCTA Discount Programs

[Denton County Transit Authority is offering several discount programs](#) for riders in order to meet a variety of community needs. These include discounts for nonprofit organizations on regional passes, discounts for groups that purchase 25 or more tickets, discounts for Denton County-based businesses that purchase annual passes for employees, as well as student and faculty discounts for those affiliated with local colleges and universities. DCTA also offered free rides to the polls on Election Day and free rides for veterans and military personnel on Veteran's Day.



STAR Service Updates

STAR Transit celebrated updates to their routes and services by offering free rides the second week of November. [The new updates](#) include:

- Additional on-demand bus service in DeSoto.
- STARNow hours on Saturdays from 8am to 5pm and Monday through Friday from 6am-8pm in Mesquite.
- Route 102 replaced with dial-a-ride service, STARNow, in Balch Springs.
- New service in conjunction with DART in the Dallas Inland Port area.

Trinity Metro Free Rides to Find Work

[Trinity Metro has begun offering free rides for job seekers](#) on all transit services in response to the uptick in unemployment that has occurred in Tarrant County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Riders can utilize the free service to travel to job fairs and interviews if they provide the bus operator or train conductor with proof of communication from the hiring company or the date and location of the job fair. This free service is providing much-needed connectivity and opportunity for job seekers in Tarrant County.

DART Committee Members Push for Ridership Redesign

After a unanimous vote from the DART Board of Directors, [DART will move to implement a new ridership redesign](#) between 70/30 and 75/25 splits among ridership and coverage. This will be a significant change from the 55/45 balance which has been implemented in the past. DART's goal with this change is to create a scenario that offers nearly as much overall coverage access as the current network but preserves resources for a higher level of frequency improvements.

CDC Guidance Urging Passengers to Wear Masks

[The Centers for Disease Control issued a strong recommendation for wearing masks](#) by passengers and operators of public transportation. Face masks help prevent people who have COVID-19, including those who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic from spreading the virus to others. Public transportation frequently brings people in close contact with others, often for prolonged periods. Masks provide a layer of protection which should be employed in addition to social distancing and proper hygiene.

Transit Resources

PTASP Provider Meeting

NCTCOG will invite regional transit providers who receive Section 5307 funding to a virtual meeting in January for coordination and input on initial regional transit safety performance measures. These measures relate to Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and federal planning requirements.

The PTASP regulations require Section 5307 providers to adopt a safety plan by the end of 2020, which includes creating seven transit safety targets in four different measures for each mode: fixed route, demand response, and rail. All regional providers have adopted plans and targets prior to the deadline. NCTCOG must create similar transit safety targets for the region. We are currently collecting and compiling providers' underlying data to use in the creation of these regional targets. If you would like more information about PTASP, you may contact Shawn Dintino at sdintino@nctcog.org.

TAM Factsheet

[The Transit Asset Management Factsheet](#) succinctly describes the FTA's rules for monitoring and managing public transportation assets to improve safety and increase reliability and performance. Assets such as service vehicles and other owned equipment over \$50,000 in acquisition value are included in the TAM Plan asset inventory to ensure a state of good repair. This includes target setting and reporting of the TAM Plan in the National Transit Database.

Livestream Our Meetings

[Executive Board](#)

[Regional Transportation Council](#)

[Surface Transportation Technical Committee](#)

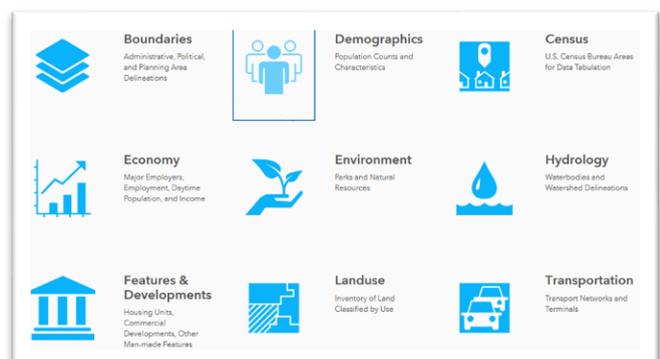


Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility

[The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility](#) works to improve the availability, accessibility, and efficiency of transportation for older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals of low income. Their goal is to ensure equal access to coordinated transportation for all Americans. Their work is useful for many reasons, notably their federal fund braiding guide which allows recipients to use funds from one federal program to meet the match requirements of another.

NCTCOG Regional Data Center

[The NCTCOG Regional Data Center](#) is an excellent resource for objective information and analysis for use in planning and development activities. This website allows the user to download both tabular datasets and geographic data layers. The data focuses on population, employment, land use, development, and geospatial data in the 16-county region, as well as highway and public transit data.



Professional Development Opportunities

Date	Webinar
Dec. 8	Rutgers NTI – Current Practices in the Use of Onboard Technologies to Avoid Transit Bus Incidents and Accidents
Dec. 8	APTA – Legal Affairs Virtual Mini Seminar
Dec. 11	NITC – Land Use and Transportation Policies for a Sustainable Future
Dec. 17	PTASP – Transitioning to Agency Safety Plan Implementation
Dec. 18	UTC – Collaborative Multimodal Decision Making with Advanced Transportation Technologies and Computing

Professional Memberships
American Planning Association
American Public Transportation Association
Community Transportation Association of America
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials
Transportation Research Board
Women in Transportation Seminar

New NCTCOG Staff



Bobby Gomez is a Planner I with NCTCOG. He started working with subrecipients as a project manager in July of 2020. He grew up in Brownsville, Texas but has been in Arlington for 5 years working and studying at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). He earned a BA and MA in Political Science, and he now teaches this subject at UTA and Tarrant County College while working with NCTCOG. His passion for transit developed through his involvement in the DART/Dallas Love Field Transportation Leadership Academy where he learned just how much good can be done for a community through transit. He loves running, yelling at the TV during Cowboys' games, his fiancée, and finding ways to serve others. Bobby may be reached via email at rgomez@nctcog.org.



Martin Bate is an Intern with NCTCOG. He started working with the federal grants for transit service in October of 2020. He was born in Argentina and grew up in the Washington, DC area, received a B.S. in Information Systems and Supply Chain Management from the University of Maryland, and worked at BNSF Railway for 5 ½ years as a business systems analyst. After working at BNSF, Martin hit the road and worked at various farms in Colorado and explored the West while living out of his SUV before returning to DFW. He is currently studying for his master's in City and Regional Planning at the University of Texas at Arlington. In his spare time, Martin enjoys cooking new recipes, reading, working through his backlog of must-see movies, and motorcycling. Martin may be reached via email at mbate@nctcog.org.