



Transit Bulletin

Topics

- ❖ Transit News
- ❖ Strategic Partnerships
- ❖ Mobility Management
- ❖ TAIT Tool
- ❖ My Ride North Texas 2.0
- ❖ Meet the Transit Team

Mark Your Calendars!

Report	Reoccurrence	Due Date
Charter Service Reports	Quarterly	July 15, 2020 for Q2
TIP Modifications (POP Development Submittal) *	Quarterly	Mod Requests for Nov TIP Cycle by July 31, 2020
DBE Reporting	Semiannually	October 2020
Annual Reports	Annually	May 2020 (June for CTS)

*More details coming soon for NCTCOG subrecipients – their deadline will be earlier.

Reminder

Email Reimbursement Requests to TRGrants@nctcog.org

FTA COVID Response

For more information on how FTA is responding to COVID-19, visit <https://www.transit.dot.gov/coronavirus>

Celebrate Your Staff

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

COVID-19 Response

In an effort to minimize risks and concerns due to COVID-19 currently affecting our region, NCTCOG made the decision to essentially close office buildings as of March 17, 2020. The entire Transit Management and Planning Team will continue telecommuting until further notice. We have been advised to avoid travel and face to face meetings until instructed otherwise. All meetings will continue to be conducted either by conference call, video, or postponed to a later date.

Also, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently apportioned additional funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to recipients of Urbanized Area Formula Funds. On April 9, 2020, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved overall funds to be allocated using the federal formula methodology. The Executive Board approved receipt of funds for NCTCOG subrecipients on April 23, 2020. Detailed information on CARES Act funding was sent to subrecipients and direct recipients. Questions can be sent to assigned NCTCOG project managers.

Transit in the News



DART Discount GoPass

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is piloting their [Discount GoPass Tap Card](#) that allows individuals enrolled in any one of eight social assistance programs to be eligible for half-price fare on any and every ride they take on DART buses or trains. The pilot is set to last two years and will utilize DART's smart pricing in order to ensure that passengers continually get the best value for their trips. Passengers can check their balance and manage their accounts online and can reload online or at one of many participating retailers. The DART Discount GoPass Pilot is taking strides toward a system of equitable fares.

Trinity Metro Electric Buses



New to Fort Worth is Trinity Metro's [The Dash service](#), using electric buses that run from downtown to the 7th street corridor and into the Cultural District. The distinctive, bright red buses are a step toward a more environmentally-conscious transit system and provide a high-frequency transit option for those making trips within the city.

My Ride North Texas 2.0

Through a 2018 Access & Mobility Grant from FTA, NCTCOG is partnering with MHMR Tarrant County and Community Council of



Greater Dallas to implement My Ride North Texas 2.0. As an extension of current My Ride programs, the project will provide travel navigation assistance to all 16 counties in the NCTCOG region. The service will allow residents to dial a 1-800 number to receive county specific transit information and connect individuals to opportunities such as healthcare.

North Central Texas Responding to COVID-19

As the Coronavirus has spread across the region, transit providers have been at the forefront of keeping riders and operators safe. From transit rides to meal delivery, thank you to all who have kept North Texas' wheels rolling. There has been many changes in our region and below are examples of how agencies are responding to this public health crisis:

- DART partnered with Dallas ISD to deliver meals to affected families and use their vehicles and drivers to connect North Texas residents to needed services and meals.
- Trinity Metro and other agencies temporarily implemented free fares on routes to further reduce contact and encourage distance between operators and customers.
- Many transit providers such as DCTA and STAR Transit have installed protective equipment on buses, and all are increasing cleaning procedures to ensure both drivers and riders are able to enjoy rides safely.

New Opportunities through Strategic Partnerships

New opportunities for funding are headed to the region this summer! The NCTCOG Transit Team will be transitioning the previous Call for Projects into a Strategic Partnerships program.

The updated funding program will accept proposals on a rolling basis and evaluate proposals more frequently. The Transit Team will use this program to address transit needs more appropriately and harness a more proactive approach toward filling regional transit gaps.

Mobility Management: Making Waves in Transit

Mobility Management is making waves in the world of transportation. [According to the FTA](#), it is “an innovative approach for managing and delivering coordinated transportation services to customers, including older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes.” The strategy calls transportation planners and providers to leverage partnerships, generate creative solutions, and lead effective and meaningful change in transportation. The role of a Mobility Manager can look quite different from one organization to the next, but all have the motivation to create connections to opportunity through transit.



Identify Gaps



Coordinate Resources



Promote Partnerships

NCTCOG has recently established a Mobility Management area within the Transit Team. Mobility Management staff will focus on identifying transit gaps, coordinating regional resources, and promoting partnerships with governments, transit providers, and stakeholders in order to serve the transportation needs of the region, including disadvantaged populations.

Transit Resource: TAIT Tool

NCTCOG’s Transit Accessibility Improvement Tool (TAIT) is a public resource available on [NCTCOG’s website](#). This TAIT tool is available to provide insights into the demographics of the 16-county region. This tool identifies communities who face transportation disadvantages and may have greater potential need for public transit. Make sure to take advantage of this great resource!



What's New in Procurement Practice?

Procurements, big or small, can be extremely daunting. The National Transit Institute (NTI) hosts a thorough and foundational [Procurement Series](#) that provides key insights into the world of procurements by FTA grantees. The topics range from best practices and policy to broader industry perspectives that can be applied right here in the region. The trainings are split into 4 [courses](#) and individuals from transit providers all over the country attend these trainings and become great resources within their organizations.

NCTCOG is dedicated to investing in professional development, staff has been able to participate in the NTI trainings to further their understanding of transportation procurements. From these trainings there are three takeaways that can help partners improve their procurement process:

1. **Training is Key.** Ensure that your agency's procurement specialist has been properly trained to complete an FTA compliant procurement.
2. **Document Everything.** The smallest details in writing can save you from complications down the road.
3. **Use Your Resources.** Utilize your peers, legal team or contact agencies with similar procurements.

Procurements, though daunting, are manageable. Set your organization up for success through the study of proper procurement practice.

Meet the Transit Management & Planning Team!



Don't worry, this photo was taken before social distancing!

During these challenging times, we are here to help. The team is led by Shannon Stevenson, Senior Program Manager and includes:

Short-Range Planning: *David Garcia & Ezra Pratt*

Mobility Management: *Gypsy Gavia, Vivian Fung, & Dora Kelly*

Award Management & Reporting: *Edgar Hernandez & Dylan Hernandez*

Subrecipient Management: *Robby Sprosty, Lorena Carrillo, Jay Ramos, & Rachel Jenkins*

Subrecipient Oversight & Compliance: *Shawn Dintino*