

LOCAL MOTION

August 2022

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

Regional trail connecting 5 cities rebranded



The Fort Worth to Dallas Regional Trail officially has a new name: The DFW Discovery Trail.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments recently concluded a public forum that sought feedback and a public vote on the final two trail name and logo pairings. DFW Trinity Trail was the second choice. Survey participants also shared local destinations along the trail that they felt were important for trail signage to showcase, places where residents access the trail and how they use the trail.

When complete, the DFW Discovery Trail will run more than 60 miles. Over 50 miles of the trail, which spans Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving and Dallas, are open. A ribbon cutting is targeted for early 2024. The trail is envisioned as a regional, state and national attraction for recreation, tourism and large events.

To develop an inclusive, recognizable and memorable name and brand for the trail, NCTCOG collaborated with stakeholders from the five cities and groups such as tourism bureaus, sports event organizations, bike groups, river and natural environmental advocacy groups, and cultural groups. Ideas and feedback from the public during the previous virtual open house in November 2021 played a significant role in the development of the name and brand.

For more information on the branding project, visit www.nctcog.org/FWtoDalTrail.



Federal grant to help NCTCOG study transit options for 76104 ZIP code

NCTCOG has been awarded a grant of approximately \$270,000 to identify innovative, affordable transit solutions to improve access to basic needs and create strategies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in a part of Fort Worth identified as an area of persistent poverty.

NCTCOG's plan will focus on finding transit solutions in 76104 ZIP code, which despite being home to the Fort Worth Medical District has the lowest life expectancy in the state, according to a study by UT-Southwestern Medical Center.

The 2021 Areas of Persistent Poverty Program grant, awarded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), will fund a transit needs assessment that could lead to the development of transit solutions to connect the community to healthy food, health care, affordable housing and employment. The study will also look to develop strategies to reduce the formation of greenhouse gases and improve air quality in the community.

Improved transit connections could help residents whose transportation issues lead them to struggle with these necessities. For example, 14% of residents living in areas of the ZIP code identified as facing “persistent poverty” have no vehicle, compared to 4.3% of households countywide.

NCTCOG will coordinate with residents, nonprofit organizations and community leaders to build consensus and develop a plan to improve access to the basic needs of the community. The area is served by Trinity Metro’s fixed-route bus service and on-demand ZIP Zone micro transit. In part, the study will examine current transit options available in the 76104 ZIP code and whether they should be enhanced or revised to better meet demand. The study will also look at transit fares and their impact on equitable access to these transit services.

Work on the study is expected to commence in fiscal year 2023 and will include extensive stakeholder engagement and public involvement to inform the final plan. The FTA awarded 40 projects across the nation a total of \$16.2 million to fight persistent poverty.

By the Numbers

\$270,000

Federal grant funding awarded to NCTCOG to identify transit solutions for the 76104 ZIP code.



North Texans encouraged to make clean air commitment Aug. 3

August 3 marks the 13th annual Clean Air Action Day. NCTCOG and Air North Texas are encouraging residents to lend a hand to help improve air quality by committing to at least one “clean air action.”

Air North Texas informs the public about the air quality problem and requests individuals, businesses, and governments to help improve air quality by pledging to implement different types of strategies into their daily routines. Currently,

10 counties are in nonattainment of the federal ozone standards, and Clean Air Action Day presents an opportunity for the North Texans to move the region closer to attainment.

Some commitments residents can choose from include taking lunch to work, combining trips, and buying local. Participants can also choose to carpool, use mass transit, telecommute and encourage others to be air aware. Maintaining personal vehicles through oil changes and ensuring proper tire pressure are additional ways North Texans can contribute to cleaner air.

On Clean Air Action Day, share with NCTCOG how you celebrated by logging your commitment at www.airnorthtexas.org/cleanairactionday. Take a picture and tag us by using #CAAD2022 and @NCTCOGtrans.

Air North Texas partners are also encouraging participation. Dallas Area Rapid Transit is publicizing CAAD on its blog and social media channels this week and will give away a #DARTablestaycation on social media Wednesday. Trinity Metro will be handing out flower seed Clean Air Action Day cards to riders on Clean Air Action Day.

US 75 in Collin County could soon become more free-flowing

The Regional Transportation Council recently approved a new use for high-occupancy vehicle lanes on US 75. US 75 is among the most congested corridors in this region, and a plan to improve reliability along the roadway has been a topic of discussion for several years.

The approval of the US 75 Technology Lane plan from Interstate Highway 635 to Sam Rayburn Tollway will allow the removal of the pylons separating the high-occupancy vehicle lanes from the general-purpose lanes and the use of the frontage roads to improve traffic flow when an incident occurs on US 75.

As allowed under federal rules, the definition of HOV, which currently includes motorcycles, would be expanded to include alternative fuel and electric vehicles. HOV-eligible vehicles would continue to use the reconfigured lane all day, every day. All other vehicles could use this inside lane 22 hours per day, including all day on weekends.

Non-HOVs would be restricted from using the southbound lane for two hours each weekday morning. These rules would be applied to the northbound lane for two hours each weekday afternoon.

Next, the plan will be presented to representatives from Dallas and Collin counties and the cities of Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Allen, and McKinney for their endorsement.

Virtual drone workshop Aug. 6 to focus on deliveries

The monthly “Know Before You Fly” your drone workshops are drawing to a close, with two more opportunities for hobbyists and professionals to learn about recent developments and best practices related to drone safety in North Texas. The next workshop will take place virtually at 10 am Saturday August 6 and is open to anyone who registers at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/know-before-you-fly-your-drone-virtual-workshop-tickets-127222591195>.



Saturday’s event will focus on drone deliveries, featuring Kendal Prosack, local policy and community affairs manager with the drone delivery firm Wing; and Stephanie Jones, associate vice president of Drone Express, a logistics firm focused on autonomous package delivery. Those registering for this free event will be provided a link to watch the session. If you miss this session, a recording will be available at www.northtexasuas.com. The final workshop of the series is scheduled for Saturday, September 9.

NCTCOG to share transportation projects and goals at Aug. 8 public meeting



NCTCOG will host a hybrid public meeting this month to provide updates on plans concerning transportation accessibility, pedestrian safety, and other planning initiatives.

The meeting will take place at NCTCOG’s Arlington offices, 616 Six Flags Drive, at noon on Monday, August 8. Residents may

attend the meeting, watch it online at www.nctcog.org/input, or participate via phone by dialing 855-925-2801 then code 6343.

Access North Texas is the regional public transportation coordination plan for the surrounding 16 counties and documents the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes. Staff will present a summary of updated goals

and strategies developed to improve their access to work, medical appointments, and education. A draft plan will be posted for review and comment.

Texas is one of seven states that accounts for over half of the nation's pedestrian fatalities. The Regional Pedestrian Safety Action Plan was developed by NCTCOG to serve as a guide to improve regional pedestrian safety, and staff will present the proposed 2022 update.

Additionally, an update on the Interstate Highway 45 Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment plan will be given. This plan outlines recommendations for building new infrastructure for both battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell medium- and heavy-duty vehicles along the highway from Dallas to Houston. The corridor, which carries a large amount of freight, is key to advancing air quality efforts in the two metropolitan areas, which both face ozone nonattainment challenges.

Finally, NCTCOG is required by federal law to monitor and set targets for federal performance measures that cover various aspects of the transportation system under its jurisdiction. Staff is analyzing outcomes from previously set targets while setting new ones for the next performance period and will provide an overview and update on the measures.

The department's Map Your Experience tool, Regional Smoking Vehicle Program, alternative vehicle incentives and funding opportunities, and Progress North Texas 2022 will be highlighted at the beginning of the meeting.

A recording of the presentations will also be posted at www.nctcog.org/input, where residents can comment through Tuesday, September 6.

For special accommodations due to a disability, language interpretation, printed copies of information discussed, or to request a free roundtrip ride between NCTCOG and the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort/DFW contact Thao Tran at 817-704-2510 or tctran@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

Public meeting to be held for Harry Hines Corridor Study

NCTCOG, in coordination with the City of Dallas, is developing a master transportation plan for the Harry Hines corridor from Loop 12/Northwest Highway to the north of Spur 366 (Woodall Rodgers Freeway).

A public meeting for the project is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, August 9, at the Grauwylor Recreation Center located at 7780 Harry Hines Blvd. Residents will have the opportunity to learn more about the study, provide comments and ask the project team questions. There will be maps and drawings of the design concepts on display for public viewing from 3 to 6 pm, with a brief presentation at 5:15 pm.

The study will help guide future improvements of the roadway by developing a plan to modernize and define the Harry Hines corridor. The result will be better connectivity, accessibility and safety. Various transportation elements, such as the number of lanes, sidewalks, bicycle-pedestrian accommodations, transit, automated vehicles and parking management will be considered.

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language interpretation, contact Carli Baylor at 817-608-2365 or cbaylor@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

Details	
What:	Harry Hines Corridor Study
When:	Tuesday, August 9, 3 pm- 6 pm
Where:	Grauwyler Recreation Center 7780 Harry Hines Blvd Dallas, TX, 75235

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 and Getty Images.
