

local motion

A monthly update on activities of the Regional Transportation Council and the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department

March 2015 | nctcog.org/localmotion

News

School bus funding deadline March 13

The North Central Texas Clean School Bus Call For Projects is open through March 13.

With this funding opportunity, approximately \$1 million is available to entities wishing to improve the emissions of their school bus fleets. For information, visit www.nctcog.org/cleanschoolbus.

Meetings

March 4, 8:30 am

TRTC Meeting

Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center
1001 Jones St.
Fort Worth TX 76102

March 6, 11 am

DRMC Meeting

North Texas Tollway Authority
5900 W. Plano Parkway
Plano, TX 75093

March 12, 1 pm

Regional Transportation Council

NCTCOG
Transportation Council Room
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

March 27, 1:30 pm

Surface Transportation Technical Committee

NCTCOG
Transportation Council Room
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

Ozone season begins in North Texas

Ozone season began in North Texas on March 1. Although the region's air quality typically does not encounter problems until late spring or early summer, when the temperature heats up, North Texans are encouraged to consider how their actions could improve the air during ozone season, which lasts through October.

Last year, the region took important steps toward meeting the federal government's standard after the ozone levels remained flat for several years.

The 2014 ozone season ended with the region having met the previous standard of less than 85 parts per billion; however, 10 counties remain in nonattainment for the current standard of 75 ppb or less.

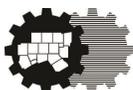
NCTCOG maintains many policies and programs intended to help residents and businesses participate in clean air efforts. One is Air North Texas, which provides individuals, local governments and businesses lists of strategies they can implement when air quality is forecast to be poor. The centerpiece of the campaign is the annual celebration of Clean Air Action Day on June 26. On this first Friday of summer, participants will be asked to do one additional thing to contribute to an improvement in the region's ozone concentration. More participants made commitments in 2014 than in any other year since Clean Air Action Day began.

Individuals, businesses and local governments can participate by pledging to implement at least one clean air action not normally part of their schedules, such as carpooling, using mass transit, bicycling or walking. Find ideas, learn more about the event and submit Clean Air Action Day commitments at

www.airnorthtexas.org.

Signing up for air pollution alerts will help residents and employers stay informed of when additional clear air actions are recommended.

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.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

our region

State kicks off 'Two Steps, One Sticker' inspection program

The traditional Texas inspection sticker has expired. Motorists are now being issued one windshield sticker for the inspection and registration of their vehicles, thanks to House Bill 2305, approved in 2013 during the 83rd Legislative Session. The law aims to increase compliance with the vehicle inspection and registration process while reducing fraud. Under the new law, vehicles must now pass an inspection before they can be registered. So, what if your vehicle registration is due before the inspection sticker has expired? Through February 29, 2016, you can still renew the registration if your vehicle has a current passing inspection because the first year is transitional. To find out when your inspection is due, visit www.twostepsonesticker.com and click on the "When Do I Inspect?" button. The website also explains other scenarios Texans may encounter under this new system.

LEARN MORE

More information on the state's change to a single windshield sticker for the inspection and registration of vehicles is available at www.twostepsonesticker.com

Regional efforts have helped increase vehicle-emissions compliance and led to the repair and replacement of more high-emitting vehicles over the years. For example, NCTCOG works to reduce inspection fraud through the Regional Emissions Enforcement Program (REEP). A coordinated effort with local law enforcement and other officials, REEP helps identify and remove from the roadways vehicles with counterfeit, fictitious, expired or fraudulent inspection stickers. The AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program also helps qualifying motorists with emissions-related repairs and offers vehicle replacements for a limited time each year. Since 2002, AirCheckTexas has helped North Texans repair more than 30,000 vehicles with emissions problems and replace 30,000 more.

For more information about the AirCheckTexas Program, visit www.nctcog.org/airchecktexas. For more information about REEP, please visit www.nctcog.org/reep.

NCTCOG sponsoring car care clinics in April

April is Car Care Month, and again this year, NCTCOG has partnered with local automotive repair shops in North Texas to sponsor Car Care Clinics throughout the month. These free clinics help drivers understand the basics of vehicle care and maintenance during National Car Care Month. This nationwide effort, held each April, aims to provide information about ways to prolong vehicle life, obtain better gas mileage and minimize emissions. Attendees will receive a complimentary vehicle emergency kit while supplies last, and many clinics will provide free vehicle checkups. To find a car clinic scheduled near you visit www.NTXCarCare.org. For additional information, send an email to NTXCarCare@nctcog.org or call 817-704-5605.

AIR QUALITY

State offers rebate for Alternative fuels vehicles

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is providing incentives for the purchase or lease of qualifying new vehicles powered by alternatives to gasoline.

Vehicles powered by compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas or electricity (plug-ins) are eligible for \$2,500 in incentives through the Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive (LDPLI) Program, which opened last May.

TCEQ maintains a list of eligible vehicle makes and models at www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/ld.html. The program is open to public- and private-sector entities, and individuals for the purchase or lease of eligible new vehicles.

Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until June 26 or until all funding is awarded. Purchases made since May 13, 2014, are eligible for the rebate.

For instructions on how to claim this incentive, visit www.dfwcleancities.org/evnt.

public involvement

Input sought on transportation improvements

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2018 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 set of project modifications will be available for public review and comment March 9-April 7 at www.nctcog.org/input. To request printed copies of the information, call 817-608-2335 or email jstout@nctcog.org.

The annual listing of obligated projects will also be available for review. Each year, NCTCOG, in consultation and coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation and public transportation agencies, compiles a listing of obligated projects, including investments in roadways, transit, maintenance, pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, for which federal funds were obligated in the preceding fiscal year.

Air quality fact sheet revised for ozone season

The NCTCOG Transportation Department has updated its air quality fact sheet in time for the beginning of ozone season in Dallas-Fort Worth. This revised document provides background on the region's continuing efforts to reduce the concentration of ground-level ozone and the role the public plays in this endeavor. Read more at www.nctcog.org/factsheets.

Ten DFW counties are in nonattainment for the pollutant ozone and are working to improve air quality. The counties are Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise.

resources

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\$1 million

The amount of money available through the North Central Texas Clean School Bus Call For Projects to entities wishing to improve the emissions of their bus fleets.

policymakers — RTC

TTC OKs funds for SH 360/IH 30 project

The Texas Transportation Commission approved \$1.7 billion in Proposition 1 projects in February. Among the regional enhancements expected to move forward with the help of \$367 million provided to the Dallas-Fort Worth area is an interchange at Interstate Highway 30 and State Highway 360. The \$247.5 million project will receive \$122.5 million in Proposition 1 funding. In the Dallas District, several projects are slated to receive funding, including the expansion of Interstate Highway 35E in Dallas and Ellis counties from four lanes to six.

The constitutional amendment Texas voters approved in November allows for a portion of the oil and gas severance taxes earmarked for the Rainy Day Fund to be spent on non-toll highway projects. For more on which projects received money, visit

www.txdot.gov/apps-cq/prop1/project_info.htm

Mobility Matters examines airport access

The winter issue of Mobility Matters is now available in print and online. The newsletter includes a cover story on the completion of Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Orange Line service to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and other significant surface transportation options improving access to the airport. Grand Prairie Mayor Ron Jensen provides his perspective in the RTC Spotlight, and NCTCOG Transportation Director Michael Morris discusses the department's revised Public Participation Plan.

On the Web: www.nctcog.org/MobilityMatters

Prepared in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation and the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the opinions, findings and conclusions presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration or the Texas Department of Transportation.