



April 2017

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

## DFW FLYBY aims to inspire youth to take flight

Do you know any aspiring ace pilots? Now, they can test their skills flying an F-35 fighter jet and other cool aircraft when they play the new FLYBY DFW game.

Available for Android and Apple devices, FLYBY DFW seeks to generate interest in aerospace and aviation careers for elementary, middle, and high school students in an effort to build the local talent pipeline for future employment opportunities.

## Calendar

**April 5, 8:30 am**

**TRTC**

Fort Worth Intermodal  
Transportation Center  
1001 Jones St.  
Fort Worth, TX 75093

**April 7, 11 am**

**DRMC**

North Texas Tollway Authority  
5900 W. Plano Parkway  
Plano, TX 76102

**April 13, 1 pm**

**Regional Transportation Council**

Transportation Council Room  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76011

**April 28, 1:30 pm**

**Surface Transportation**

**Technical Committee**

Transportation Council Room  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, TX 76011

## Is your check engine light on?

When that dreaded check engine light comes on, your mind inevitably races as numerous questions start flowing through your head.

*What does it mean?*

*How serious is it?*

*Can I still drive my car?*

*How much will it cost to fix?*

You can get these and other questions answered at one of seven Car Care Clinics planned throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area in April. The North Central Texas Council of Governments partners with local automobile repair shops each year to help motorists address issues related to their vehicles. This is the second year the clinics are focusing on the check engine light. When a vehicle's check engine light turns on, there may be an issue that could impact its emissions. Vehicles with check engine lights illuminated cannot pass the emissions portion of the State inspection. That means they cannot be registered.

These free clinics will provide drivers with an opportunity to talk to a technician about what may have caused the check engine light to come on and what may be required to fix the problem. Some vehicle owners may qualify for assistance with emissions repairs, if they meet certain income requirements. A NCTCOG staff member will be on hand at each clinic to explain the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program, which will allow qualifying motorists to get their vehicles repaired for as little as a \$30 copay so they can pass the emissions inspection. Income requirements for the program are available at [NCTCOG.org/airchecktexas](http://NCTCOG.org/airchecktexas). A family of four earning \$73,800 or less, for example, is eligible for a repair voucher worth up to \$600. Recipients' vehicles must also meet certain conditions. For more information on the clinics, visit [www.ntxcare.org](http://www.ntxcare.org).



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or [bwilson@nctcog.org](mailto:bwilson@nctcog.org). Visit [www.nctcog.org/trans](http://www.nctcog.org/trans) for more information on the department

## Air North Texas Unveils new website in time for ozone season



be air aware

Air North Texas, the region's clean air campaign, launched a new website in March. The redesigned site allows visitors to learn about air quality, find current ozone information, sign up for air pollution alerts, commit to clean air actions, and more.

A new feature of the site is a blog called Clean Air Corner. The blog features articles with air quality news and tips, which can easily be shared or commented on by visitors. Air North Texas invites all North Texans to take a look around the new site at [www.airnorthtexas.org](http://www.airnorthtexas.org).

North Texas ozone season began last month and now extends through the end of November. Ten of the region's counties are working to meet the federal government's ozone regulations, and Air North Texas provides options for individuals, governments and other employers to contribute to the effort.

## DART introduces service changes to help employment centers



DART Photo

The addition of Toyota and other employers to the booming Legacy area of Plano means jobs for the area and shopping and dining options for its residents. It also means more traffic. Dallas Area Rapid Transit has introduced changes to its bus service intended to help employees get to work. A new express route linking corporate campuses to Parker Road Station is among the changes for this area, which does not have direct access to light rail.

Express Bus Route 208 will be extended north from the Northwest Plano Park and Ride into Legacy West, directly serving JC Penney, JP Morgan Chase,

### **DART has modified its bus service to help employees in the Legacy area, which does not have direct access to light rail.**

FedEx Office, Toyota, Liberty Mutual and Frito Lay. This service operates on alternate trips, approximately every 30 minutes during morning and evening rush hours. For passengers on buses terminating at Northwest Plano Park and Ride, service to destinations in Legacy West will be available on Routes 211, 346 and 452. A new east-west Express Bus Route 211 will operate non-stop, every 15 minutes during peak periods only, between Parker Road Station and Northwest Plano Park & Ride, primarily along Spring Creek Parkway, then continuing into Legacy, serving Chase, JC Penney, FedEx, Liberty Mutual and Toyota. For more details on this and changes in Northwest Dallas to serve corporate headquarters in the Cypress Waters area, visit [www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=1281](http://www.dart.org/news/news.asp?ID=1281).

— Written by Dallas Area Rapid Transit

## Texas proposal among Hyperloop One semifinalists

The Regional Transportation Council has lent its support to a Texas effort to attract the Hyperloop, a way of transporting people and freight at high speeds via pods operating in tubes that run above ground or underground. The RTC approved a resolution in March supporting the Texas Triangle proposal, which could bring the technology to Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and Houston, with a freight-only operation to South Texas.

The resolution does not allocate any money to the effort or call for a specific technology, but if the Texas proposal is named a finalist, investment and jobs could follow. And with the presence of two large cities about 30 miles apart, the Dallas-Fort Worth corridor could be an initial deployment site. The Texas proposal is among 35 semifinalists, from a pool of 2,600 entries, competing in the Hyperloop One Global Challenge. The finalists will be selected in a few months.

Hyperloop One is seeking applicants who most powerfully make the case for how the Hyperloop would revolutionize the transportation of people and goods while creating economic opportunities, according to [www.hyperloop-one.com](http://www.hyperloop-one.com).

## Become an I-30 Insider, earn rewards



The I-30 Insider Challenge, which encourages alternative commuting modes such as carpooling or telecommuting through the use of incentives,

concludes April 28. When logging their alternatives to driving alone along I-30, commuters can earn rewards, which can be exchanged for gift cards to merchants.

By choosing an alternative commute, drivers can help improve air quality and traffic congestion by reducing the number of single-occupant vehicles on the roads during rush hour.

Residents who do not regularly commute on I-30 can still benefit. That is because all North Texans can be entered into a drawing for a \$250 Amazon gift card when they register for Try Parking It and take a survey. Register for the program today at [www.i30insider.com](http://www.i30insider.com) and begin logging your alternative commutes.

## SolSmart helps N. Texas become “solar friendly”

Earlier this year, five North Texas cities took the first steps toward participating in the national SolSmart program. Cedar Hill, Denton, Kennedale, Lewisville and Plano will work with The Solar Foundation and technical advisors to reduce solar soft costs and adopt solar-friendly policies.

Through participation, cities are sending the solar market a signal that they are “open for business” and can receive national recognition for their efforts. SolSmart is intended to make it easier to deliver solar energy to more homes and reduce the cost of the renewable energy. Cities wishing to become SolSmart are encouraged to learn more about the program and apply at [www.gosparc.org/apply-now/](http://www.gosparc.org/apply-now/).

NCTCOG staff is available to assist interested cities with applications and intake forms; if interested, contact Kristina Ronneberg at [kronneberg@nctcog.org](mailto:kronneberg@nctcog.org) or Rachel Evans at [revans@nctcog.org](mailto:revans@nctcog.org).

## Transportation Resources

### **Facebook**

Facebook.com/nctcogtrans

### **Twitter**

Twitter.com/nctcogtrans

### **YouTube**

YouTube.com/nctcogtrans

### **Instagram**

Instagram.com/nctcogtrans

### **Publications**

NCTCOG.org/trans/outreach/publications.asp

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## Partners

**Dallas Area Rapid Transit**  
DART.org

**Denton County  
Transportation Authority**  
DCTA.net

**North Texas Tollway Authority**  
NTTA.org

**The Fort Worth  
Transportation Authority**  
FWTA.org

**Texas Department  
of Transportation**  
TxDOT.gov

## By the Numbers

# 38

Semifinalists competing in the Hyperloop One Global Challenge. Hyperloop One is seeking applicants who make the case for how the Hyperloop would revolutionize the transportation of people and goods.

# PUBLIC *Involvement*

## **NCTCOG to discuss partnerships with public**

The NCTCOG Transportation Department will hold a public meeting April 12 at its Arlington offices to discuss proposed roadway and transit projects and more.

Scheduled for 2:30 p.m., the meeting will be streamed live on the internet, giving residents unable to attend the meeting in person access to it in real time.

The Hemphill/Lamar Connector project, south of downtown Fort Worth, experienced rising costs as it neared implementation. Staff will provide details of a proposed partnership with Fort Worth to facilitate construction of the project.

DART requested a partnership with the RTC to assist with the Transit Related Improvement Program, or TRIP, which helps DART respond to concerns from member cities without rail service. This partnership will benefit Dallas-Fort Worth by increasing the pool of regional funds available for future projects. Staff will discuss the innovative funding exchange between DART and the RTC.

Additionally, a funding partnership is being proposed among the RTC, Dallas County and the cities of Lancaster and Hutchins for several roadway projects in southern Dallas County. The proposed projects would provide critical connections to Interstate Highway 45 and intermodal facilities. Staff will discuss the potential funding partnership.

This live streaming of the public meeting represents the department's effort to provide innovative opportunities for the public to become involved in transportation. Following the meeting, a recording of the proceedings will be available at [www.nctcog.org/input](http://www.nctcog.org/input). Public comments will be accepted through May 12.

### DETAILS

**What:** Public Meeting  
**When:** April 12, 2:30 pm  
**Where:** 616 Six Flags Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76011

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.