



## COLLIN COUNTY

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**To:** Commissioners Court **Date:** October 16, 2009

**From:** Ruben Delgado, P.E.  
Director of Engineering

**Subject:** Request for Approval of Environmental Scope of Work Provided by North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) for Segment 1 & Segment 3 of the Collin County Outer Loop

Per the Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) Project funding The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will provide Environmental Assessments Services and documentation for Collin County for Segment 1 and Segment 3 of the County Outer Loop – see attached Scope of Work.

NCTCOG will develop two separate local environmental documents for the purposes of acquisition of right-of-way and constructing roads for Segment 1 from US 75 to SH 121 and Segment 3 (Dallas North Tollway to US 75 of the Collin County Outer Loop. The total centerline length for Segment 1 is approximately 4.6 miles and 14.2 miles for Segment 3.

The Scope of Services provided by NCTCOG includes the following tasks:

- Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination
- Task 2 – Technical Assistance for Segment 3
- Task 3 – Public Involvement Related to the Environmental Documents
- Task 4 – Social, Economic, and Environmental Studies
- Task 5 – Develop Environmental Guidelines for the CCTRA

Regional Toll Revenues will fund the NCTCOG environmental services therefore Collin County funding is not required.

We request Commissioners Court consider approval of NCTCOG's scope of services to Collin County for development of environmental documents for Segments 1 and 3 of the Collin County Outer Loop.

xc: Tracy Homfeld

AGENDAMEMNCTCOGSEGMENT1&

The scope of work to be provided by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) includes the development of two separate local environmental documents for the purposes of purchasing right-of-way and constructing frontage roads for Segment 1 (from US 75 to SH 121) and Segment 3 [Dallas North Tollway (DNT) to US 75] of the Collin County Outer Loop. Total centerline length for Segment 1 is approximately 4.6 miles and 14.2 miles for Segment 3.

The following outlines the items to be provided by Collin County and the work to be performed by NCTCOG.

**Items to be Provided by Collin County:**

- Right of entry for environmental surveys
- Plan and profile (with applicable 3D CAD file)
- Typical section(s)
- Right-of-way limits (existing and proposed)
- Construction, utility relocation, and right-of-way cost estimates
- Cultural resources report for Segment 1
- Previous alignment studies
- Approved thoroughfare plans
- Meeting summaries and comments from previous public meetings
- Relevant Commissioner Court and/or Collin County Toll Road Authority (CCTRA) Board Resolutions related to the facility
- Selection and securing the site for the public hearings
- Alignment/engineering-related displays for public hearings
- Conducting the public hearings

**Scope of Work to be Conducted by NCTCOG:**Task 1 - Project Management and Coordination

1. Communications/Correspondence. As necessary, NCTCOG, on behalf of the CCTRA, will coordinate with state and federal resource agencies in regards to the information and analysis needed for the local environmental documents. NCTCOG will copy CCTRA on all written materials used to solicit project information, and/or data collection. Copies of incoming correspondence will be also be provided to CCTRA.
2. Progress Meetings. Monthly progress meeting (in person, conference call, or videoconference) will be conducted to keep CCTRA informed of NCTCOG progress.
3. Release of Information. Release of project information to non-CCTRA offices will be approved by the designated-CCTRA contact.
4. Administrative Record. NCTCOG will establish the administrative record for the projects, which will be turned over to CCTRA upon completion of the documents.

Task 2 – Technical Assistance for Segment 3

During the alignment studies for Segment 3, NCTCOG will support the CCTRA by providing the data collected for the Regional Outer Loop and attendance at relevant project meetings and public meetings.

Task 3 - Public Involvement Related to the Environmental Documents

Prior to approval of the local environmental documents, NCTCOG will support CCTRA in conducting public hearings for each segment to discuss the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the projects as documented in the local environmental documents. A one-hour open house will be conducted prior to the hearings. NCTCOG will develop the legal and general advertisements as well as a flyer to notify persons on the CCTRA mailing list. NCTCOG will also prepare sign-in sheets, comment cards, handouts, and environmental related displays for the hearings.

NCTCOG will compile comments received at the open house and public hearings. A summary report will be created and include comment cards, letters, attendance sheets, summary of verbal and written input, etc. These reports will include photographs of informational displays/displayed schematics, handouts, questionnaires, etc. distributed; comment cards, letters, attendance sheets, and any non-transcript verbal input.

Task 4 – Social, Economic, and Environmental Studies

NCTCOG will prepare two individual local environmental documents for each segment. These documents will mirror an Environmental Assessment prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act, 43 Texas Administrative Code, and Federal Highway Administration Technical Advisory (FHWA) T6640.8A. To the greatest extent possible, NCTCOG will use previous data collected and analysis conducted by the CCTRA during the alignment studies. The environmental document for Segment 3 will not start until NCTCOG receives direction from the CCTRA to begin.

The documents will record the alternatives previously considered. The analysis will focus on the locally preferred alignment adopted by the CCTRA Board for each segment plus the no build alternative. NCTCOG will assess the current conditions and potential impacts associated with: land use, social-economic conditions, relocation and right-of-way requirements, environmental justice, joint development, indirect and cumulative impacts, air quality, mobile source air toxins (MSAT), noise, permits, water quality, wetlands, jurisdictional waters, floodplains, visual impacts, construction impacts, prime and unique farmlands, parklands and open space, waterway modification, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, historic and archeological impacts/preservation, and regulated/hazardous material sites. The proposed outline for each document is as follows:

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Need and Purpose for Proposed Action
- 3.0 Description of Existing Facility
- 4.0 Alternatives
  - 4.1 Planning and Alternative Development Process
  - 4.2 Development of Reasonable Alternatives
  - 4.3 Description of Alternatives Evaluated in this Document
  - 4.4 Public and Agency Coordination
- 5.0 Environmental Resources, Effects, and Mitigation
  - 5.1 Social and Economic
    - 5.1.1 Land Use
    - 5.1.2 Right-of-Way and Relocations
    - 5.1.3 Community Cohesion
    - 5.1.4 Economic
    - 5.1.5 Public Facilities and Services

- 5.1.6 Utilities
- 5.1.9 Visual
- 5.1.7 Demographics
  - 5.1.7.1 Environmental Justice
  - 5.1.7.2 Limited English Proficiency
- 5.2 Natural Resources
  - 5.2.1 Farmland
  - 5.2.2 Vegetation
  - 5.2.3 Threatened and Endangered Species
  - 5.2.4 Wildlife and Migratory Birds
  - 5.2.5 Water Quality
  - 5.2.6 Floodplains
  - 5.2.7 Wetlands/Waters of the U.S.
- 5.3 Regulated/Hazardous Materials
- 5.4 Air Quality
- 5.5 Noise
- 5.6 Cultural Resources
- 5.7 Parklands and Open Space
- 5.8 Indirect and Cumulative Impacts
- 6.0 Conclusion

#### 4.1 Noise Analyses

NCTCOG will perform a noise analysis using the FHWA Traffic Noise Model. In accordance with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) *Guidelines for Analysis and Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise*, this analysis will include existing noise levels, predicted noise levels, considerate and evaluate the feasibility of noise mitigation, and noise levels for undeveloped lands. Using the noise levels, NCTCOG will prepare and send letters to local governments advising them of the noise impacts on undeveloped lands for their future land use planning. NCTCOG will include a summary of the noise analysis in the document.

#### 4.2 Air Quality Analysis

NCTCOG will perform air quality analyses in accordance with the TxDOT *Air Quality Guidelines* dated June 2006. A qualitative MSAT analysis will be assumed for each segment.

#### 4.3 Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. Investigations

For Segment 1, the NCTCOG will use to the greatest extent possible, the environmental investigations conducted during the design phase for Segment 1. For Segment 3, NCTCOG will perform a wetlands and waters of the U.S. field survey and delineations in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements. If necessary, the NCTCOG will provide a “wetlands and waters of the U.S. finding” and notify CCTRA as soon as possible if it is believed a Section 404 Permit is required.

#### 4.4 Regulated/Hazardous Materials

NCTCOG will perform an initial site assessment for potential regulated and hazardous materials impacts that will determine the potential for encountering hazardous materials in the study area including possible environmental liability, increased handling requirements and costs, construction worker safety aspects, and mitigation. This assessment will be in accordance with the TxDOT *Hazardous Materials in Project Development Guidance*.

**4.5 Cultural Resources**

For Segment 3 only, NCTCOG will hire a qualified firm to perform historical and archaeological resources surveys/investigations to fulfill the requirements of the Texas Antiquities Code. NCTCOG will prepare and mail required correspondence to local governments/agencies requesting review and concurrence on the project impacts. This investigation will include an area of potential effect, defined as an area approximately 150 feet beyond the proposed right-of-way limits.

**Task 5 – Develop Environmental Guidelines for the CCTRA**

NCTCOG will prepare proposed guidelines for the scope, analyses, and approval process related to the preparation of local environmental documents. NCTCOG will also recommend a range of potential mitigation strategies for noises walls, best management practices for storm water runoff, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, Section 401 permitting, and Section 404 permitting.