

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, March 9, 2023
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

Pledge to the United States and Texas Flags

- 1:00 – 1:10**
1. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Today's Agenda**
 Information Minutes: 10
Item Summary: Members of the public may comment on any item(s) on today's agenda at this time. If speaking, please complete a Speaker Request Card, available at the meeting, and provide to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum three (3) minutes is permitted per speaker. At the conclusion of this item, no further opportunities for public comment will be provided for the duration of the meeting.
Background: N/A
- 1:10 – 1:15**
2. **Approval of February 9, 2023, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Duncan Webb, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the February 9, 2023, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:15 – 1:20**
3. **Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
- 1:20 – 1:35**
4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
1. Public Meeting Date for US 75 Technology Hearing, March 16, 2023
 2. Transportation Development Credit (TDC) Annual Report (Electronic Item 4.1)
 3. Completion of Phase 2 COVID-Related Transit Program
 4. Medal of Honor Museum Luncheon, March 20, 2023
 5. A Significant Number of Safety Items
 6. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Policy Bundle Round 5
 - a. Application Deadline: May 31, 2023, at 5:00pm
 - b. Workshop Information (www.nctcog.org/policybundle)

7. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
8. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
9. Local Clean Air Project Spotlight (Electronic Item 4.2)
10. February Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.3)
11. March Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.4)
12. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.5)
13. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.6)
14. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.7)
15. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.8)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Federal Functional Classification System Amendments**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Dan Lamers and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of 44 new amendments to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS), as well as a briefing on the status of a series of FFCS amendments previously approved between 2013 and 2022.

Background: While inclusion in the FFCS is based on a roadway's purpose and functioning capabilities, it is also used to determine eligibility for federal funding. Amendments to the FFCS occur as the function of an existing roadway changes, or as roadways need to be added due to construction; new developments; and shifts in demographic trends. Staff is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on 44 FFCS amendments within the Dallas, Fort Worth, and Paris TxDOT districts. These amendments involve the construction of new roadways and improvement of existing roadways which are included in the current 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These amendments are necessary to lift FFCS related TIP exceptions applied by the Federal Highway Administration. A summary table of the proposed amendments is included in Electronic Item 5.1 with coordinating maps provided in Electronic Item 5.2. Staff will also brief the Council on the status of a series of proposed amendments to the FFCS which were previously approved by the RTC after 2013. A summary table for these previously approved amendments is provided in Electronic Item 5.3. Additional information is included in Electronic Item 5.4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Roadway Safety Plan**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval of the newly developed Regional Roadway Safety Plan including analysis, High Injury Network, recommended countermeasures, and next steps.

Background: From 2016-2020, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 12-county area experienced 3,752 fatalities and 19,405 serious injuries on its roadways. The Regional Roadway Safety Plan is the first regionwide plan to eliminate all fatal crashes on the roadways by 2050 in accordance with safety positions adopted by the Regional Transportation Council and the Texas Transportation Commission. Staff will provide an overview of the newly developed Roadway Safety Plan, including goals, analysis, emphasis areas, and recommended safety countermeasures. The plan also includes a High Injury Network, which is a prioritized list of the most dangerous roadway segments in the region. The plan will serve as a guide for the implementation of future systemic safety projects and programs to work towards a goal of zero fatalities on the region's roadways by 2050. An overview of the Roadway Safety Plan is included in Electronic Item 6. A draft version of the Roadway Safety Plan can be reviewed on the Transportation Safety web page: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/safety/transportation-safety>.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Federal and State Legislative Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Rebekah Gongora and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on federal, and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 118th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2023. The 88th Texas Legislature convened on January 10, 2023. This item will allow staff to provide updates on key positions of the Regional Transportation Council and allow any additional positions to be taken, if necessary.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Latest Transportation Performance Metrics for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present the latest congestion performance measures related to the mobility success of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region.

Background: Electronic Item 8 contains two graphics: the first figure has previously been presented to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and demonstrates the congestion levels in the DFW region over time. The second figure contains recent information that indicates the DFW region is the 14th most congested region in the United States (US). This is an amazing finding since the DFW region is the 4th, soon to be the 3rd largest region, in the US. This graphic compares Dallas-Fort Worth's congestion levels with other more congested cities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:15 – 2:25

9. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study: Phase Two**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on coordination efforts with the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration to advance this project through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Staff will introduce next steps in Phase 2, including conceptual and preliminary engineering of a high-speed rail corridor generally along Interstate Highway (IH) 30 to support environmental analysis and documentation for the NEPA process.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis of high-speed modes and corridors. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and a NEPA effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Following the substantial completion of Phase 1 activities, the Regional Transportation Council adopted policy P22-01 (Policy Support to Advance High-Speed Rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study into Phase 2 National Environmental Policy Act Process) in February 2022, advancing the preferred mode, high-speed rail, along the preferred corridor, IH 30. Policy P22-01 is provided as Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

- 2:25 – 2:35** 10. **Major Source Emissions Fee Requirements (Section 185) and the Start of 2023 Ozone Season**
- Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
- Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on air quality topics, including a summary of potential federal requirements for stationary source fees resulting from recent reclassification and the start of the 2023 ozone season.
- Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area was recently reclassified to stricter ozone standards for both the 2015 (“Marginal” to “Moderate”) and 2008 (“Serious” to “Severe”) National Ambient Air Quality Standards. As a result of the recent severe classification for the 2008 ozone standard, the region may become subject to an annual federally required major stationary source fee throughout the 10-County nonattainment area. The fees would be implemented as early as 2028 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) if the region fails to attain the 2008 standard by the end of 2026. The TCEQ is currently seeking stakeholder input in development of a Section 185 fee plan for submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). March 1 starts the 2023 ozone season for both the previously mentioned ozone standards. As a result of limited progress towards compliance over the past five years, staff is preparing formal communication to the TCEQ requesting greater attention in the tools to forecast emissions and analysis of the results, allowing the region to reach and stay in attainment. More information can be found in Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

- 2:35 – 2:45** 11. **Status Report on Vehicle Temporary Tags and Fraudulent Emissions Testing**
- Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
- Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG
- Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on improper vehicle inspections and vehicle registrations involving temporary tags. Staff will also cover recent legislative efforts that aim to reduce their prevalence.
- Background: There continues to be significant fraudulent vehicle registrations in the form of fictitious paper tags as well as improper vehicle inspections. Vehicles utilizing these fraudulent paper tags have been used to conceal crimes, and to circumvent proper emissions inspections, leading to a significant loss of revenue at a state, county, and local level. In addition, these activities contribute to a worsening of air quality throughout the region, as well as being a safety concern as the requirements of both a passing inspection and insurance to obtain a vehicle registration would be bypassed. Legislatively, a bill has been proposed to eliminate the paper tag altogether in response to the passing

of Grand Prairie Police Officer Brandon Tsai who lost his life pursuing a vehicle with a fictitious paper tag. Other bills have been proposed in support of returning fees collected by residents back to nonattainment counties for implementation of regional air quality and transportation initiatives. Electronic Item 11 contains more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

12. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 12.1)
- STTC Attendance (Electronic Item 12.2)

13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

14. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm on April 13, 2023, in the Transportation Council Room.***