

## AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council  
Thursday, August 10, 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 it to the North Central Texas Council of Governments designated staff person. A maximum of 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 July 13, 2023, Minutes**  
 Action  Possible Action  Information Minutes: 5  
Presenter: Gyna Bivens, RTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the July 13, 2023, meeting minutes contained in [Electronic Item 2](#) will be requested.  
Background: N/A
- 1:15 – 1:20**
3. **Consent Agenda**  
 Action  Possible Action  Information Minutes : 5
    - 3.1. **Local Match for Traffic Signal Initiatives**  
Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to utilize RTC Local funds to support the local match requirement for the Regional Traffic Signal Enhancement Program is being requested.  
Background: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project 11616 supports traffic signal initiatives and is funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds. State and local funds fulfill the match requirement. Local governments have provided some local match to support location-specific signal projects. The North Central Texas Council of Governments' staff is requesting use of RTC Local funds in the amount of \$200,000 to support additional local match needs, including support for the regional-wide traffic signal equipment inventory, and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents as needed. Some of this funding will be used to cover

costs previously incurred. [Electronic Item 3.1](#) contains proposed action.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

1:20 – 1:35

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 15  
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery ([Electronic Item 4.1](#))
2. Summary of Approved Transportation and Air Quality Legislation – 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature ([Electronic Item 4.2](#))
3. Texas Department of Transportation – Metropolitan Planning Organization Communication ([Electronic Item 4.3](#))
4. Unified Transportation Program Comments
5. Federal Communications Commission Waiver Request Letter ([Electronic Item 4.4](#))
6. High Speed Rail in Texas: Recent News
7. Amtrak Service Between Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta
8. Emissions Reductions Strategies from Transportation – Meeting August 14, 2023 – ([Electronic Item 4.5](#))
9. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report ([Electronic Item 4.6](#))
10. 2023 Ozone Season Update ([Electronic Item 4.7](#))
11. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
12. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding))
13. Mobility Matters (Handout)
14. July Online Input Opportunity Minutes ([Electronic Item 4.8](#))
15. Public Comments Report ([Electronic Item 4.9](#))
16. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 4.10](#))
17. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 4.11](#))
18. Recent Press Releases ([Electronic Item 4.12](#))

1:35 – 1:45

5. **2024 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan Update**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10  
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action on the proposed changes to the Regional 10-Year Plan Update will be requested.

Background: Since December 2016, the RTC has annually approved a set of projects funded with Category 2 (Metropolitan Planning Organization selected) and Category 4 (Texas Department of Transportation District selected) funds and submitted for Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) consideration with Category 12 (TTC selected) funds that cover 10 years of highway projects. Since the last update in 2022, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff has coordinated with

the TxDOT Dallas, Paris (Hunt County), and Fort Worth districts regarding updates to previously approved projects, as well as potential additions to the 10-Year Plan to be included in the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). [Electronic Item 5.1](#) includes additional information about the plan, the previously approved Category 2/12 funding exchange to advance the IH 30 Canyon project, and the reduction of proposed Category 12 funds since the May 2023 draft listings. [Electronic Item 5.2](#) contains the proposed list of planned projects for the Regional 10-Year Plan. [Electronic Item 5.3](#) contains the 10-Year Plan projects that have let or been completed. [Electronic Item 5.4](#) contains the previously requested letter to the TTC about the distribution of formula allocated Categories 2/4 vs. Category 12 funding.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 (FY23/24) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. This \$5.575 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

Background: On June 26, 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY23/24 MPDG Discretionary Grant Program. As with last year, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) combines three major discretionary grant programs in efforts to reduce burdens for state and local applicants, increase the pipeline of “shovel-worthy” projects now possible because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and enable US DOT to get a more comprehensive view of projects in development nationwide. The MPDG Program application deadline is August 21, 2023, for the following funding programs:

- The National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) Program will provide \$1.8 billion in FY23/24 funding for major projects too large or complex for traditional funding programs.
- The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (continuation of the existing Infrastructure for Rebuilding America, or INFRA Program) will provide \$3.1 billion in FY23/24 funding for highway, bridge, freight rail, intermodal, and marine transportation projects of regional and national significance.
- The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) will provide \$675 million in FY23/24 funding supporting projects to improve/expand rural area surface transportation

infrastructure for increased connectivity and enhanced safety and reliability of people and freight movements to generate regional economic growth and greater quality of life.

[Electronic Item 6](#) provides program details, application requirements, and information regarding candidate projects. For agencies in the region submitting their own projects, please be aware you must complete the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Monday, August 7, 2023, at [nallen@nctcog.org](mailto:nallen@nctcog.org).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement

1:55 – 2:00

7. **Ratification of Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) ratification of revisions to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) added late to the August 2023 TIP modification cycle at the request of TxDOT Dallas will be requested, along with the ability to amend the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other planning and administrative documents with TIP-related changes.

Background: Texas Department of Transportation requested that six projects from the Regional 10-Year Plan be added late to the August 2023 Statewide TIP (STIP) Revision Cycle in order to add these projects to the 2023-2026 TIP. They requested this action in order to potentially expedite the projects from FY2027 or later into FY2024 or FY2025. While advancing projects to earlier fiscal years is an administrative TIP change, some of the projects required changes to scope or funding to make them consistent with the Mobility Plan or the pending 10-Year Plan updates associated with the 2024 Unified Transportation Program. The Transportation Department Director approved the TIP modifications and inclusion in the 2023-2026 STIP subject to RTC approval. The six TIP modifications are provided in [Electronic Item 7](#) for the Council's consideration. These projects have been reviewed for consistency with the Mobility Plan, the air quality conformity determination, and financial constraint of the TIP, and received public involvement with the 10-Year Plan.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway

2:00 – 2:10

8. **Census Bureau Urban Boundary Update: Federal Transit Administration Designation Recipient Selection and Metropolitan Planning Organization Designated Status**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is requesting approval of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) being selected as the Designated

Recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for the newly designated McKinney-Frisco Urbanized Area. Staff will provide a briefing on implications for NCTCOG/Regional Transportation Council's (RTC's) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Designated Status.

Background: On December 29, 2022, the Census Bureau published updates to urban areas based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing counts and density calculations. Based on the 2010 Census there are three urbanized areas in the Dallas-Fort Worth region: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney. Under the new 2020 designations, Frisco is now combined with McKinney to create the McKinney-Frisco urbanized area, which requires designation of a new Designated Recipient for FTA funds prior to October 1, 2023. The staff's recommendation is that NCTCOG be selected as the Designated Recipient. Both the Frisco City Council and McKinney City Council have approved the recommendation that NCTCOG serve as the Designated Recipient. Under 23 CFR 450\_310, MPO redesignation is not necessary if a new urbanized area is identified within the boundaries of an existing metropolitan planning area boundary which is the case for the McKinney-Frisco urbanized area. Frisco and McKinney took action to confirm that NCTCOG in conjunction with the RTC, continue to serve as the MPO for the new McKinney-Frisco urbanized area. [Electronic Item 8.1](#) includes resolutions passed by Frisco and McKinney. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee approved the recommendation at its July meeting. Additional information is provided in [Electronic Item 8.2](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:10 – 2:15

9. **2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Development Kickoff**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenters: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Council will be briefed on initiation of the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. For regionally significant projects to proceed to implementation, they must be included in the TIP listings correctly. To this end, NCTCOG staff will coordinate with local partners to receive input and updates on all their active projects in order to create a draft project listing. Special attention will be placed on projects that are at risk of losing federal funds or on the Regional Transportation Council's MPO Milestone Policy list. Details on the 2025-2028 TIP development timeline and focus areas are available in [Electronic Item 9](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

**2:15 – 2:20** 10. **Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities Study Recommendations**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will update the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on the completion and key recommendations from the Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities Study.

Background: The RTC funded an Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities Study to investigate the potential for mobility hubs on and around college and university campuses throughout North Central Texas. The study assessed existing and future transportation and demographic conditions around campuses to provide recommendations for mobility hubs and improvements. A catalog of mobility hub components and strategic recommendations for mobility hub phasing, funding, and implementation was developed as part of the study. Staff will update the Council on the study results and recommendations. More details can be found in [Electronic Item 10](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Bike/Ped+, Transit

**2:20 – 2:30** 11. **Unmanned Aircraft Airspace Awareness Pilot Program**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Regional Transportation Council on the North Texas Unmanned Aircraft Airspace Awareness Pilot program. This program includes details impacting the pilot and how local governments can get the free application software and training. Staff will also provide information on an upcoming Workshop from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the upcoming Remote ID regulations.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has selected proposals from three companies to provide a tool that will enable residents and businesses to fly safely and receive live data on potential risks, advisories for local events or emergencies, and other flight planning features. The purpose of this software is to integrate Advanced Air Mobility and autonomous drone deliveries in the region. This initiative requires the use of Uncrewed Traffic Management and Providers of Services to Unmanned Aircraft Systems. NCTCOG plans to work with the three service providers on a two-year pilot program to develop a collaborative process for sharing essential data and automating flight information inputs. During the first year, NCTCOG will work with each platform provider to conduct training and develop workflows for data input. In the second year, the focus will be on sharing data across all platforms to enhance regional safety. Also, beginning September 16, 2023, all drone pilots who are required to register their Unmanned Aircraft Systems must operate in accordance with the rule on Remote ID. The FAA will conduct a workshop for the region on Friday, August 11, 2023. All details are available in [Electronic Item 11](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

2:30 – 2:35

12. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle Round 5**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on results from the fifth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle funding opportunity, including the plan to distribute available Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). The RTC will be asked to take action on a TDC distribution for successful policy bundle applicants in September.

Background: Recommendations in Mobility 2045 Update consist of policies, programs, and projects reflecting the region's priorities and support of Mobility 2045 goals. As construction of infrastructure projects alone cannot achieve the goals of the plan, a voluntary list of policies available for adoption by local agencies was designed to encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions. By voluntarily adopting 50 percent of these policies, participating agencies may receive TDCs to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. MTP Policy Bundle applications have been completed and reviewed. Staff will present a recommendation for distributing available TDCs to successful applicants as identified in [Electronic Item 12](#).

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

13. **Progress Reports**

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

- RTC Attendance ([Electronic Item 13.1](#))
- STTC Attendance and Minutes ([Electronic Item 13.2](#))

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

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

16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for **1:00 pm on September 14, 2023, in the Transportation Council Room**.