

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, September 14, 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 August 10, 2023, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Gyna Bivens, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the August 10, 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. **Transportation Paid Education Campaigns for Fiscal Year 2024**
Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will seek the Council's support of a recommendation to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board for the approval of funding up to \$1,540,700 for Transportation Paid Education Campaigns that will initiate in Fiscal Year 2024.
Background: Since 2014, the NCTCOG Executive Board has been authorizing annual large-scale advertising purchase and placement initiatives for the Transportation Department. The education campaigns are for Public Involvement for multiple projects, the Congestion Management Program, Drive Aware North Texas, Look Out Texans, the Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP), Car Care Awareness, Local Air Quality Projects, the HOV 2+ Incentive Program (GoCarma), Air North Texas, and Clean Cities/National Drive Electric Week (NDEW). Flexible Funding for Public Involvement/Notifications is for possible unanticipated costs that may arise, such as

a specialized public meeting series that may need notifications posted. Efforts will be funded in a combination of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds, Transportation Planning Funds (TPFs), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program, Federal Transit Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Local Funds, and RTC Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of cash match. Education campaigns will be in multiple languages and may be presented through out-of-home advertising, print, screen, online, audio, and social media mediums. Electronic Item 3.1 provides more detail.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3.2. **Application to the Environmental Protection Agency Diesel Emissions Reduction Act 2024 Program**

Presenter: Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to open a Call for Partners to public and private fleets and submit an application to pursue funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program.

Background: To address medium and heavy-duty diesel vehicle and equipment emissions and protect public health and air quality, EPA is authorized under DERA to offer funding assistance to accelerate the upgrade, retrofit, and turnover of the legacy diesel fleet. Eligible activities include the retrofit or replacement of existing diesel engines, vehicles, and equipment with EPA and California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified engine configurations and verified retrofit and idle reduction technologies. The DERA program will offer funding up to \$3 million per application from Region 6. The North Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) will apply on behalf of public agencies and private fleets in the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment region. For the past several years, NCTCOG has successfully applied and been awarded for replacing and updating diesel vehicles and equipment like school buses, fire trucks, refuse trucks, terminal tractors, airport support equipment to cleaner diesel and alternative fuel vehicles and equipment. Upon approval of RTC, staff will open a Call for Partners for private sector and public agency fleets with the intent to develop a public-private partnership proposal to EPA. The application packet is due to EPA by December 1, 2023. If NCTCOG is awarded the funding, recipients will be funded through a rebate reimbursement. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the

current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 3.2 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: 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. Denton County Transit Study Recommendations ([North Central Texas Council of Governments - Denton County Transit Study \(nctcog.org\)](#))
2. Public Meeting for the Eastern Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties Transit Study ([Eastern Dallas, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties Transit Study - PublicInput](#))
3. Director's Response to the Public Comments Received During the August Regional Transportation Council Meeting
4. Latest Regional Transportation Council Comments on the Unified Transportation Program (Electronic Item 4.1)
5. Public Meeting for Forest Hill Drive
6. Upcoming Public Meeting for Fair Park (www.publicinput.com/fairparklinks)
7. High Speed Rail in Texas: Recent Public Meeting and News (Electronic Item 4.2)
8. Getting Projects to Letting
9. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
10. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
11. September Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 4.3)
12. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.4)
13. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.5)
14. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.6)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **2023 Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) with information on the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program and request approval to apply for candidate projects. Applications are due to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) by September 28, 2023.

Background: On July 5, 2023, USDOT announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity to solicit applications for RCN funding. This \$3.353 billion program combines Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program funds through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law with Neighborhood Access and Equity Program funds through the Inflation Reduction Act. Eligible entities (as the lead applicant) may submit no more than three applications for Community

Planning Grants, two for Capital Construction Grants, and one for Regional Partnership Challenge Grants. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for a project that removes, retrofits, or mitigates transportation facilities which create mobility, accessibility, and/or economic development barriers to community connectivity and vitality. Staff will present a proposal to submit an application to pursue funding for four pedestrian caps:

- Klyde Warren Park (Phase 2)
- Southern Gateway (Phase 2)
- Interstate Highway 30 Farmers Market: Three Fingers
- McKinney State Highway 5

The request for the RTC's action is based on coordinated and strategic efforts among partners to optimize success for the candidate projects. Assuming the projected timing for application development, requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC, by agencies submitting their own applications, should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Thursday, September 14, 2023, at nallen@nctcog.org. Electronic Item 5 contains more details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:45 – 1:55

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of Transportation Development Credit (TDC) allocations for successful applicants from the fifth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle funding opportunity.

Background: Recommendations in the Mobility 2045 Update consist of policies, programs, and projects reflecting the region's priorities and support 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 6.1. Additional details provided in Electronic Item 6.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Safety

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program: Approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments Applications**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG's) submission of Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program applications.

Background: In October 2022, staff briefed the Council on the Notice of Funding Opportunity under the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Program (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART>). The grants in this second year of the SMART Program are planning grants of up to \$2 million. SMART grants in later years will fund implementation of projects developed by planning grant awardees. Planning grant applications are due on October 10, 2023. A local match is not required. Staff is preparing a SMART planning grant application for Unmanned Traffic Management. This will work as a funding mechanism for Phase Two of the North Texas Airspace Awareness Pilot recently presented. More information is available in Electronic Item 7.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:05 – 2:20

8. **Regional Transit Version 2.0: Planning for Year 2050**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Director met with selected transportation authority cities concerned that cities often take their local transit issues to the Texas Legislature bypassing opportunities closer to home for resolution. Staff is recommending the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) initiate a comprehensive transit study focused on advancing transportation authority city communication on common concerns, greater transportation authority collaboration between agencies and additional attention on expanding transit services to areas with transit needs, therefore, the consideration of Transit Version 2.0.

Background: It is being suggested that the RTC initiate a comprehensive transportation partnership initiative that addresses seven programs:

- Request the RTC to develop a more aggressive transit legislative proposal like it has done in the past.
- How can the transportation authorities increase membership?
- Are there economies of scale that create cost savings among the transportation authorities maintaining Board independence?

- Demographic growth is growing faster outside transit boundaries. How do transit agency cities develop better tools to capture market share?
- Improve Transit Board teamwork, where needed, redirecting legislature requests.
- Explore membership loyalty transit fare programs and maintain revenue benefits.
- Pursue resolution of the transit authority/city paradox.

Electronic Item 8.1 contains correspondence from cities following the meeting with the NCTCOG Transportation Director. Electronic Item 8.2 contains the draft white paper laying out the intent of the effort.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:20 – 2:25

9. North Texas Electric Vehicle Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: -5

Presenters: Amy Hodges, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will give an update on the number of registered electric vehicles (EVs) in Texas and North Texas and provide updates on upcoming EV-related programs and events.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments has been the host organization for Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC), a United States Department of Energy (DOE) initiative to reduce total energy impacts in the transportation sector since 1994. As part of this effort, DFWCC queries electric vehicle registration data from the Department of Motor Vehicles and makes this information available online for stakeholders at www.dfwcleancities.org/evsintexas. This data is essential to the region’s ability to prepare for vehicle electrification and associated infrastructure. Additionally, staff will give an update on upcoming programs and events, including the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, Oncor’s EVolution, the Regional EV Infrastructure Working Group, and National Drive Electric Week (NDEW). NDEW is a nationwide celebration to highlight the benefits of EVs, including the important role they play in improving the region’s air quality. DFWCC has hosted the Dallas-Fort Worth NDEW event since 2011. Electronic Item 9 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:25 – 2:35

10. 2023 Ozone Season Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the status of the 2023 ozone season including exceedance days, current design values, and future impacts facing the region.

Background: The Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area is currently classified as “moderate” for the 2015 ozone standard with an attainment deadline in 2024 based on 2021, 2022, and 2023 monitor data. Preliminary monitor data indicates the area has

failed to attain the 2015 standard and will likely be reclassified to “serious” in the future. A draft air quality plan for the “moderate” nonattainment has been prepared by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Staff comments on the TCEQ draft plan is included as Electronic Item 10. In addition, the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area is currently classified as “severe” for the 2008 ozone standard with an attainment deadline in 2027. Attainment will be based on 2024, 2025, and 2026 monitor data. An air quality plan is currently under development by TCEQ. It is anticipated to be available for public comment in November.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:35 – 2:45

11. **2022 Transportation Safety Performance Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on items included in the 2022 Safety Program Performance Measures Report.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Safety Program Performance Measures Report provides an annual report on the performance of various NCTCOG safety programs, projects, and statistics such as regional crash and fatality data, top 10 contributing factors for regional crashes, county-level crash rates, attendance statistics for Traffic Incident Management Training courses, Roadside Assistance Program statistics, an update on the Regional Roadway Safety Plan development, as well as updates on the Texas Department of Transportation/Metropolitan Planning Organization Task Force and Friends of the Safety Committee. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 11.1. The 2022 NCTCOG Safety Program Performance Measures Report is included as Electronic Item 11.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: 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 and Minutes (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 October 12, 2023, in the Transportation Council Room.**