

## AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council  
Thursday, December 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 November 9, 2023, Minutes**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information Minutes: 5  
Presenter: Gyna Bivens, RTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the November 9, 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. **Modifications to the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program**  
Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other administrative/planning documents, as appropriate, to reflect the approved modifications will also be sought.  
Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2024 and FY2025 UPWP was approved by the Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board in July 2023 and identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025.

Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates, and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments are provided in [Electronic Item 3.1.1](#) and are posted on the NCTCOG website for public review and comment as part of the November 2023 online public outreach opportunity. Additional information is provided in [Electronic Item 3.1.2](#). The Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled to take action at its December 8, 2023, meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

3.2. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Additional Funding for National Environmental Policy Act Consultant**

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval of additional funding (as a “not to exceed” amount) for a consultant contract to complete preliminary engineering and environmental documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additional funding provision requested not to exceed 10 percent of original contract budget; Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds are requested for this purpose; the approval is for \$1,099,657 million.

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, which was completed in late 2022. The second phase includes conceptual and preliminary engineering and a NEPA effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project’s next steps; this phase is expected to be complete in late 2024. Public and stakeholder input as well as constraints resulting from conceptual engineering analysis required development of additional alignment alternatives than originally anticipated and inclusion of tunneling expertise for preferred alignment in the NEPA process. [Electronic Item 3.2](#) provides additional information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

3.3. **Regional Transportation Council Local Funds for North Texas Innovation Alliance Urban Resilience Fellowship Program**

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of \$18,000 in RTC Local funds to support three problem statements submitted through the North Texas Innovation Alliance (NTXIA) Urban Resilience Fellowship Program.

Background: During the summer of 2023, NTXIA initiated the Urban Resilience Fellowship Program. This program connects teams of students from higher education institutions across Dallas-Fort Worth with a community partner from local governments or industry to develop innovative solutions to pressing local issues. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation staff submitted the following three problem statements:

- Municipal Broadband Deployment Related to the Enhancement of Roadway and Residential Connectivity
- Development of an Integrated Network Design and Demand Estimation of Advanced Air Mobility
- Evaluating the Change to Electric Aircraft Fleets, Developing Strategies, Benchmarking and Modeling the Market for Electric Aircraft Costs

NCTCOG has partnered with the University of Texas at Arlington to address these problem statements. The program will begin in the 2024 Spring semester and will start with introductions of the community partner and student teams, along with the development of a baseline understanding of the problems and a path forward towards solutions. Then, students move into a four-week sprint of prototyping and development, with a final close out of project outcomes and presentations. Each problem statement cost \$6,000, for a total not to exceed \$18,000. Staff is requesting RTC approval of \$18,000 in RTC Local funds to participate in this program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety and Transit

1:20 – 1:35

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

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

1. High Speed Rail News (Electronic Item 4.1); KERA article ([Transportation director tells Arlington city leaders getting a high-speed rail stop isn't free | KERA News](#))
2. 2024 Regional Transportation Council and Surface Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Schedules (Electronic Item 4.2)

3. Status of Texas Department of Transportation Rule Making for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Electronic Item 4.3)
4. Local Elected Officials Meeting with Texas Department of Transportation Commissioners (Electronic Item 4.4)
5. Transportation Development Credit Annual Report and Regional Transportation Council Local funds (Electronic Item 4.5)
6. Approval of North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board Action on Advertising and Introduction of Risk Analysis
7. Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects Obligations Notice (Electronic Item 4.6)
8. Broadband as a Transportation Service Update (Electronic Item 4.7)
9. North Central Texas Council of Governments Invited to Participate in the Texas Department of Transportation Working Group on Medium-and Heavy-Duty Truck Charging Infrastructure (Electronic Item 4.8)
10. Air Quality Brochure (Handout)
11. High Occupancy Vehicle Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 4.9)
12. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
13. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([www.nctcog.org/aqfunding](http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding))
14. Local Clean Air Spotlight (Electronic Item 4.10)
15. Air North Texas Partner Awards and Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Fleet Recognition (Electronic Item 4.11)
16. December Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 4.12)
17. November Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 4.13)
18. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.14)
19. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.15)
20. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.16)
21. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.17)

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Safety Program Implementation of Innovative Ideas to Reduce Youth Fatalities Due to Motor Vehicle Crashes**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for \$4 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds to be added to the RTC Safety Program for the implementation of innovative ideas to reduce youth fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes.

Background: In 2021, only 12 percent of licensed drivers within the State of Texas are under the age of 25 years old and account for nearly 19 percent of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. This disproportionate risk can be explained by several causes including inexperience, critical errors in driving decisions,

distracted driving, speeding, as well as substance abuse. NCTCOG would like to partner with industry experts to implement innovative ideas to reduce youth fatalities associated with motor vehicle crashes. Staff are requesting RTC approval for \$4 million in RTR funds to be utilized to implement ideas that are generated through a Call for Partners. Additional information regarding this item can be found in Electronic Item 5.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Additional Professional Services for the Cotton Belt Trail**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Windsor, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval of funds for additional design services associated with the Cotton Belt Trail.

Background: The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line rail project is coordinating an approximate 26-mile parallel regionally significant Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail that will provide pedestrian and bicycle access to rail stations in seven cities across three counties. Construction of the Cotton Belt Trail is being managed by DART and will occur in phases as funding is available. Engineering design for the Trail initiated in January 2021. Additional design services, which were not anticipated with the initial negotiated consultant scope of work, are required to integrate the trail with the Silver Line Rail project and to adequately complete the plans that will be issued for construction. Staff will request \$4 million of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds with 800,000 Regional Transportation Development Credits for contingency funding of additional professional design services. An overview of the proposed funding request is contained in Electronic Item 6.

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

1:55 – 2:05

7. **Update on Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenters: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on NCTCOG's efforts to develop a Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan, including the status of a regional greenhouse gas emission inventory and stakeholder engagement to identify and prioritize regional strategies.

Background: NCTCOG received a \$1 million planning grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, which was created by the Inflation Reduction Act. CPRG planning grants support development and implementation of plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution of local concern. NCTCOG is using this funding to develop a Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan that will outline strategies to reduce emissions of ozone-forming pollutants, fine particulate matter, and greenhouse gases across all 16 counties of the

NCTCOG planning area. Work is being done collaboratively between NCTCOG’s Transportation, Environment and Development, and Workforce Solutions departments. The first major deliverable due to EPA under this grant is a Priority Climate Action Plan, which must be submitted by March 1, 2024. This plan must include a greenhouse gas emission inventory and a quantified list of strategies that will be implemented to improve air quality throughout the NCTCOG region. NCTCOG is currently seeking input on potential strategies from stakeholders across the region through two surveys, one for organizations who would be in a role to implement projects, and one for residents to convey areas of greatest interest and concern. This feedback will assist staff in prioritizing strategies for quantification and inclusion in the plan submitted to EPA. A series of “open house” style public meetings is underway. Upon plan submittal, NCTCOG intends to begin drafting a grant proposal to seek funding from the EPA CPRG Implementation Grants program, which can be used to help pay for implementation of strategies included in the Priority Climate Action Plan. The Implementation Grants application is due by April 1, 2024. Electronic Item 7 provides additional details. Surveys, the meeting schedule and materials, and other information is available at: <https://nctcog.publicinput.com/v2733#0>.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation Program**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenters: Natalie Bettger, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of the grant and possible project opportunities for a regional application for the 2023-2024 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovative (ATTAIN) Program.

Background: In November 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued an announcement for the ATTAIN program proposals that deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. The USDOT will provide funding of up to \$12 million per grant. A 20 percent local match is required. The link to the Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the grant program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, as well as the application requirements are located at: [grants.gov/search-resultsdetail/351055](https://grants.gov/search-resultsdetail/351055). Applications are due to the USDOT by February 2, 2024. Staff will provide a summary and a brief overview of possible regional project opportunities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Safety

2:15 – 2:25

9. **End of Ozone Season Recap**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a summary of the 2023 ozone season activity and other air quality updates for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region. The ozone season is from March 1 to November 30.

Background: The end of November concluded another ozone season for the DFW region. The region continues to work towards compliance for both the 2008 and 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Staff has been tracking the exceedance days at each monitor and will provide a summary of the 2023 ozone season data for the North Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas, compare against previous ozone seasons and what the state has modeled. Further information is provided as Electronic Item 9.1. Electronic Item 9.2 is a letter from Governor Greg Abbott to the Environmental Protection Agency, dated October 12, 2023, requesting a voluntary reclassification from moderate to serious nonattainment for the 2015 ozone standard. Likely a result of the regions 2023 design value landing significantly higher than the required 70 parts per billion. Electronic Item 9.3 is a letter from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) announcing a public hearing and comment period on the proposed DFW State Implementation Plan revisions for severe nonattainment and a 2026 attainment year to be at or below 75 parts per billion.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

10. **Progress Reports**

Action       Possible Action       Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 10.1)

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

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

13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm on January 11, 2024, in the Transportation Council Room.***