

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, February 8, 2024
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 January 11, 2024, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Gyna Bivens, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the January 11, 2024, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 2 will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:15 – 1:15** 3. **Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0
- 1:15 – 1:30** 4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
1. Letter from Texas Transportation Commission (Electronic Item 4.1)
 2. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 4.2)
 3. Status of Consultants for Transit 2.0 (Electronic Item 4.3)

4. Analysis of Dallas High-Speed Rail Tunnel Request and Other Options/ Advancement of Corridor Identification Program
5. Recent Grant Awards on Hydrogen and Electric Vehicle Projects (\$70 million and \$20 million) (Electronic Item 4.4)
6. Status of FIFA World Cup
7. Status of Texas Department of Transportation Rulemaking
8. Local Government Energy Reporting (Electronic Item 4.5)
9. State Implementation Plan Comments to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Electronic Item 4.6)
10. 2023 Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Annual Fleet Survey (Electronic Item 4.7)
11. Federal Discretionary Grant Update- January/February (Electronic Item 4.8)
12. Air Quality Funding Opportunities
www.nctcog.org/aqfunding
13. Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>
14. February Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 4.9)
15. January Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 4.10)
16. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.11)
17. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.12)
18. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.13)

1:30 – 1:45

5. **2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the 2024 Strategic Transportation Funding Program will be requested.

Background: Over the past couple of years, North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG) staff has inventoried numerous funding requests from transportation agencies and local governments. After evaluating the requests, several projects and partnerships are being proposed for funding. The recommended projects meet one or more of the following criteria: addresses the RTC's policies or improvements outlined in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), implements outcomes of planning activities, and/or assists in reaching the region's federal performance targets. A list of the proposed projects and

partnerships are provided in Electronic Item 5.1.
Additional details on the funding program can be found in
Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

1:45 – 1:55

6. **Fiscal Year 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity 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 (FY) 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program.

Background: In November 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced availability of \$1.5 billion toward the solicitation of project applications for the FY 2024 RAISE Discretionary Grant Program, targeting strategic capital investments for surface transportation projects that will have significant local or regional impacts. As a supplement to specific program details provided by staff, additional information like the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), application requirements, analysis tools, and other relevant data can be accessed at:

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants>. Electronic Item 6 provides information regarding candidate projects (with applications to be authored and/or submitted by NCTCOG). Applications are due to the US DOT by February 28, 2024. For regional agencies planning to submit their own candidate projects, please be aware you must complete the 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 Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at nallen@nctcog.org.

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

1:55 – 2:05

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of transportation elements of the Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan will be requested.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is leading a collaboration with local governments across the region to develop a Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan, which will outline measures to reduce emissions of ozone-forming pollutants, fine particulate matter, and greenhouse gases (GHG) in all 16 counties of the NCTCOG planning area. This initiative is funded primarily through a planning grant received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Planning Grants program. The first major deliverable is a Priority Climate Action Plan, due to EPA by March 1, 2024. The Plan must include a GHG emissions inventory and a quantified list of measures that can be implemented to improve air quality. Submittal of this plan enables eligibility for grant funding made available through the EPA. An outline of the Plan following a template recommended by the EPA is included as Electronic Item 7.1. The discussion of emissions reduction measures will include a narrative discussion of work already underway and ongoing across the region, along with description of enhanced or additional measures that are proposed to be implemented within the next five years, as shown in Electronic Item 7.2. The proposal of these measures is based upon a combination of emissions reduction potential and regional interest. Regional interest reflects both project submittals from local governments and other stakeholders, as well as public input received from a series of meetings held across the region and online input opportunities. Public input is summarized in Electronic Item 7.3. Note that each measure is identified as “Plan Only” or “Potential Funding Request”, indicating that EPA funding may be sought to support implementation of that measure. Upon Plan submittal, NCTCOG intends to coordinate a regional grant proposal requesting funding to implement these measures from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Implementation Grants program. The Implementation Grants application is due by April 1, 2024. Approval of the funding request will be sought at

the March RTC meeting but is provided here for information prior to seeking action. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 7.4 and at www.publicinput.com/DFWAQIP.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:05 – 2:15

8. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Kokes, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update regarding the anticipated Fiscal Year (FY) 24 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program and highlight FY23 planning and infrastructure grants awarded to local governments in the North Central Texas region.

Background: The U.S. Department of Transportation is anticipated to announce a Notice of Funding Opportunity in February 2024 for the solicitation of applications for FY24 funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the SS4A discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next five years. Staff will provide an overview of eligible applicants and the types of grant applications. Staff will also highlight the more than \$29 million in federal funding awarded in FY22 and FY23 in the region for planning activities and an implementation project. An overview is contained in Electronic Item 8.

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

2:15 – 2:30

9. **Regional Roadway Safety Performance Targets Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Sonya Landrum, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the 2024 Regional Roadway Safety Targets for federally required performance measures and actual performance of the 2022 Safety targets. Roadway Safety targets are focused on reducing serious injuries and fatalities for motorized and non-motorized travelers.

Background: In December 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. The FAST Act requires certain performance measures be included in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. These measures were established by a series of four rulemakings: Safety, Infrastructure Condition, System Performance/ Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and Transit Asset Management. As the

Metropolitan Planning Organization for the North Central Texas region, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is required to set regional targets for roadway safety. These targets are used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and the State of the Region report. In February 2023, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved the reduction schedule for the 2023-2027 regional roadway safety targets. Staff will provide the Council with an update on the proposed 2024 targets based on the approved reduction schedule and actual performance of the 2022 targets. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

2:30 – 2:40

10. **Broadband as a Transportation Service: Four Proposed Elements**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Connor Sadro, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on the Municipal Stakeholder Broadband Roundtable held on December 4, 2023, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

Background: On December 4, 2024, NCTCOG hosted the Municipal Stakeholder Broadband Roundtable to discuss the state of municipal involvement in broadband and digital equity in local communities. Several members of the 16-county region attended, and together with NCTCOG staff, compiled the following suggested action steps to be taken to increase the presence of broadband in the region: The NCTCOG Transportation Department shall:

1. Assist the region with the coordination of data collection and analysis for the purpose of better reporting broadband availability, affordability, and residential usage rates.
2. Create a policy committee consisting of elected officials in the region to provide clear and consistent feedback to the Texas Broadband Development Office.
3. Leverage this policy committee to form a legislative program that will help guide the State of Texas legislature on regional needs.
4. Continue with outreach to broadband practitioners in the region and encourage municipalities to appoint

broadband technical leads. Additionally, the NCTCOG Transportation Department will create a strategy for municipal best practices in achieving internet for all residents.

As part of actions steps 1 and 2, staff will request members of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to provide feedback and interest in participation. Staff will also request action in the future regarding these items and would preferably do so with sufficient insight and guidance from the RTC.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Goods Movement

11. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 11.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 11.2)

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

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

14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for **1:00 pm, Thursday, March 14, 2024, in the Transportation Council Room.**