

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, October 23, 2020

North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda (Meeting Will be Held as a Videoconference)

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of September 25, 2020, Minutes

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Moen, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the September 25, 2020, meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item 1 will be requested.

Background: N/A

1:35 – 1:40

2. Consent Agenda

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5

2.1. FY2020 and FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program Modifications

Presenter: Vickie Alexander, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the FY2020 and FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested. Direction for staff to also 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 FY2020 and FY2021 UPWP identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2021. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project updates and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments have been posted on the North Central Texas Council of Governments website for public review and comment, and are also included as Electronic Item 2.1.1. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 2.1.2. Comments received as a result of the public outreach process, if any, will be provided.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2.2. **Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council Action on Clear Path™ Technology Program Funding**

Presenter: Collin Moffett, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Endorsement of Regional Transportation Council approval of funding needed to implement the Clear Path™ Technology Program, in accordance with the BUILD Grant award of \$25 million for projects to improve the TRE Transit rail line, will be requested.

Background: North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has been coordinating with each of the freight and transit rail agencies in the North Central Texas region to identify the benefits associated with implementation of the Clear Path™ technology system. As outlined in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Mobility 2045, passenger rail service is anticipated to increase with the planned implementation of new and expanded service on existing freight rail corridors throughout the region. Increasing the rail networks' operational efficiency is key to expanding passenger service on existing corridors. More information can be found in Electronic Item 2.2.

The Clear Path™ system is a technology solution that monitors and forecasts train traffic conditions in critical transportation gateways, such as Chicago, to help reduce train congestion. Clear Path™ is enabled by continuous real-time feeds of railroad train dispatching and infrastructure status data used to maximize the efficiency of the freight and passenger rail network. Clear Path™ technology will increase capacity of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) rail network and allow DFW metroplex rail system agencies to exchange timely, accurate, and actionable information on train movements throughout the region, by facilitating inter-carrier operations. Implementation of Clear Path™ technology would advance transit operation opportunities as designated in Mobility 2045.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2.3. **North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies: Research Project Funding Standards**

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of selection criteria and a process for providing funding for sponsored research projects on mobility technologies proposed by the North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies (NTCMT) will be requested.

Background: In February 2020, as part of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' (NCTCOG) proposal to host

the Virgin Hyperloop One Certification Center, the RTC approved \$2.5 million in seed money to help fund sponsored research in mobility technologies. With the assistance of the Texas Research Alliance, the four major research universities in the region (UTA, UNT, UTD, SMU) have organized themselves into the NTCMT. Through the NTCMT, the universities will function as a Research and Development network for sponsored research. The NTCMT is intended to strengthen the capabilities of these universities in the transportation sector and attract mobility technology companies to the region and will recommend certain research projects for NCTCOG funding. The purpose of this item is to establish standards and a process through which NCTCOG identifies which research projects to fund out of the seed money approved by the RTC. These standards and process are described in Electronic Item 2.3.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

1:40 – 1:55

3. **COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program (Round 3)/Collin County Funding Partnership**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a third round of COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program projects, including two funding swaps with local partners, and the ability to amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate the projects.

Background: Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, the economies of the United States, Texas, and Dallas-Fort Worth region have suffered large setbacks and there is an urgency to stimulate the economy. Over the past several months, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff has been working to select projects that are ready to be advanced, which will inject much needed money into the local and state economies in the coming years. Staff recommends funding a third round of projects in this program that meet one or more of the RTC policies outlined in Mobility 2045 and/or assist with achieving the region's federal performance targets.

Two of these projects are part of a proposed funding exchange between the RTC, Collin County, and the cities of McKinney and Frisco. The complete list of proposed projects can be found in Electronic Item 3.1. Electronic Item 3.2 contains additional details about the program and projects being requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

1:55 – 2:00

4. **Overview of Next Steps Involving the Travel Demand Management Program**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Caryn Sanders, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will introduce the development of a Regional Transportation Council resolution that supports establishing a regional trip reduction goal that aims to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commute trips through increased implementation of Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies.

Background: As a result of changes in traffic and commute patterns experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Central Texas region recorded a decrease in traffic congestion and a small improvement in the region's air quality. In an effort to sustain the positive impacts of the traffic and commute pattern changes post COVID-19, staff is exploring opportunities to retain benefits associated with the current commuter behavior. Trip reduction strategies such as carpooling, vanpooling, biking, walking, taking transit, teleworking, and flexible work schedules reduce the number of vehicles that travel on roadways, assist in improving air quality, and reduce peak-period travel by shifting drive-alone travel to other modes or technologies. Urban lifestyle is a critical factor to consider when proposing changes to commuter habits. Because successful trip reduction programs require strong public support, promotion, and participation, staff wishes to engage in a dialog with regard to the tradeoffs associated with the Travel Demand Management Program.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Roadway

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Study Update**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Feldt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update regarding the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation (DFW HST) Connections Study. Currently the project is proceeding through the first phase, including analysis of route and mode alternatives.

Background: In April 2020, North Central Texas Council of Governments staff began work on the DFW HST Connections Study with consultant assistance. The project is divided into two phases, the first being an alternatives analysis effort. The second phase will be a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort resulting in a federal government action identifying the project's next steps. Since April, staff and the consultant have been analyzing alternatives while engaging the public and stakeholders. The Phase 1 efforts are designed to reduce the number of alternatives to a minimum for more detailed

analysis in the Phase 2 effort. The following items will be presented:

- Draft preliminary project purpose
- Potential route alternatives
- Potential mode alternatives
- Engagement opportunities
- Project schedule

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. **Federal Highway Administration – Pavement/Bridge Condition Target Reaffirmation or Revisions**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will update the Committee on proposed reaffirmation or revisions to the current regional position supporting statewide pavement and bridge condition, performance measure 2 (PM2), targets on National Highway System (NHS) facilities, as established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in accordance with Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act rulemaking for federally-required performance measures.

Background: Subsequent to its execution in December 2015, FAST Act rulemaking requires certain performance measures, including pavement and bridge condition ratings for designated NHS facilities, to be addressed in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. In 2018, the Committee affirmed regional support for TxDOT's statewide 2022 good and poor condition pavement and bridge targets, and it also agreed to collaborate with TxDOT and local governments on project planning and programming contributing toward the accomplishment of NHS pavement and bridge performance goals.

The rulemaking established an October 1, 2020, deadline for State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to consider mid-range adjustments to statewide 2022 pavement and bridge targets as they each submit a Mid-Performance Progress Report to the Federal Highway Administration. TxDOT adjusted five of the six PM2 targets according to their submittal, and as a result, Texas Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) have a new 180-day window to report whether they will affirm the adjusted targets or establish their own quantifiable targets. Analysis considering observed trends, both regionally and statewide, as well as potential effects on project development and implementation, will be key considerations on whether target adjustments may be recommended.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:20 – 2:30

7. **Transit Oriented Development Survey Results**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Travis Liska, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present results of the completed Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Red and Blue Lines Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Survey produced by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as part of a Federal Transit Administration Planning Pilot for TOD grant.

Background: Transit-oriented development encourages greater transit ridership through a higher density mix of uses and pedestrian friendly design within walking distance of high frequency transit. The NCTCOG DART Red and Blue Lines TOD Survey was conducted to get a general sense of travel behavior, demographics, and location choice preferences of residents, businesses, and employees occupying TOD around DART stations. The data collected will assist NCTCOG and its partner cities and transit agencies in evaluating and improving TOD policy and projects.

The survey includes 28 DART stations with responses from over 1,500 residents, 1,000 businesses, and 550 employees collected from September 2019 to February 2020. A full report and data table are available online at: www.nctcog.org/TOD.

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

2:30 – 2:35

8. **Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on performance metrics to help understand the impacts of COVID-19 to the transportation system.

Background: Four performance metrics have been developed that will be tracked through the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery process: 1) travel behavior response to COVID-19; 2) financial implications to traditional revenue sources; 3) benefits of travel behavior responses to areas of RTC responsibility; and 4) prioritization of infrastructure improvements that offset unemployment increases. More information is provided in Electronic Item 8. Staff will only present strategic changes since last month's presentation.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:35 – 2:45

9. DFW Connector Pilot Program Results

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Ken Kirkpatrick and Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Committee will be briefed on the results of the DFW Connector Pilot Program, consistent with previous Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval. This program was initiated to develop methodologies to maximize toll collection from users.

Background: The RTC initiated the DFW Connector Pilot Program in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The purpose of the pilot was to develop strategies to increase TollTag usage and apply successful techniques in the IH 35W corridor to reduce TxDOT's toll collection risk. Increasing TollTag usage not only saves money for drivers in the form of lower tolls, it also lowers the cost of collection for the public sector. The first phase of the pilot was to increase the pay-by-mail surcharge to create a market incentive for drivers to obtain toll tags. This was done at no cost to the public sector. The RTC approved a second phase of the pilot for up to \$300,000 in additional marketing and outreach activities to test the following ideas: additional TollPerks for new TollTag customers, prize giveaways, preloaded TollTags in targeted areas, and potentially TollTag sales at inspection stations and/or car dealerships in targeted areas. The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) partnered with the RTC in carrying out these marketing ideas. NCTCOG's Executive Board authorized a contract with NTTA to carry out these initiatives in June 2017. Marketing activities have concluded, and a final report will be provided to the Committee. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:45 – 2:50

10. FY2021 Project Tracking Initiative

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will introduce the Committee to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Project Tracking Initiative that is being initiated in order to reduce the region's carryover funding balances.

Background: Almost every year, Regional Transportation Council (RTC)-selected projects being implemented by local governments experience delays. While a one-year delay is of less consequence, what tends to occur is that a project is delayed year after year, until it has been 3-4 years since the originally committed start date. Over a long period of time, these delays led to the need to implement the Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy, which identifies projects that have not advanced to construction after being funded for at least 10 years. However, a 10 year project review does not create an action plan soon enough to reduce the region's growing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement

Program (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set Aside carryover balances. As a secondary line of offense, staff is implementing a project tracking initiative that will highlight project schedule commitments to the Committee and the RTC on a regular basis and report local agency progress toward the committed project development schedules. A list of projects that are scheduled to begin in FY2021 can be found in Electronic Item 10.1. Additional details on this initiative can be found in Electronic Item 10.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

2:50 – 2:55

11. AV2.2/AV2.3 Projects Update

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Thomas Bamonte, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the status of Automated Vehicle (AV) Projects 2.2 and 2.3, including the availability of funding, the process for advancing proposed projects, and application review criteria.

Background: In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Automated Vehicles Program 2.0. Project AV2.2 provides \$10 million to help public agencies effectively support AV deployments coming to their jurisdictions. Project AV2.3 provides \$20 million to purchase AV services to explore uses cases of regional significance. In an accompanying policy, the RTC affirmed its intention that all Dallas-Fort Worth communities should have the resources to support and utilize AV technologies. Public agencies in the region are now encouraged to build collaborative relationships with AV developers and submit proposals for AV2.2 and AV2.3 funding. The briefing will outline guidelines for project proposals, summarize the staff review process, and describe pertinent technology developments since RTC's adoption of AV Program 2.0. Electronic Item 11 contains additional background.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Air Quality

2:55 – 3:05

12. Unmanned Aircraft Systems Draft Resolution

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an overview of a proposed Regional Transportation Council resolution to support the safe and efficient integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the Dallas-Fort Worth transportation system.

Background: With the growing number of UAS operators and use cases, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) would like to engage public-sector partners to support and advocate for UAS activities within the region through the adoption of a Unmanned Aircraft System Resolution.

UAS activities could include delivery of medical supplies and packages, air taxi services, public safety uses, accident reconstruction and surveying, among others. This effort supports the North Texas UAS Safety and Integration Task Force comprised of public and private-sector organizations that discuss best practices, UAS technologies and possible use cases. This resolution will support a coordinated approach to UAS planning activities and implementation opportunities.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety, Transit

3:05 – 3:05

13. Fast Facts

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 0

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. Contingency Action for High-Speed Rail Approved by STTC at the September 25, 2020, Meeting Not Needed and No Action Taken by the RTC
2. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
3. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
4. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Programs (Electronic Item 13.1)
5. Status Report on Ozone (Electronic Item 13.2)
6. Fall 2020 TIM Executive Level Course Virtual Training Announcement (Electronic Item 13.3)
7. Deadline to Submit Requests for Transportation Improvement Program Modifications through the February 2021 Cycle – October 23, 2020
(<https://rtrinternal.nctcog.org/login>)
8. East/West Equity Update (Electronic Item 13.4)
9. September Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 13.5)
10. November Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 13.6)
11. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 13.7)
12. Written Progress Reports:
 - Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.8)
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 13.9)
14. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on December 4, 2020.***