

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

July 12, 2018

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, July 12, 2018, at 1:00 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following members or representatives were present: Richard Aubin, Mohamed "Mo" Bur, Carol Bush, Taylor Armstrong (representing Rickey D. Callahan), Mike Cantrell, George Conley, David L. Cook, Rudy Durham, Andy Eads, Charles Emery, Kevin Falconer, Gary Fickes, Curtistene McCowan (representing Robert Franke), Jim Griffin, Mojoy Haddad, Roger Harmon, Clay Lewis Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jungus Jordan, Jennifer S. Gates (representing Lee M. Kleinman), Harry LaRosiliere, Scott Mahaffey, B. Adam McGough, William Meadows, Steve Mitchell, Cary Moon, Stan Pickett, Stephen Terrell, Tim Welch (representing T. Oscar Trevino Jr.), William Tsao, Oscar Ward, Cheryl Williams (representing Duncan Webb), Kathryn Wilemon, W. Jeff Williams, and Ann Zadeh.

Others present at the meeting were: David S. Arbuckle, John Baker, Melissa Baker, Berrien Barks, Tara Bassler, Kenny Bergstrom, Jonathan Blackmon, Alberta Blair, David Boski, Jeremy C. Boswell, Jason Brown, Ron Brown, Carly Bulleit, Ken Bunkley, Pamela Burns, Brian Byrd, David Cain, Marrk Callier, Jack Carr, Angie Carson, Maribel Chavez, Jim Cline, Michael Copeland, Hal Cranor, Brian Crooks, Clarence Daugherty, Shelley Davis, Inga Dedow, Brian Dell, Kim Diederich, Chad Edward, Traci Enna, Baylea Evans, Kevin Feldt, Brian Flood, Keineth Fuller, Mike Galizio, Matt Gauntt, Dorothy Gilliam, Bob Golden, Christie Gotti, Alan Greer, Wade Haffey, Clint Hail, Victor Henderson, Matthew Holzapfel, Ivan Hughes, Terry Hughes, Tim James, Amy Johnson, Tom Johnson, Dan Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Andrew Kissig, Chris Klaus, Paul Knippel, Dan Lamers, April Leger, Ray Leszczynski, Ramiro Lopez, Nancy Luong, Stanford Lynch, Mickey Marlow, Allysha Mason, Wes McClure, Keith Melton, Cliff Miller, Audrey Miranda, Mindy Mize, James Moffitt, Cesar Molina, Rebecca Montgomery, Michael Morris, Bailey Muller, Jenny Narvaez, Jeff Neal, Mark Nelson, Archie Nettles, Clayton Neville, Mickey Nowell, Mitch Parker, Johan Petterson, Shawn Poe, John Polster, James Powell, Fred Pratt, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Molly Rendon, Bruce Rideaux, Bill Riley, Francisco Rodriguez, Tito Rodriguez, Greg Royster, Moosa Saghian, Steve Salin, Nick Sanders, Kelly Selman, Jerry Smiley, Chelsey Smith, Ron Smith, Shannon Stevenson, Dean Stuller, Gerald Sturdivant, Vic Suhm, Lauren Trimble, Whitney Vandiver, Dan Vedral, Jason Williams, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, Alicia Winkelblech, John Wright, and Ed Wueste.

1. **Approval of June 14, 2018, Minutes:** The minutes of the June 14, 2018, meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 1. David L. Cook (M); Mike Cantrell (S). The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 2.1. **Federal Functional Classification System Amendments:** Regional Transportation Council approval of four amendments to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification system was requested. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 2.1. All amendments involve the construction of new roadways which are included in the current Transportation Improvement Program.
 - 2.3. **Transportation Development Credits for Clean Air Action Day:** Regional Transportation Council approval of 300,000 Transportation Development Credits for

award to up to three top participating entities (100,000 each) in the Surface Transportation Technical Committee Clean Air Action Day was requested.

A motion was made to approve Item 2.1 and Item 2.3 on the Consent Agenda. Kathryn Wilemon (M); Jim Griffin (S). The motion passed unanimously.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda and presented by staff.

- 2.2. Transportation Improvement Program Modifications: Ken Bunkley highlighted an update to page 9 of Electronic Item 2.2. Funding was identified in the document for IH 635 East as toll revenue funds, but the funding has changed and should be updated to Texas Department of Transportation right-of-way and planning funds. Mr. Bunkley noted that the overall funding amount remained unchanged. Regional Transportation Council approval of revisions to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program, as provided in Electronic Item 2.2 and updated at the meeting, was requested.

A motion was made to approve Item 2.2 on the Consent Agenda. Stan Pickett (M); Ann Zadeh (S). The motion passed unanimously.

- 2.4. Endorsement of Hyperloop and High-Speed Rail Next Steps: Michael Morris presented staff recommendations for high-speed rail. The environmental review of the Dallas to Houston corridor is underway. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has held meetings in the impacted counties, and staff is optimistic the environmental document will proceed for high-speed rail investment by the private sector in this corridor. In the Dallas, to Arlington, to Fort Worth corridor, Mr. Morris noted he was asked by Texas Central Partners to meet regarding interest in extending its service from Dallas to Fort Worth. Staff is working to redraft the Texas Central Partners interlocal agreement for potential high-speed rail extending from Dallas, to Arlington, and to Fort Worth. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff and some Regional Transportation Council (RTC) members visited the hyperloop proving grounds to see the technology and meet the engineers. He noted that a recent hyperloop press release received significant media/social media interest. Mr. Morris also discussed previously approved funding for a conceptual feasibility study on the proposed high-speed rail corridor between Fort Worth and Laredo. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in Dallas, Waco, Temple/Killen, Austin, San Antonio, and Laredo will work together to determine interest in high-speed rail or hyperloop technology connecting Fort Worth and Laredo. If successful, the draft work plan will be sent to other MPOs for final approval. The Executive Board will be asked to approve consultant assistance that will be available for all six regions. The communities will then request from the Texas Transportation Commission that the Texas Department of Transportation complete the Tier 2 environmental review for the corridor. Mr. Morris noted that with RTC approval, NCTCOG staff will meet with the FRA to work through a detailed work plan on alignments and technologies driven by interest from Irving and others to look at options other than the Trinity Railway Express corridor for high-speed rail between Dallas, Arlington, and Fort Worth. He noted the RTC has asked NCTCOG to take an aggressive posture towards technology and the Dallas-Fort Worth region being a region of transportation choice. Regional Transportation Council approval for consideration of hyperloop technology in the high-speed rail environmental document on the corridor between Dallas, Arlington, and Fort Worth, as well as the

conceptual feasibility study in the corridor between Fort Worth and Laredo was requested.

A motion was made to approve Item 2.4 of the Consent Agenda. Jungus Jordan (M); Oscar Ward (S). Carol Bush noted she was opposed to the Houston to Dallas high-speed rail project. The motion passed.

3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris introduced former Texas House Representative Larry Phillips. Mr. Phillips congratulated the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) for all it has done for transportation in the region and the State of Texas and noted that the group is a testament to the positive results that are gained when members work together to accomplish common goals. He also introduced Clay Barnett, Director of the Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Planning Organization and also encouraged members to reach out to new Senator-Elect Pat Fallon.

Michael Morris noted that SH 360 has opened and traffic counts are positive. He also discussed Vital Link students that were recently at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) from Fort Worth Independent School District. In addition, he noted a Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Program survey available at: <http://bit.ly/SafetyInspection> to gauge statewide views on the State safety inspection program. A link to the newly launched NCTCOG website was provided in Electronic Item 3.1. Electronic Item 3.2 contained current air quality funding opportunities for vehicles, and upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities events were provided in Electronic Item 3.3. An ozone season update was provided in Electronic Item 3.4, Regional Smoking Vehicle Program information in Electronic Item 3.5, the 2018 Travel Demand Management Performance Report in Electronic Item 3.6, and the July public meeting notice in Electronic Item 3.7. Electronic Item 3.8 contained the current Public Comments Report. Recent correspondence was provided in Electronic Item 3.9, recent news articles in Electronic Item 3.10, and recent press releases in Electronic Item 3.11. Transportation partner progress reports were distributed at the meeting.

4. **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Discretionary Grant Program:** Jeff Neal presented proposed projects to be included in the 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program application to be submitted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. A copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the \$1.5 billion program was provided in Electronic Item 4.1. Project application requirements, including minimum/maximum grant awards, was highlighted. The application submittal deadline is July 19, 2018. Proposed projects must meet an obligation deadline of September 30, 2020. Mr. Neal also highlighted the merit criteria evaluation used to select projects proposed for the application. It was noted that an important aspect of the program is the consideration of the ability for a project to generate non-federal revenue for transportation investments. In addition, the methodology for regional project selection was reviewed. Staff identified projects in both the eastern and western subregions, projects with potential partnership opportunities, recent grant project submittals, locations with potential to maximize non-federal revenue leveraging, and those with significant economic development opportunities. Proposed projects for the BUILD grant application were presented. Mr. Neal noted changes since presented to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC), noted in Electronic Item 4.2. Project cost for IH 635 East was updated to reflect action taken by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in May 2018. The RTC approved a project cost of \$1.6 billion resulting from a project cost savings of \$200 million due to expected design-build procurement and delivery innovations from the Texas Department of

Transportation (TxDOT). In addition, so that all projects were equally considered based on merit, the grant amount request for the Haslet project was increased to \$25 million. The final proposed project was TRE double-tracking multimodal improvements. Staff proposed that the grant amount for each application be \$25 million. The timeline for this effort was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the projects to be submitted in the North Central Texas Council of Governments 2018 BUILD application, with noted changes and to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program, Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and other planning documents to include the projects if awarded. Mike Cantrell (M); Scott Mahaffey (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Emissions Inventory Development Associated with Transportation Conformity:**

Michael Morris discussed the process to develop emissions inventories associated with transportation conformity and proposed action to communicate with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff develop emissions inventories which are reviewed by TCEQ for inclusion into the State Implementation Plan as motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEB). Air quality conformity analyses are conducted using the same methodologies as are utilized in developing the MVEBs. Since the region is designated as nonattainment for ozone, the Clean Air Act requires that MPOs conduct air quality conformity analyses to ensure that transportation outcomes are consistent with the region's air quality goals. The TCEQ has proposed that a third party be used to develop baseline emissions. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff would then develop its own emissions inventories for the impacts of transportation projects in the region. The concern is that if the methodologies do not use the same assumptions, the transportation impact may not be measured accurately. Correspondence was provided to the State emphasizing the potential risks of the proposed approach, provided in Electronic Item 5.1. The State's response was provided in Electronic Item 5.2. NCTCOG staff requested to meet with various State agencies as shown in correspondence provided in Electronic Item 5.3. NCTCOG staff does not believe this approach helps meet its federal responsibility and proposes that it be the author of the base emission inventory in order to keep assumptions consistent when conducting air quality conformity analyses so that it can certify it is measuring the impacts to transportation not the difference in software, tools, or assumptions. Additional details were provided in Electronic Item 5.4. Mr. Morris noted a conference call was recently held with the TCEQ and that progress has been made in understanding the concerns. It is important that all parties understand the potential implications and risks. A motion was made to approve staff maintaining development of emissions inventories for Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets that may later be used in Transportation Conformity analyses in an effort to protect consistency and ensure same methodologies are used. Action also included approval for staff to meet with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to discuss the risks and determine quality assurance on emissions inventories needed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. In addition, action included approval for staff to ensure transparency on developments of emissions inventories and transportation conformity analyses with all interagency consultation partners. Clay Lewis Jenkins (M); Cheryl Williams (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **US 75 Technology Lanes:** Michael Morris discussed technology lanes on US 75. The Regional Transportation Council previously approved funding for technology lanes on US 75 north of IH 635 to McKinney. The technology improvements are modeled after similar improvements on SH 161 in Irving. The focus is on use of shoulder lanes to add additional capacity in the peak period, as well as use of shoulders in the off-peak period to mitigate

incident-related congestion. State funds have been approved for the design, but there is not federal approval to advance the construction of the technology lanes because Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds were used for the original high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane construction. Staff proposed to meet with the Federal Highway Administration to advance efforts. Legally, HOV users must be treated differently than single occupancy vehicle users. The proposal is to create a rewards program for HOV users as an incentive to encourage use in the nonattainment area. Phase 1 is a trip to Washington to demonstrate the difference in how HOV and SOV users are treated without introducing a toll in the corridor. Mr. Morris discussed options for the reward program. He noted that staff is already working on technology that can be used to sign up through a mobile phone application and met in Austin earlier this week with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) regarding the procurement process. Revenue approved for the current HOV discount will be used to finance the rewards program. He noted that a technology lane is also anticipated to be implemented in Tarrant County on SH 121 between SH 183 and Grapevine. Steve Mitchell discussed US 75 in Richardson and asked if there was any intention to change the implementation of the lanes from north/south bound to reversible. Mr. Morris noted that the shoulder would be used in the north/south bound lanes and that the lanes would not be reversible. Clay Lewis Jenkins asked if staff had any additional details about the potential rewards. Mr. Morris discussed the current Try Parking It website through which users can log alternative commutes and search for carpool and vanpool matches. Try Parking It could potentially be used to inventory the HOV trips that translate into some type of reward similar to the accounting system of frequent flyer miles. The proposed reward would be brought back for review by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC). Additional details will be developed once staff has received approval to move forward with the rewards option. Cheryl Williams discussed past RTC action to have a change in legislative language and asked if that was not accomplished. Mr. Morris noted that NCTCOG has been asked not to advance legislation because it could be perceived as earmarks. Since staff has not completely exhausted administrative resolutions, the proposal is to explore this tool first. Curtistene McCowan asked if any consideration for the use of this type of technology lane has been given to US 67 or IH 35E. Mr. Morris noted that once the technology has been through the pilot phase, staff will present Phase 2 of the pilot on the technology decision and Phase 3 on what behaviors to reward. Application in other corridors will then be considered. A motion was made to approve North Central Texas Council of Governments staff to meet with the Federal Highway Administration to get approval for the use of a rewards program so that the region can move forward with the already funded improvements on US 75. Steve Mitchell (M); Jim Griffin (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **2019 Unified Transportation Program and Updates to the Regional 10-Year Plan, Including Expediting Projects with Unobligated Balances from Other State Departments of Transportation:** Christie Gotti presented the status of project changes associated with the region's 10-Year Plan that is being updated through development of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) 2019 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). As part of this effort, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff has reviewed projects funded in the 10-Year Plan approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in December 2016. Proposed changes include updates to year-of-expenditure, total project costs, and updates resulting from revised construction costs and funding allocations. Staff is also working with TxDOT to confirm funds allocated to projects in the Regional 10-Year Plan for each fiscal year match funds in each corresponding year of the UTP. The review includes project lettings, confirmation of how carryover funds for Regional 10-Year Plan projects for each fiscal year are identified in the UTP, and

confirmation that additional increments of funding are reflected. Staff is working to have this finalized by the August RTC meeting. Ms. Gotti also noted a partnership with the Texas Transportation Commission to swap Category 2 funds with Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds. Based on initial feedback, the Federal Highway Administration has identified excess balances of funding available for projects that could go to construction this year. The State would like to take advantage of the excess funds and let projects. TxDOT has requested that two projects be advanced and funded with STBG instead of Category 2 funds:

1) FM 156 from US 81/287 to Watauga Road (\$32 million) and 2) US 377 from Johnson/Hood County Line to south of SH 171 (\$32.8 million). NCTCOG staff has been assured that no other projects will be impacted or delayed due to this action. In addition, this would free up Category 2 funds for other purposes. NCTCOG staff has tentatively agreed to the proposal pending RTC approval. In addition, Ms. Gotti also discussed projects identified in the Regional 10-Year Plan to potentially be funded with Category 12 projects by the Texas Transportation Commission. She noted the draft 2019 UTP includes Category 12 funding for many of the projects, including \$420 million for the SH 183 interchange projects in Irving and \$100 million more than requested (\$380 million total) of additional Category 12 funding for part of the Southeast Connector project in Fort Worth. This also frees up additional Category 2 funds for use on other projects. A revised map of the projects in the 10-Year Plan was highlighted. In addition, a revised project listing showing changes was provided in Electronic Item 7.1. She noted that in addition to the other changes discussed, Proposition 1 projects have been funded and added to the 10-Year Plan. The timeline for this effort was reviewed, which includes public meetings later in July. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 7.2. Michael Morris elaborated on the projects proposed for funding with additional STBG cash-flow. This permits the State to use the additional cash from its Category 7 funding instead of the Category 2 funds, giving flexibility to the region. NCTCOG staff will then work to readjust Category 2 funding allocations. He also noted the TTC's discretionary authority of Category 12 funds and selection of projects to fund in the region. A motion was made to approve staff to continue to work with the Texas Department of Transportation to advance the projects in Electronic Item 7.1 as part of the development of the 2019 Unified Transportation Program and to allow flexibility for staff to make necessary project adjustments. Changes will be presented to the Regional Transportation Council at the August meeting for endorsement. Oscar Ward (M); Richard Aubin (S). The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Regional Transportation Council Bylaws – First Reading:** David L. Cook, Vice Chair of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Bylaws Revision Subcommittee, presented recommended revisions for a first reading. He noted that the Subcommittee met on three occasions and proposed changes to the Bylaws in four areas: 1) membership, 2) appointees, 3) attendance, and 4) council functions. Regarding membership, recommendations included adding the City of Sansom Park to the RTC member cities as a result of it now exceeding the 5,000 population threshold. In an effort to maintain the current membership of 44, staff also proposed moving the City of Keller to the North Richland Hills group to meet population size requirements and maintaining the number of Dallas, Highland Park, and University Park seats at six due to its representation of the three cities and Dallas Love Field Airport. Regarding appointees, the Subcommittee proposed that county/city groups permit the county that does not hold the primary seat to appoint the alternate member for the group. In addition, it was proposed that the two-year term for group representatives begin in July of even-number years to coincide with election/run-off election returns. Proposed changes to attendance included establishing a deadline of two hours in advance of the meeting for primary members to provide written notification to staff of

alternate members' meeting attendance. Finally, for council functions, the Subcommittee proposed for the RTC to establish a policy on the method by which calls for project/funding initiative proposals must be received to accommodate changes in technology over time. Mr. Cook noted that the RTC Bylaws Revision Subcommittee unanimously approved the proposed revisions. Proposed revisions, including administrative recommendations were provided in Electronic Item 8.1. Additional information was provided in Electronic Item 8.2. Michael Morris noted that absent any significant discussion by the RTC, a second reading and approval will be requested at the August 9, 2018, meeting.

9. **Transit Implementation in Three Areas of the Region:** Michael Morris presented information regarding three subregion transit requests received for Collin, Dallas, and Tarrant Counties. Over the past few months, elected officials and other interested parties have asked for assistance with planning and implementing transit services outside of transit authority service areas. In the northern portion of the region, the Cities of Frisco, McKinney, Allen, and Plano, have expressed a need for additional transit. Transportation Management Associations (TMA) currently exist in Plano and Frisco but more assistance is needed. In Dallas County, the Cities of Cedar Hill, Duncanville, DeSoto, and Lancaster are requesting planning assistance to get employees to employers at the intermodal hub. In addition, a TMA is also being requested. Cities within Tarrant County are also requesting transit outside the current Fort Worth Transportation Authority service area. The requests includes areas in which a pilot is currently funded for the Cities of Crowley, Everman, and Forest Hill, as well as other cities in Tarrant County. Most elements to be considered are similar in each request and include: internal and regional connections, focus on strategic implementation, near term implementation, increased transportation options, funding options, and private sector involvement. Dallas County is also interested in the movement of goods in addition to people. Entities are requesting an independent assessment through the Metropolitan Planning Organization planning process. Consultants will be necessary, as well as coordination with the transportation authorities to ensure that the outcome is fair and equitable. The preliminary cost estimate for this effort is approximately \$2 million. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff are working to identify a funding source and will then develop a work plan beginning in the next fiscal year. The effort must also be included in the Unified Planning Work Program. Feedback from members was requested, and Mr. Morris noted future action will be requested to move forward with this effort.
10. **Airport Transit Access:** Shannon Stevenson provided on update on transit accessibility between the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) CentrePort station. In 2009, the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport was awarded transit funds to implement a TRE shuttle service from the CentrePort Station to the remote south parking lot. This service provides critical last mile connections and access to jobs and employment-related activities. In March 2018, the airport notified the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) of its intention to discontinue the service once TEXRail service is fully operational in January 2018. NCTCOG staff then contacted the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority about the future of the service. Related correspondence was provided in Electronic Item 10. Ms. Stevenson noted that NCTCOG staff will continue conversations with the airport and potentially partner with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority on the possibility of incorporating the service into its existing, nearby routes. As discussions continue, there may be future options to implement advance technologies such as electric vehicles or an automated transportation system (people mover) for this service. Staff will provide an update to the Council in the future. Kathryn Wilemon discussed funding proposed in the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant

application for TRE multimodal improvements. Michael Morris noted that staff is coordinating with the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority about the importance of this last mile connection. There are several options for discussion in the near and long-term. Funding potentially received from the BUILD grant may be helpful.

11. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Electronic Item 11.1, Surface Transportation Technical Committee attendance and minutes in Electronic Item 11.2, and the current Local Motion in Electronic Item 11.3.
12. **Other Business (Old or New):** Oscar Ward provided information on the upcoming Transportation Investment Summit in Irving on August 23-24, 2018. He noted that registration is complimentary for all Regional Transportation Council members.
13. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, August 9, 2018, 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.