

AGENDA

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL Thursday, April 8, 2021 North Central Texas Council of Governments

The RTC meeting on April 8, 2021, will be conducted as a videoconference meeting via Zoom. Members of the public wishing to speak may do so by calling toll free **1-855-965-2480** and entering **meeting ID 876 2221 4115#** when prompted. Following conclusion of the Opportunity for the Public to Speak in Agenda Item 1, the audio line will be disconnected. Members of the public may view a livestream of the RTC meeting at www.nctcog.org/video under the "live" tab.

1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda

- 1:00 – 1:10** 1. **Opportunity for the Public to Speak on Today's Agenda: Consistent with HB 2840**
☒ Information Minutes: 10
Item Summary: This item provides an opportunity for the public to comment on today's meeting agenda items. Members of the public wishing to comment on an agenda item may do so during this item by calling toll free 1-855-965-2480 and entering meeting ID 876 2221 4115# when prompted. Speakers should state their name, city of residence, the agenda number they are speaking on, and whether they are speaking on/for/against the item. Members of the public are not permitted to provide comments after the conclusion of this agenda item; therefore, the audio line will be disconnected, and members of the public may view the livestream of the meeting at www.nctcog.org/video.
Background: N/A
- 1:10 – 1:15** 2. **Approval of March 11, 2021, Minutes**
☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Roger Harmon, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the March 11, 2021, 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. Recognition of Flower Mound Assistant Fire Chief of Emergency Medical Services, John Glover, Traffic Incident Management Course Instructor
 2. Status Report on Dallas City Council Resolution Regarding the D2 Alignment (Electronic Item 4.1)
 3. Staffing Changes: Resignation of North Central Texas Council of Governments Program Manager Kevin Feldt

4. Public Outreach on Proposed Regional Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trip Reduction Target
 - Possible Changes to Transportation Development Credits and Possible Transit Passes for Private-Sector Employees
 - Draft Resolution (Electronic Item 4.2)
 - Policy Rational (Electronic Item 4.3)
5. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Schedule (Electronic Item 4.4)
6. Changing Mobility: Data, Insights, and Delivering Innovative Projects During COVID Recovery (Electronic Item 4.5)
(www.nctcog.org/pm/covid-19)
7. Commercial Motor Vehicle Violations: Enforcement, Prosecution, and Reporting Training Opportunity for Prosecutors and Judges, May 18 and 19, 2021
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/safety/transportation-safety/commercial-vehicle-enforcement>)
8. Spring 2021 Virtual Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course Announcement (Electronic Item 4.6)
9. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Upcoming Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings>)
10. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle>)
11. Status of Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program Funding Program (Electronic Item 4.7)
12. March Online Input Opportunity Minutes (Electronic Item 4.8)
13. April Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 4.9)
14. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.10)
15. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.11)
16. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.12)
17. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.13)

1:30 – 1:40

5. **COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program (Round 4)**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a fourth round of COVID-19 #00X Infrastructure Program projects and the ability to amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other planning/administrative documents to incorporate the projects.

Background: Due to the 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 received requests for funding from agencies around the region, which will inject much needed money into the local and State economies in the coming years. Staff recommends funding a fourth 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.

The complete list of proposed projects can be found in Electronic Item 5.1. Electronic Item 5.2 contains additional details about the program and projects being requested.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

- 1:40 – 1:45** 6. **2021 Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emissions Grant Program**
☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Lori Clark, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council approval of a proposed regional submittal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions Grant Program.
Background: The Federal Transit Administration has released the Fiscal Year 2021 Low or No Emissions Grant Program funding opportunity, which is expected to award \$180 million for advanced technology transit projects. Eligible projects include acquisition of low- or no-emission buses, supporting equipment, rehabilitation or improvement of bus facilities, and workforce development or training.
- The North Central Texas Council of Governments proposes to submit one proposal on behalf of the region to electrify the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Link service, which provides travelers a connection between the Centerport TRE station to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Please see Electronic Item 6 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

- 1:45 – 1:55** 7. **Legislative Update**
☐ Action ☒ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Rebekah Hernandez, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on federal and State legislative actions related to transportation and air quality issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Legislative actions to be covered include the following:
 - Federal Infrastructure Bill Update
 - Federal and State Committee Actions
 - Bills of Interest in the Texas LegislatureBackground: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. The 1st session of the 117th US Congress convened on January 3, 2021. The 87th Texas Legislature convened on January 12, 2021. This item will allow staff to provide updates on key positions of the Regional Transportation Council and allow any additional positions to be taken, if necessary.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

1:55 – 2:10

8. **Status Report on the North Texas Tollway Authority's Desire to Place SH 360 South in the NTTA System**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will highlight the North Texas Tollway Authority's (NTTA's) desire to place SH 360 South in the NTTA system. Staff will present NTTA's timeframe and anticipated action steps for a successful transaction.

Background: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved action to advance the SH 360 toll road on December 5, 2013. The project has been opened to traffic since May 2018. The RTC provided the financial backstop to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) loan to NTTA. In December 2013, TxDOT provided \$300 million for the construction of SH 360 South from approximately Green Oaks to US 287 to be repaid by NTTA through project revenues. The transaction required a financial backstop in case the traffic demand could not meet the loan repayments to TxDOT. NTTA wishes to pay off the loan, sell bonds, and place SH 360 into the NTTA system. This would eliminate the RTC's need to financially backstop the project. Electronic Item 8 contains monthly transactions on SH 360 South. Staff will summarize the current conversation between NTTA, TxDOT, and North Central Texas Council of Governments staffs. Action by the RTC will likely be requested at the May 13, 2021, RTC meeting.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Roadway

2:10 – 2:15

9. **Fiscal Year 2021 Project Tracking Update**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide the Council with an update to the Fiscal Year 2021 Project Tracking Initiative that was initiated in order to reduce the region's carryover funding balances and expedite project delivery.

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, projects tend to be delayed year after year. Over 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, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, and Transportation Alternatives Set Aside carryover balances. As a secondary line of offense, staff has implemented a project tracking initiative that will highlight project schedule commitments to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the RTC on a regular basis and

report local agency progress toward the committed project development schedules. A list of projects that were scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2021 and their current status can be found in Electronic Item 9.1. Additional details on this initiative can be found in Electronic Item 9.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Air Quality

2:15 – 2:25 10. Regional Transit Performance Measures: Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and Transit Asset Management

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on proposed Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regional targets, new federally required performance measures relating to improving transit safety in the region. An update on regional Transit Asset Management (TAM) performance will also be provided.

Background: The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Final Rule became effective on July 19, 2019, and seeks to improve public transportation safety by requiring operators of public transportation who receive federal Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funding to proactively manage safety risks in their systems through the development of PTASPs, which include individual agency transit safety performance targets. Once individual plans and targets are submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) must adopt regional transit safety targets within 180 days. Applicable regional providers have provided their plans to the North Central Texas Council of Governments as of December 2020. Staff worked with transit providers and performed detailed analyses to determine the best approach in adopting regional targets. The proposed regional targets will be used to track and report on the region's performance through existing documents, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and will be used in the planning process to prioritize funding investments and implement programs to improve transit safety.

A brief update on regional Transit Asset Management performance will also be provided, including a review of TAM and regional targets adopted by the RTC, performance for each of the four TAM performance measures, and discussion of next steps for updating the regional TAM targets and coordination to implement performance-based planning policies and projects. Details on both performance measures can be found in Electronic Item 10.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit, Safety

2:25 – 2:35

11. **Regional Vanpool Program Modifications to Improve Overall Efficiency**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information on the North Central Texas Regional Vanpool Program and an overview of recent coordination with transit providers to assess program modernization and opportunities to improve overall efficiency.

Background: The North Central Texas Regional Vanpool Program is operated by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), and Trinity Metro and achieves many regional benefits including lowering emissions by removing single occupant vehicles off the road. The Regional Transportation Council previously approved funding to support vanpool services. Each transit agency operates their vanpool program slightly differently, which can be confusing to the public. Staff recently began assessing the program to look for ways to modernize and improve overall efficiency. In collaboration with staff from DART, DCTA, and Trinity Metro, various areas have been identified for improvement to help simplify the program, reduce rider confusion, avoid unintended competition among the transit agencies, and gain greater program efficiency.

Staff will propose various recommendations for the Regional Vanpool Program including updates to provider boundaries, temporary flexibility to the subsidy funding structure provided by the Regional Transportation Council, and discussion of a regional cooperative vanpool procurement to create a more unified program that will benefit current and future riders. Electronic Item 11 provides additional details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

2:35 – 2:40

12. **Air Quality Program Report**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenters: Jenny Narvaez and Jason Brown, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present information regarding the region's 2021 ozone season and Texas temporary tags.

Background: The 2021 ozone season began on March 1 for the North Central Texas 9- and 10-county nonattainment areas and runs through the end of November. Concurrently, the region remains in nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. As attainment was not met following the 2020 ozone season, it is anticipated the region will be reclassified to more stringent regulations for both standards. Daily ozone information including current conditions and forecasts is provided at: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/ozone>.

Texas temporary tags are issued to allow a vehicle buyer to be registered and operate a vehicle before permanent license

plates are obtained. Texas has experienced an increase in temporary tags after the Two Steps One Sticker program began in 2016. Due in part to the ease of creating, selling, and printing temporary “paper” tags, tens of thousands of vehicles are improperly registered throughout the state. These temporary registration tags are costing the State in lost revenue, can be purchased online from various outlets, and have been observed on vehicles across the United States.

Please see Electronic Item 12 for more information.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:40 – 2:45 13. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advanced Air Mobility Community Planning and Integration Proposal

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on a submission for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) ARMD Advanced Air Mobility Research and Demonstration Announcement of Collaborative Partnership Opportunities.

Background: With the announcement of the ARMD Advanced Air Mobility Research and Demonstration Announcement of Collaborative Partnership Opportunities, NASA is making a commitment to support the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) industry and community in addressing key safety and integration barriers by hosting an AAM National Campaign series and conducting key AAM research and evaluation activities. NASA is looking for local, regional, state, tribal government and community organizations to demonstrate and prepare for early adoption of AAM services.

Strategically, this community planning and integration effort is focused on two main areas: 1) addressing key barriers with AAM community integration towards adopting AAM services in urban areas and 2) addressing technical barriers across vehicle design, vehicle operation, airspace design, and airspace integration that would benefit from inputs provided by local, regional and or state decision makers. The key community integration barriers that will be explored as a result of this announcement include:

- Public acceptance
- Supporting infrastructure
- Operational integration
- Local regulatory environment and liability

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

14. **Progress Reports**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 14.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 14.2)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 14.3)

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

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

17. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm, Thursday, May 13, 2021.***