

MINUTES

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 26, 2019

The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) held a meeting on Friday, April 26, 2019, at 1:30 pm, in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following STTC members or representatives were present: Joe Atwood, Micah Baker, Bryan Beck, Katherine Beck, David Boski, Shon Brooks, Tanya Brooks, Curt Cassidy, Ceason Clemens, John Cordary Jr., Hal Cranor, Clarence Daugherty, Chad Davis, Pritam Deshmukh, Duane Hengst (representing Greg Dickens), Phil Dupler, Chad Edwards, James Williams (representing Eric Fladager), Chris Flanigan, Ann Foss, Ricardo Gonzalez, Gary Graham, Tom Hammons, Brian McNulty (representing Ron Hartline), Kristina Holcomb, Matthew Hotelling, Kirk Houser, Terry Hughes, Paul Iwuchukwu, Sholeh Karimi, Alonzo Liñán, Clay Lipscomb, Paul Luedtke, Alberto Mares, Kimberly Garduno (representing Wes McClure), Laura Melton, Brian Moen, Mark Nelson, Jim O'Connor, Dipak Patel, Todd Plesko, Jim Lockart (representing Shawn Poe), John Polster, Athena Seaton (representing Bryan G. Ramey II), Greg Royster, Moosa Saghian, Jeff Kelly (representing David Salmon), Lori Shelton, Brian Shewski, Walter Shumac III, Randy Skinner, Cheryl Taylor, Keith Fisher (representing Gregory Van Nieuwenhuize), Daniel Vedral, Caroline Waggoner, and Robert Woodbury.

Others present at the meeting were: James Adkins, Berrien Barks, Tara Bassler, Natalie Bettger, John Brunk, Lorena Carrillo, Angie Carson, Ryan Delmonte, Cody Derrick, Brian Flood, Mike Galizio, David Garcia, Jeff Hathcock, Victor Henderson, Rebekah Hernandez, Chris Hoff, Bethany Hyatt, Tim James, Yagnesh Jarmarwala, Mike Johnson, Gus Khankarli, Ken Kirkpatrick, Minh Le, April Leger, Mickey McGuire, Melissa Meyer, Mindy Mize, Collin Moffett, Michael Morris, Jeff Neal, Trey Pope, Jay Rames, Chris Reed, Kyle Roy, Samuel Simmons, Shannon Stevenson, Vivek Thimmavajjala, Ellen Throneberry, Mitzi Ward, Brendon Wheeler, Jeremy Williams, Amanda Wilson, and Jing Xu.

1. **Approval of March 22, 2019, Minutes:** The minutes of the March 22, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 1. John Polster (M); Alonzo Liñán (S). The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Consent Agenda:** The following item was included on the Consent Agenda.
 - 2.1. **Activation of Traffic Signal at Canyon Falls Drive and Highway 377:** A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of \$400,000 of Regional Toll Revenue-Denton County funds for a project that will activate and enhance an existing traffic signal, with Union Pacific Railroad preemption, at the intersection of Canyon Falls Drive and Highway 377 in the Town of Flower Mound was requested. A 20 percent local match of \$100,000 will be provided from the Town of Flower Mound and Denton County. Action also included a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program and other planning/administrative documents as needed to incorporate this project.

A motion was made to approve the item on the Consent Agenda. John Polster (M); Daniel Vedral (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Endorsement of Transportation Development Credits for Automated Vehicle 2.0 Program:** Tom Bamonte discussed approval of the Automated Vehicle (AV) 2.0 Program by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on October 11, 2018, which included adoption of a policy to equip all communities with the resources to partner effectively with potential AV developers deploying AV technology within the region. The use of Transportation Development Credits in lieu of local match for partners participating in the three projects of the AV 2.0 Program will help facilitate the approved policy. A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of the use of Transportation Development Credits in lieu of local match for local partners participating in the Automated Vehicle 2.0 Program. Mark Nelson (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Title VI Program 2019 Update:** Kate Zielke presented proposed updates to the Title VI Program for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Transportation Department. As a recipient of federal funds, NCTCOG must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and an environmental justice executive order. These requirements guide NCTCOG's non-discrimination efforts as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and include environmental justice analysis, public involvement, and a number of other compliance topics detailed in Electronic Item 4. Requirements for the Title VI Program and the Metropolitan Planning Organization-specific requirements were highlighted including a demographic profile, mobility planning, and State and federal funding for transportation projects. The Title VI Program describes how NCTCOG implements Title VI nondiscrimination efforts and monitors subrecipients, which is required for direct and primary recipients of Federal Transit Administration funding. The program is required to be updated every three years, and the most recent update of the Title VI Program was 2016. Ms. Zielke highlighted changes made for 2019 including updated complaint procedures, which have also been translated into Spanish. In addition, updated bylaws for the Regional Transportation Council and NCTCOG Executive Board have also been included. The timeline for the effort was reviewed, which includes a public involvement period that closed on April 3. She noted that no public comments have been received. The updated Title VI Program will be presented for action at the May Regional Transportation Council meeting. A copy of the draft document was provided at www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/02/Title-VI-Draft.pdf, and a copy of the Public Participation Plan was provided at www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2019/02/PPP Title-VI.pdf. A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of the Title VI Program 2019 Update. Bryan Beck (M); John Polster (S). The motion passed unanimously.
5. **2020 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan Update:** Brian Dell presented information on the 2020 Unified Transportation Program and the Regional 10-Year Plan update. The Regional 10-Year Plan primarily includes projects funded with Category 2 (MPO selected), Category 4 (TxDOT district selected), and Category 12 (TTC selected) funds and this effort will be the third update since the original plan was approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in December 2016. Since the last update in August 2018, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has been working to develop the 2020 UTP and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff have been working with the local TxDOT districts on updates to existing projects and potential new projects. Projects have been scored for inclusion in the UTP and projects proposed for the Regional 10-Year Plan update were classified into five groups: 1) projects approved by the RTC that have also been approved in the UTP, 2A) projects approved by the RTC that have not been approved in the UTP, 2B) projects that are being proposed for the first time for RTC approval, 3) proposed projects that need funding to advance

preconstruction activities such as right-of-way acquisition, and 4) projects proposed to be removed from the 10-year Plan project list, funded with other sources, or are future candidates for funding. Details of the scoring process highlighted at the March 26 meeting were provided in Electronic Item 5.3. Regarding the corridor preservation program, Mr. Dell noted that based on input received from TxDOT Austin, staff proposed to change the funding source of the associated projects from Category 2 to Category 7 (Surface Transportation Program Block Grant). The timeline for this effort was reviewed, with action requested at this month's Committee meeting and the May RTC meeting. The proposed list of projects was provided in Electronic Item 5.1, and Electronic Item 5.2 included additional information about the process. Michael Morris spoke on the partnership with the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC). He noted discussions between the TTC and TxDOT districts' staffs and recent changes to the way the TTC may wish to partner on funding projects. An overview was provided of the current partnership in which the RTC funds projects such as Farm to Market roads, tolled facilities, and capital maintenance while the TTC/TxDOT funds projects using Category 4, Category 12, and Clean Lanes with some input from the RTC. Based on feedback received in recent meetings, the preferred partnership method between the RTC and TTC may be different with RTC proposing funding for its priority projects so that the TTC understands the priority. He noted that a meeting was scheduled for later in the year to discuss maximizing Category 12 commitments. Flexibility from the Committee to move the same projects across the goal line but potentially using a different blend of funding was requested to maximize the partnership with the TTC. He noted that part of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) responsibility is to clearly communicate with the TTC and TxDOT the federal responsibilities of the MPO and why the original partnership was selected. John Polster discussed the statement included in the presentation that county allocations will be reconfirmed. He asked if the funding per county will remain relatively the same but could potentially be a mix of different funding categories. Mr. Dell noted that he was correct. Mr. Polster also asked if agencies should assume that the RTC remains committed to the projects included on the Regional 10-Year Plan. Mr. Morris noted he was correct. The RTC remains committed to the projects funded through the action in December 2016. He noted that a small portion of the original Category 12 allocations remain unfunded. If the TTC does not choose to fund the commitments from December 2016 with Category 12 funds, then staff will move forward to propose alternate funding for these commitments. A motion was made to recommend Regional Transportation Council approval of the proposed 2019 Regional 10-Year Plan project list with flexibility to move funding between projects as negotiations continue with the Texas Department of Transportation. Action also included a recommendation for RTC approval to amend the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and other planning documents as needed. John Polster (M); Daniel Vedral (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Overview of 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Annual Traffic Count Report:** Daniel Snyder provided an overview of data from the 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic County Report. He highlighted the count equipment installed on shared-used paths (trails) in the region and noted that the report includes data from counters installed in Allen, Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, North Richland Hills, and Plano along the Regional Veloweb in areas near employment centers, transit, schools, and major destinations in both urban and suburban settings. Data for both pedestrian and bicyclists was reviewed, with the dominate mode often an indicator of the surrounding land use and level of density. Areas with mixed-use developments or destinations within short distance feature higher pedestrian activity. Bicyclist frequently travel longer distances. Mr. Snyder noted that the data also provides insight on the effects of precipitation on the amount of walking and bicycling in the region,

with data reflecting a large decrease in counts for both modes of travel during the fall when the region experienced a significant amount of rain. Other count data includes activity levels by days of the week, seasons, and others. Mr. Snyder noted that over the past 1.5 years, North Central Texas council of Governments has participated in a Texas Department of Transportation funded research project on bicycle and pedestrian data collection carried out by the Texas Transportation Institute. A statewide count program portal for active transportation in cities across the state was released and available at <https://mobility.tamu.edu/bikepeddata/>. He also noted that additional information about the bicycle and pedestrian data, as well as the 2018 report, is available online at www.nctcog.org/bikepedcountdata.

7. **Legislative Update:** Nicholas Allen provided an update on federal legislative items. He noted that Representative Collin Allred from the region was named Vice Chair of the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. Also, Nicole Nason was confirmed as Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, he noted that the 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program has been announced, with \$900 million in competitive awards available for surface transportation projects. Applications are due July 15, and more information will be provided to members at the May Committee meeting. Mr. Allen also provided an update for the Texas Legislature. Upcoming deadlines occurring over the next few weeks were highlighted, with the last day of the current legislative session on May 27. Regarding the State budget, there is currently a \$3 billion difference between the House and Senate versions. He noted that the House version is more consistent with the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Legislative Program. Budget conferees have been selected to work out the differences in the budget bills. High-speed rail bills were heard in a House transportation subcommittee, all of which were anti high-speed rail. Much of the testimony revolved around land owners who could be affected by the corridor developments that would be made by Texas Central Partners, and most of the criticism was regarding eminent domain authority. All bills were left pending. HB 1951 was heard in a House transportation tolling subcommittee. In its original form, this bill was likely the most offensive to the RTC Legislative Program. A subcommittee substitute was recently filed that is less offensive and, if passed, would have significant implications for all Comprehensive Development Agreements in the State of Texas. Highlights from other bills of interest included SB 531 that would extend the sunset date for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) by two years. SB 692 would extend the sunset date for Proposition 1 funding to 2034. HB 3745 could make accessing TERP funds simpler and proposes that a fund consisting of money raised under TERP be created. He noted that staff will continue to provide a summary of bills to members by email throughout the legislative session.
8. **2019 Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy Update:** Brian Dell noted that representatives from agencies with Metropolitan Planning Organization Milestone Policy projects that were granted an extension last fall would provide a status update on their projects. In November 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved an extension on MPO Milestone Policy projects that did not meet their initial deadline of Fiscal Year 2018. Surface Transportation Technical Committee Vice Chair Bryan Beck requested that a status update be provided in April 2019. Details on the Milestone Policy and the updated status of the five projects granted an extension were provided in Electronic Item 8.1. A list of the projects that did not meet their deadline were provided in Electronic Item 8.2. Ceason Clemens, Texas Department of Transportation Dallas District, noted that the three Dallas District projects let earlier in April and construction should begin in the new few months. Micah Baker from Dallas County noted that the County is working to schedule

the bid date for its project which is anticipated in June 2019. Pritam Deshmukh, City of Denton, noted that the City has started Phase 1 of the project which is currently under construction. He added that the remaining two phases will both let by September 2019.

9. **2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Development:** Brian Dell provided an overview of efforts related to development of the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a regional inventory of projects funded with various regional, local, federal, and State sources that is developed every two years. Development of the new TIP begins with a review of all existing projects and additional locally funded projects with implementing agencies. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff will solicit necessary revisions to project scopes, schedules, and funding. Staff will then develop revised project listings that will be financially constrained against the available estimated revenue in the latest Unified Transportation Program. A Mobility Plan and air quality review will then be conducted. Information will then be presented for public review and comment and brought back to the Committee and the Regional Transportation Council prior to the final project listing submittal to partners. NCTCOG staff will begin meeting with local partners in person or by conference call to receive input and updates on projects. Attendees should include project managers that can provide status of the projects and fiscal managers that can provide information on expenditures and invoicing. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) staff will be available to help with questions on project details and schedules. Project schedules should be realistic and include start and end dates, and things like the status of agreements should be accounted for. Discussions will also include highlighting the need for invoicing and the need for timely billings to TxDOT. Required monthly reporting on Regional Toll Revenue projects in the Revenue and Project Tracking System will also be addressed. Mr. Dell reminded members that this is an opportunity to request changes to project scopes, limits, funding, and implementing agencies. Staff cannot guarantee that all requests can be accommodated due to financial constraint. He noted that special focus will be placed on projects that are on the Milestone Policy list, and those that are at risk of losing federal funds such as projects on the Federal Highway Administration Inactive List, Preliminary Engineering Audit list, and projects in the Transportation Alternatives or Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program. Staff will also review the close out of projects funded with Regional Toll Revenue, and projects requested to be placed in the first year of the TIP (FY2021) will receive additional scrutiny. The proposed timeline for the TIP development process was highlighted. Mr. Dell noted that in advance of the coordination meeting with local partners, single entry reports inventorying all active projects will be provided for review and will be developed using data as of the May 2019 TIP cycle. Final listings will be presented to the Committee in April 2020.
10. **National Highway System Review:** Brian Flood briefed the Committee on the process to update the National Highway System (NHS) that recently commenced. The NHS was originally designated in 1996 and is a network of nationally significant roadways that support the movement of people and goods between population centers, international border crossings, major military installations, and intermodal facilities. In 2012, as part of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century legislation, the NHS was expanded to include all Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS) principal arterials not already on the system. Components of the NHS mandated by federal law were highlighted, as well as additional designations coordinated with local transportation officials. The current NHS review is the first effort to rationalize the NHS system as a whole since its creation in 1996. NHS designations are of importance because states receive funding from various federal apportionment programs, some of which require a facility to be on the NHS. The update

process was prompted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in mid-2017, and the Texas Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning and Programming Division (TxDOT PPD) initiated the NHS review in the State of Texas. Findings from the review were shared with TxDOT Districts and Metropolitan Planning Organizations for review and concurrence. TxDOT PPD presented a list of preliminary suggested modifications to the NHS to North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff in February for evaluation. Mr. Flood noted that NCTCOG staff is in the process of evaluating the suggested modifications utilizing FHWA and internal criteria. Staff will provide statements of support, revision, or rejection of suggested modifications to NHS and (if necessary) the Functional Classification System to TxDOT PPD. Significant changes to the current system are not expected as part of the review. A timeline for the effort was highlighted which will conclude with a request for Committee action on the proposed modifications in August.

11. **Fast Facts:** Michael Morris noted that the first-floor meeting areas of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will be closed for building renovations from July 15 through the end of September. The July 26 Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) will be cancelled, the August 23 meeting held at an alternate location, and the September 27 meeting moved to October 4. The August Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting will be cancelled, and the September meeting held at the Irving Transportation Summit. Members will be provided updates of the changes.

Bailey Muller highlighted current air quality funding opportunities for vehicles. She noted that the Texas Emission Reduction Plan electric vehicle rebates have been fully expended. A portion of that funding allocated toward natural gas and propane vehicles remains available through May 31. In addition, she noted the Volkswagen Settlement Texas Mitigation Plan is moving forward. On May 7, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will host a webinar about the funding and will also hold an application workshop on May 16 at NCTCOG. Details are available at www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle.

Bailey Muller also highlighted current Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities events. Details about future events, including National Drive Electric Week, are available at www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings.

Trey Pope provided an update on the status of the current ozone season. He noted the current design value for the region was 72 parts per billion and that the region has experienced no exceedance days for the 2019 ozone season to date.

Vivek Thimmavajjala noted that in response to TCEQ's request for local initiatives, NCTCOG staff submitted a summary of voluntary local transportation strategies in the Dallas-Fort Worth region expected to be implemented by 2020. A copy of the correspondence was provided in Electronic Item 11.2.

Berrien Barks provided an update on the most recent high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) subsidy report for tolled managed lanes in the region. As of January 2019, the current subsidy paid by the RTC is approximately \$3.4 million. In addition, approximately \$7,000 in request for reimbursements from vanpool users have been received. A copy of the near-term managed lane map, as well as a table showing the subsidy cost by corridor, was provided in Electronic Item 11.3.

Evan Newton noted that there have been no changes to the region's east/west equity distribution as of March 2019. Details of the current east/west equity percentages were provided in Electronic Item 11.4.

Rylea Roderick noted that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modification submittal deadline for the August 2019 TIP modification cycle was close of business the date of the meeting.

A flyer containing Safe Routes to School Regional Training information was provided in Electronic Item 11.5.

David Garcia provided information about upcoming transit stakeholder meetings being scheduled in response to the three-area transit study approved by the RTC. Some elected officials in Collin, Dallas, and Tarrant Counties have been seeking assistance to develop a comprehensive approach to planning and implementing transit services focusing in areas not included in transit service areas. Staff will be meeting with key stakeholders from each of the study areas to define the scope of work prior to issuing the Request for Proposal. Additional information will be provided to members in the future.

Brian Wilson noted that a flyer announcing the May 13 public meeting was distributed to members at the meeting in Reference Item 11.10.

Brian Wilson also noted that a summary of the March 11 public meeting and comments were provided to members in Electronic Item 11.6.

Victor Henderson noted that the current Public Comments Report, provided in Electronic Item 11.7, contained comments submitted by the public from February 20 through March 19. Comments regarding projects, urban transportation best practices, and construction updates were in the majority.

The current Local Motion was provided in Electronic 11.8, and transportation partner program reports were provided in Electronic Item 11.9.

12. **Other Business (Old and New):** Chad Edwards thanked Tom Bamonte and Clint Hail for organizing an automated vehicle briefing in Fort Worth. Committee Chair Kristina Holcomb also expressed her appreciation for their efforts in other areas of the region.
13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for 1:30 pm on May 24, 2019, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.