

LOCAL MOTION

November 2022

Welcome to Local Motion, a monthly email newsletter from the North Central Texas Council of Governments Transportation Department.

RTC OKs updated transit coordination plan



Access North Texas, which must be updated every four years, seeks to identify public transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income residents and others with transportation challenges. Additionally, regional projects funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program must align with strategies in this locally developed plan. Providing North Texans access to

transportation services has become crucial in the increasingly interconnected region, especially as trips get longer due to growth and traffic congestion. The cost of these longer trips has increased the need for more affordable services for those with fixed incomes to ensure they can access food, jobs, critical services and educational resources.

Access North Texas outlines the following goals as it seeks to address transit needs of older adults, individuals with lower incomes and those with disabilities across the region:

- Plan and develop transportation options by assessing community needs and challenges
- Implement services by enhancing transportation options where gaps exist
- Coordinate with transportation providers, public agencies and stakeholders to improve efficiency
- Support public transportation recovery and growth
- Promote access to and information about transit

NCTCOG used various outreach methods to connect with the public, transit agencies and stakeholders while updating Access North Texas. Planners conducted county-specific virtual outreach meetings, offered a transportation survey and used an interactive mapping tool to collect feedback on transportation needs and challenges.

The draft document, including regional goals and county-specific strategies, was shared with stakeholders, promoted on social media, and presented during public meetings in August and September. Comments were encouraged via email and one-on-one meetings with staff to collect input from the public. The 2022 Access North Texas document is available at www.accessnorthtexas.org.

Planning project provides local governments roadmap to vehicle automation



Local governments in the Dallas-Fort Worth area will be better prepared for the development of automated vehicles, thanks to a recently completed planning project led by the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The Automated Vehicle 2.1 planning project seeks to provide agencies with guidance on preparing for emerging transportation technologies and their impacts.

NCTCOG worked with a consultant team to assess current needs, analyze the market, and develop and evaluate scenarios to help prepare North Texas for vehicle automation, plus a wide range of other transportation innovations.

The AV2.1 study team began with a detailed look at the current state of transportation in North Texas as a means of understanding the issues that new technologies aim to resolve. The team's focus then shifted to include other areas of interest, such as autonomous personal mobility, equity in accessing destinations via new technologies and infrastructure resilience.

Through a scenario-development process and an extensive public outreach program, the project team developed guidance for local municipalities, counties, and agencies to plan for the effects of emerging transportation technologies. The resulting guidance will assist North Texas organizations as they apply for federal, state and local funds to deploy automated vehicles or related mobility technologies.

For details on AV2.1, including best practices and a tool kit for initiating AV deployments in the region and educational materials, visit www.connectntxfutures.org.

Ozone season concludes Nov. 30 as region continues work toward compliance



Ozone season concludes November 30, and with a current design value of 77 parts per billion, the Dallas-Fort Worth area continues to work toward compliance with the federal government's standards for ozone pollution.

North Texas is under two standards: one from 2008, which established a limit of 75 parts per billion, and the more recent 70 ppb standard from 2015. After missing the deadlines to comply with both, the region has been reclassified and faces new deadlines to reach attainment.

North Texas was upgraded from serious to severe nonattainment status for the 2008 standard and now has until 2027 to come into compliance. The region moved from marginal to moderate nonattainment under the 2015 standard and now has until 2024 to reach attainment.

NCTCOG is relying on numerous programs and policies to help the region meet attainment of both standards and to avoid further sanctions. One example is the Management and Operations and Air Quality and Safety Program the RTC approved last month. While not an exhaustive list, other notable efforts include:

- Federal air quality performance measures
- Emissions reduction strategies
- The RTC's legislative agenda, which is expected to make air quality funding a priority
- National review of transportation control strategies

NCTCOG will also continue coordinating with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the EPA on the regional impacts of reclassification. North Texans can help by reducing the usage of single-occupancy vehicles by carpooling, using public transportation, teleworking or taking part in air quality education programs such as Air North Texas, the regional public awareness campaign that seeks to improve air quality with the assistance of individuals, businesses and governments.

To sign up for air pollution alerts and learn more on how to help make a difference, please visit www.airnorthtexas.org.

By the Numbers

24.2 million

Number of gallons of gasoline reduced by stakeholders, according to the 2022 DFW Clean Cities annual survey.

DFW Clean Cities Coalition recognizes fleets for contributions to air quality



Dallas-Fort Worth CLEAN CITIES

The Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition recognized local fleets on November 1 for their efforts to reduce petroleum use, and improve air quality, as part of its annual Fleet Recognition Awards. The winners include eight Gold, seven Silver and six Bronze recipients.

The City of Southlake and Dallas Area Rapid Transit were awarded Gold status for the fourth consecutive year, while the cities of Carrollton, Dallas, Denton, Lewisville, and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport were awarded Gold for the third straight year. The City of Grapevine brought home Gold for a second consecutive year.

The winners of the Silver recognition were the cities of Arlington, Frisco, Irving and Mesquite, along with the Town of Addison, Denton ISD and Trinity Metro. The City of Irving earned Silver status for the fifth year.

The cities of Coppell, Lancaster and North Richland Hills earned Bronze Level recognition, along with the Town of Flower Mound, Denton County, and GreenPath Logistics.

Awards were presented to entities based on a scoring system with 100 possible points based on their contributions recorded in the DFW Clean Cities Annual Survey. The points include 55 from emissions reduction, 25 from fuel consumption reduction and 20 from partnering with DFWCC. Gold Level status required 45-100 points; Silver Level status required 34-44; and Bronze Level status required 28-34.

The 2022 winners helped the region reduce 24.2 million gallons of gasoline equivalent and 118,555 tons of greenhouse emissions.

Additionally, DFW Clean Cities recognized 11 Shining Stars for their work to improve air quality by reducing nitrogen oxides, improving efficiency and converting to alternative fuels. The cities of Lewisville, Grapevine, and Coppell were recognized for the greatest progress in reducing nitrogen oxides. Denton County, Denton County Transportation Authority, the Town of Flower Mound, and the City of Carrollton were recognized as showcasing the greatest efficiency strategies. Shining Stars highlighted as alternative fuel champions were DFW Airport, Dallas ISD, Trinity Metro and the City of Arlington.

Finally, DFW Clean Cities recognized entities in the Fleet Challenge that gave quantifiable goals and have exceeded those numbers in comparison to the 2020 results. Winners were DFW Airport and the cities of Bedford, Carrollton, Frisco, North Richland Hills and Watauga.

Fleet Challenge Awards

City of Bedford	Two-time winner (2021 & 2022)
City of Carrollton	Two-time winner (2021 & 2022)
City of Frisco	Two-time winner (2021 & 2022)
City of North Richland Hills	First-time winner (2022)
City of Watauga	First-time winner (2022)
DFW Airport	Two-time winner (2021 & 2022)

The Clean Cities initiative is a locally based, public-private partnership that promotes practices and decisions to reduce petroleum consumption and improve air quality in the transportation sector. Clean Cities has a goal to reduce petroleum use by over 20 million gallons annually. The annual survey helps track that progress. For more information, visit www.dfwcleancities.org.

NCTCOG participates in TxDOT campaign to boost safety, #EndTheStreakTX



The Regional Transportation Council approved a \$50 million safety program for the region geared toward improvements intended to make traveling across the region safer for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Half of the \$50 million approved for the program will be allocated to roadway operations, engineering and intercity connections. Approximately \$9 million will be used to help local communities

with speed enforcement and education. The program will allocate \$10 million for bicycle-pedestrian engineering and another \$2 million for bicycle-pedestrian education. An additional \$4 million is reserved for other programs.

North Texas joins the state in focusing on improving the safety of the transportation system. This fall, the Texas Department of Transportation has been encouraging motorists to help #EndTheStreakTX by practicing safe driving habits such as obeying the speed limit and avoiding distracted driving. Since November 7, 2000, at least one person has died each day on Texas roadways.

NCTCOG and other transportation partners brought TxDOT's #EndTheStreakTX message to Creekview High School in Carrollton last month as part of an initiative called Teens in the Driver Seat, which works to educate students on the importance of roadway safety.



Provide input on bike-pedestrian funding, other planning initiatives Nov. 7

NCTCOG will host a hybrid public meeting this month to offer North Texans an update on the Transportation Alternatives Program funding, a regional policy supporting

context sensitive design and other initiatives.

The meeting will take place at NCTCOG's Arlington offices, 616 Six Flags Drive, at noon Monday, November 7. Residents may attend the meeting, watch it online at www.publicinput.com/nctcogNov22 or participate via phone by dialing 855-925-2801, then code 2233.

Staff will provide an overview of the recommended funding awards for the Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects. Projects eligible under this program include the construction of on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, rail station connections, activities related to the Safe Routes to School initiative and safety improvements.

NCTCOG is proposing a draft policy resolution supporting a regional model for complete streets and context sensitive design. This resolution outlines the importance of planning and constructing complete streets and serves as the framework for encouraging such policies across the region. The draft policy will be presented for review and comment.

Additionally, staff will provide a recap of promotional efforts and the results of the events held at schools that celebrated Walk to School Day on October 12.

Finally, staff will present an update on current air quality standings, compare current standings with previous ozone seasons and highlight potential implications facing the region for not meeting federal attainment requirements. A recording of the presentations will also be posted at www.publicinput.com/nctcogNov22.

For special accommodations due to a disability, language interpretation, for printed copies of presentations, or to request a free roundtrip ride between NCTCOG and the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort/DFW, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or jcastillo@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.

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