

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Friday, July 28, 2023

North Central Texas Council of Governments

**1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**

1:30 – 1:35

1. Approval of June 23, 2023, Minutes

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Walter Shumac, III, STTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the June 23, 2023, 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. Endorsement of Department of Energy Grant Proposals

Presenter: Savana Nance, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to pursue competitive grant opportunities from the Department of Energy (DOE).

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) proposes to submit a grant proposal to the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation "Ride and Drive Electric" Funding opportunity to develop a regional plan to improve the resilience of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The plan would seek to improve continuity of operation in the event of a power outage and incorporate a demonstration project. Staff proposes to request the maximum of \$1.5 million federal DOE funds and provide the required 20 percent match (up to \$375,000) using Regional Toll Revenue funds. RTC approved this staff proposal at its July RTC meeting. Submittals are due to the Department of Energy by 4 pm Central Time, Friday, August 25. In addition, NCTCOG, in its role as host agency of Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities, had been asked to partner as a subrecipient in several proposals competing for funding through the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2023 Vehicle Technologies Office Program-Wide Funding Opportunity. RTC approved participation at their July meeting. Since RTC action, the Department of Energy issued responses to initial project concept papers, and several proposals are no longer moving forward. The only proposal moving forward is that being developed by Louisiana Clean Fuels, which will be due to the Department of Energy on August 11, 2023. STTC

endorsement is requested. More information is available in Electronic Item 2.1. This presentation also includes a summary of DOE awards recently announced from the previous fiscal year competition.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

1:40 – 1:50

3. Approval and Endorsement of 2024 Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan Update

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brian Dell, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval on the proposed changes to the Regional 10-Year Plan Update, including a funding exchange to advance the IH 30 Canyon project, and endorsement of action taken by the RTC at its July 2023 meeting, will be requested.

Background: Since December 2016, the RTC has annually approved a set of projects funded with Category 2 (MPO selected) and Category 4 (TxDOT District selected) funds and submitted for Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) consideration with Category 12 (TTC selected) funds that cover 10 years of highway projects. Since the last update in 2022, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff has coordinated with the TxDOT Dallas, Paris (Hunt County), and Fort Worth districts regarding updates to previously approved projects, as well as potential additions to the 10-Year Plan to be included in the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). To address over-programming of Category 12 funding statewide in the first few years of the UTP, it is being proposed that Category 12 funding be removed from the IH 30 Canyon project in Dallas County and be replaced with Category 2 funding. Category 2 funding would then be removed from several out-year projects and be replaced with Category 12 funding in the 2024 UTP. Electronic Item 3.1 includes additional information about the process. Electronic Item 3.2 contains the proposed list of planned projects for the Regional 10-Year Plan. Electronic Item 3.3 contains the 10-Year Plan projects that have let or been completed.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. Census Update Federal Transit Administration Designated Recipient

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff is requesting favorable recommendation to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) that North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) be selected as the Designated Recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for the newly designated McKinney-Frisco Urbanized Area.

Background: On December 29, 2022, the Census Bureau published updates to urban areas based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing counts and density calculations. Based on the 2010 Census there are three urbanized areas in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney. Under the new 2020 designations, Frisco is now combined with McKinney to create the McKinney-Frisco urbanized area, which requires designation of a new Designated Recipient for FTA funds prior to October 1, 2023. The staff's recommendation is that NCTCOG be selected as the Designated Recipient. Both the Frisco City Council and McKinney City Council have approved the recommendation that NCTCOG serve as the Designated Recipient. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative, Transit

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Fiscal Year 2023 Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program**

☒ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 (FY 23/24) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. This \$5.575 billion program solicits project applications for three funding opportunities: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Grants Program (MEGA), the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (INFRA), and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

Background: On June 26, 2023, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the solicitation of project applications for the FY 23/24 MPDG Discretionary Grant Program. As with last year, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) combines three major discretionary grant programs in efforts to reduce burdens for State and local applicants, increase the pipeline of “shovel-worthy” projects now possible because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and enable US DOT to get a more comprehensive view of projects in development nationwide. The MPDG Program application deadline is August 21, 2023, for the following funding programs:

- The National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) Program will provide \$1.8 billion in FY 23/24 funding for major projects too large or complex for traditional funding programs.
- The Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects Grant Program (continuation of the existing Infrastructure for Rebuilding America, or INFRA Program) will provide \$3.1 billion in FY 23/24 funding for highway, bridge,

freight rail, intermodal, and marine transportation projects of regional and national significance.

- The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL) will provide \$675 million in FY 23/24 funding supporting projects to improve/expand rural area surface transportation infrastructure for increased connectivity and enhanced safety and reliability of people and freight movements to generate regional economic growth and greater quality of life.

Electronic Item 5 provides program details, application requirements, and information regarding candidate projects. For agencies in the region submitting their own projects, please be aware you must complete the www.grants.gov registration process, usually requiring two-four weeks for completion, prior to submitting applications. Assuming the projected timing for application development, agency requests to receive a letter of support from the RTC should be submitted to Nicholas Allen by Monday, August 7, 2023, at nallen@nctcog.org.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Goods Movement, Roadway

2:10 – 2:25

6. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of current transportation items will be provided.

Background: Efforts continue to advance transportation in the region. Staff will highlight the following:

1. Announcement of Fiscal Year 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) – Grant Project Awards
2. Amtrak Payment
3. Letter Regarding SH 183 Managed Lanes (Electronic Item 6.1)
4. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 6.2)
5. Texas Department of Transportation – Metropolitan Planning Organization: Next Steps

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Administrative

2:25 – 2:35

7. Federal and State Actions Update

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jenny Narvaez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on actions taken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and reconsideration of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Background: EPA is in the process of approving and disapproving parts of the SIP and reconsidering lowering the fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS. All these actions may have impacts on the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region in terms of conformity and transportation funding. Additionally, TCEQ has published the proposed SIP Revision(s) for the DFW 2015 Ozone NAAQS and opened the public comment period. Electronic Item 7.1 includes staff comments on the revisions. Finally, emissions reductions strategies are being reviewed and a request for ideas is being requested. Details and impacts of all these actions will be presented. For more information, please see Electronic Item 7.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:35 – 2:40

8. Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities Study Recommendations

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Ezra Pratt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will update the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) on the completion and key recommendations from the Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities Study.

Background: The Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities Study investigated the potential for mobility hubs on and around college and university campuses throughout North Central Texas. The study assessed existing and future transportation and demographic conditions around campuses to provide recommendations for mobility hubs and improvements. A catalog of mobility hub components and strategic recommendations for mobility hub phasing, funding, and implementation was developed as part of the study. More details can be found in Electronic Item 8.

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

2:40 – 2:45

9. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Development Kickoff

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Cody Derrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process, expectations, and upcoming meetings.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. For regionally significant projects to proceed to implementation, they must be included in the TIP

listings correctly. To this end, NCTCOG staff will meet with local partners to receive input and updates on all their active projects. The data from these meetings will be assessed and organized into a draft project listing, which is financially constrained against the funding allocations identified in the Unified Transportation Program. Special attention will be placed on projects that are at risk of losing federal funds or on the Regional Transportation Council's MPO Milestone Policy list. Details on the 2025-2028 TIP Development process, timeline, and focus areas are available in Electronic Item 9.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Transit

2:45 – 2:50

10. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Policy Bundle 5

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Amy Johnson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on results from the fifth round of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Policy Bundle, including the plan to distribute available Transportation Development Credits (TDCs). The Committee will be briefed on TDC distribution for successful participants.

Background: The MTP Policy Bundle Program was created to encourage entities like local governments, school districts, and transportation agencies to voluntarily adopt at least a minimum of 50 percent of the list of policies identified in Mobility 2045 Update. By voluntarily adopting these policies, participating entities will receive Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. Recommendations in Mobility 2045 Update consist of policies, programs and projects reflecting the region's priorities and support Mobility 2045 goals. As construction of infrastructure projects alone cannot achieve the goals of the plan, a voluntary list of policies available for adoption by local agencies was designed to encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions. By voluntarily adopting 50 percent of these policies, participating agencies receive TDCs to offset local funds for federal transportation projects. MTP Policy Bundle applications have been reviewed, and staff will present a draft recommendation for distributing TDCs to successful entities. Electronic Item 10 includes a draft recommendation for TDC distribution for successful policy bundle participants.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:50 – 3:00

11. **Unmanned Aircraft Airspace Awareness Pilot Program**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Committee on the North Texas Unmanned Aircraft Airspace Awareness Pilot program. This program includes details impacting the pilot and how local governments can get the free application software and training. Staff will also provide information on an upcoming Workshop from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the upcoming Remote ID regulations.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has selected proposals from three companies to provide a tool that will enable residents and businesses to fly safely and receive live data on potential risks, advisories for local events or emergencies, and other flight planning features. The purpose of this software is to integrate Advanced Air Mobility and autonomous drone deliveries in the region. This initiative requires the use of Uncrewed Traffic Management and Providers of Services to Unmanned Aircraft Systems. NCTCOG plans to work with the three service providers over a two-year pilot program to develop a collaborative process for sharing essential data and automating flight information inputs. During the first year, NCTCOG will work with each platform provider to conduct training and develop workflows for data input. In the second year, they will focus on sharing data across all platforms to enhance regional safety. Also, beginning September 16, 2023, all drone pilots who are required to register their Unmanned Aircraft Systems must operate in accordance with the rule on Remote ID. The FAA will conduct a workshop for the region on Friday August 11, 2023. All details will be shared with the Committee.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Safety

3:00 – 3:10

12. **Fast Facts**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Staff presentations will be provided. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. *Aliyah Shaikh* – November Transportation Improvement Program Cycle Submittal Deadline – July 28, 2023
2. *Jesse Brown* – Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Subsidy Report (Electronic Item 12.1)
3. *Sydnee Mangini* – Pilot Placemaking Training (Electronic Item 12.2)
4. *Sydnee Mangini* – North Central Texas Council of Governments Community Gardens Public Program Guide
5. *Nicholas Van Hassen* – 2023 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 12.3)
6. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
7. *Juliana VandenBorn* – Upcoming Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)

8. *Jackie Castillo* – June Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 12.4)
9. *Taylor Benjamin* — Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 12.5)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 12.6)
13. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on August 25, 2023.***