

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

June 16, 2016

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 1 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following members or representatives were present: Monica R. Alonzo, Bruce Arfsten, Douglas Athas, Brian Barth, Carol Bush, Mike Cantrell, David L. Cook, Rudy Durham, Andy Eads, Charles Emery, Gary Fickes, Rob Franke, Sandy Greyson, Mojoy Haddad, Roger Harmon, Clay Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jungus Jordan, Lee Kleinman, Brian Loughmiller, David Magness, Scott Mahaffey, Matthew Marchant, Maher Maso, Cary Moon, Stan Pickett, Mark Riley, Amir Rupani, Kelly Selman, Gary Slagel, Lissa Smith, Mike Taylor, Stephen Terrell, William Velasco II, Oscar Ward, Duncan Webb, Kathryn Wilemon, Jeff Williams, and Erik Wilson.

Others present at the meeting were: Gustavo Baez, John Baker, Melissa Baker, Tom Bamonte, Berrien Barks, Carli Baylor, Emily Beckham, George Behmanesh, Natalie Bettger, Brandy Bissland, Alberta Blair, Debby Bobbitt, Chuck Branch, Ron Brown, Ken Bunkley, Mo Bur, Kasey Burgan, Susan Buse, Loyl Bussell, Marrk Callier, Jack Carr, Angie Carson, Dave Carter, Dixie Cawthorne, Kevin Cleveland, Jim Cline, Leigh Collins, Michael Copeland, John Cordary, Hal Cranor, Armin Jose Cruz, Mike Curtis, Clarence Daugherty, Kim Diederich, Jerry Dittman, Chad Edwards, Traci Enna, Brittney Farr, Kevin Feldt, Christie Gotti, Richard Grady, Heather Haney, Tony Hartzel, Jeff Hathcock, Philip Heigh, Tommy Henderson, Rebekah Hernandez, Jesse Herrera, Axel Herrmann, Robert Hinkle, Jodi Hodges, Terry Hughes, Travis Kelly, Dan Kessler, Ken Kirkpatrick, Chris Klaus, Peter LeCody, April Leger, Sonny Loper, Paul Luedtke, Mickey Marlow, Steve McCullough, Chad McKeown, Keith Melton, Mindy Mize, Michael Morris, Jenny Narvaez, Mickey Nowell, John Polster, James Powell, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, Ashley Releford, Molly Rendon, Christina Roach, Gary Roden, Rylea Roderick, Tito Rodriguez, Carrie Rogers, Kyle Roy, Moosa Saghian, Steve Salin, Russell Schaffner, Jody Short, Walter Shumac, Randy Skinner, Rick Stopfer, Jahnae Stout, Dean Stuller, Gerald Sturdivant, Vic Suhm, Craig Swancy, Gary Thomas, Jonathan Toffer, Lauren Trimble, Dan Vedral, Leslie Wade, Mitzi Ward, Amy Wasielewski, Lisa Wazl, Joy Weist, Sandy Wesch, Elizabeth Whitaker, Amanda Wilson, Brian Wilson, Mykol Woodruff, and Ed Wueste.

1. **Approval of May 10, 2016, Minutes:** The minutes of the May 10, 2016, meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 1. Jungus Jordan (M); Kathryn Wilemon (S). The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda:** The following item was included on the Consent Agenda.

2.1. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications:** A motion was made to approve ratification of a revision to modification number 2015-0723 (revised) from the May 2016 revision cycle provided in Reference Item 2.1.

Mike Cantrell (M); Rob Franke (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris thanked Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair Mark Riley for his service as the RTC Chair during the past year. In addition, he discussed a partnership with the China Academy of Transportation Sciences who is interested in creating a Memorandum of Understanding with the RTC on performance measures and decision making. The recognition of Chris Burkett

was rescheduled to a future date. Staff highlighted new technology in the Transportation Council Room. Air quality funding opportunities were provided in Electronic Item 3.1. An ozone season update and information regarding Clean Air Action Day was provided in Electronic Item 3.2, and Electronic Item 3.3 included Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Annual Report results. Mr. Morris also noted the National Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations will meet in Fort Worth on October 25-28. Details were provided in Electronic Item 3.4. Electronic Item 3.5 included correspondence from the City of McKinney requesting that the North Central Texas Council of Governments serve as the direct recipient for Federal Transit Administration funds available for transit service. A June public meeting notice was provided in Electronic Item 3.6, recent correspondence in Electronic Item 3.7, recent news articles in Electronic Item 3.8, and recent press releases in Electronic Item 3.9. A copy of the 2016 Progress North Texas was provided at the meeting. The cover of the publication highlights the winning drawing from Weatherford Independent School District. Additional copies were made available upon request.

4. **2016 Transportation Conformity Reconfirmation:** Chris Klaus presented recommendations for reconfirmation of the 2016 Transportation Conformity. In March 2016, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved Mobility 2040, the corresponding Transportation Improvement Program, and 2016 Transportation Conformity. During that time, State and federal partners requested that North Central Texas Council of Government staff consider removing air quality benefits for the US 67 High-Occupancy Vehicle facility due to operational changes included in Mobility 2040. A transportation control measure (TCM) substitution process was then conducted and approved at the May 12 RTC meeting for the substitution of associated benefits for the US 67/IH 35E High-Occupancy Vehicle project between IH 20 and IH 30 with traffic signalization improvement project benefits. This reconfirmation of the air quality conformity analysis incorporates results of the TCM substitution process. All other aspects of the conformity analysis remains the same as from the RTC's March 2016 approval. The Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality have submitted final concurrence on the TCM substitution, provided in Electronic item 4.1 and Electronic Item 4.2, respectively. Once United States Department of Transportation conformity determination is granted, initiatives in Mobility 2040 may proceed. Details were provided in Reference Item 4.3. A motion was made to incorporate the transportation control measure substitution of the interim High-Occupancy Vehicle US 67/IH 35E lanes with traffic signal prioritization improvements into the 2016 Transportation Conformity. RTC reconfirms approval of the 2016 Transportation Conformity analysis of Mobility 2040 and associated Transportation Improvement Program as detailed in Reference Item 4.3. Lissa Smith (M); Jungus Jordan (S). The motion passed unanimously.
5. **High Speed Rail Texas Central Partners Memorandum of Understanding:** Rob Franke reviewed items discussed at the Multimodal/Intermodal/High Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee meeting. The primary focus of the meeting was advancement of the policy on high speed rail. Generally, the policy promotes partnering for high speed rail, grade-separated rail, a one-seat ride, and three stops in the region in Dallas, Arlington, and Fort Worth. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding advances the items with Texas Central Partners. Discussion also included options in the region and managing high speed rail efforts. The subcommittee approved a recommendation to the Regional Transportation Council following considerable discussion and comments. Michael Morris noted that subcommittee discussion and staff's recommendation is for the motion to approve moving forward with approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Central Partners and to include communication to the Texas Department of Transportation and Federal

Railroad Administration the importance of constant communication with regard to building consensus on the recommendation for high speed rail between Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth. Oscar Ward asked the completion timeline for the two routes TxDOT is evaluating. Mr. Morris noted completion of environmental studies is expected by winter of this year. A motion was made to approve the proposed Regional Transportation Council resolution and Memorandum of Understanding between Texas Central Partners and the Regional Transportation Council provided in Reference Item 5, including continued coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration. Rob Franke (M); Jeff Williams (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **City of Colleyville Request for Regional Transportation Council Reconsideration and Public Referendum Request:** Michael Morris discussed action at the May 12, 2016, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting approving a short-term loan to maintain the construction schedule of the passenger rail line from downtown Fort Worth to the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. At its May 17, 2016, meeting, the Colleyville City Council passed a resolution, provided in Reference Item 6.1, requesting the RTC reconsider the TEX Rail project and/or put the project up for a public referendum in the November 2016 general election. Electronic Item 6.2 contained a copy of a white paper on The Case for Transit developed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments in 2015. Electronic Item 6.3 included a 50-year history within the Dallas-Fort Worth region on how the private and public sectors have requested passenger rail to be part of broader policy questions. Jungus Jordan respectfully noted the opinions expressed by the City of Colleyville and noted he believed no action is required. Matthew Marchant requested clarification on whether Colleyville had provided any funding for the TEX Rail project. Mr. Morris noted that it had not, but Colleyville had requested a quiet zone within its city which had been implemented. Mike Taylor, City of Colleyville, noted his comments at the May 12, 2016, RTC meeting in which he stated if you are philosophically opposed to transit or if you have a house that backs up to this type of project, there may or may not be concerns. He discussed the newly elected Colleyville City Council and its right to pass the resolution. He added that he represents the ten-city cluster that includes Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Keller, Colleyville, Grapevine, Southlake, Westlake, Trophy Club, and Roanoke. Mr. Taylor noted his conversations with mayors of the other nine cities whom emphatically stated they do not support the Colleyville resolution and fully support the TEX Rail project. Mr. Taylor wanted the citizens of Colleyville to know their voices have been heard and acknowledged. However, he stated he also represents all member cities within the group that account for approximately 353,000 people. The vote of the nine mayors represents 93.3 percent of his vote. No action was taken on the item.
7. **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goal Updates:** Ken Kirkpatrick provided a summary of the current Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and the proposed update for the DBE Participation Goal for FY2017-FY2019. The North Central Texas Council of Governments participates in a DBE program as a direct recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. The purpose is to ensure nondiscrimination and create a level playing field for disadvantaged businesses to compete for contracting opportunities. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) current policy is to award a fair share of all its contract opportunities utilizing United States Department of Transportation funds to DBEs. Its current participation goal for FY2014-2016 is 25 percent. NCTCOG asks that firms unable to meet or commit to the DBE goal for a specific project demonstrate and document good faith efforts towards meeting the goal. In addition, firms participating in contracting opportunities must provide certification of DBE eligibility. Over the last several weeks, staff has been working to develop the proposed DBE goal for the next three years,

done through a two-step process. Staff reviews and projects the amount and types of contracting opportunities for the next three years, as well as the total number of firms that are ready, willing, and able to complete the work in the Dallas-Fort Worth market area. NCTCOG does not rely on the national goal of 10 percent or past participation goals, but reviews disparity studies and other agencies' goals compared to the number of the firms that are able to complete the work. A table summarizing the availability analysis was highlighted that included the different categories of procurement: planning/engineering, advertising, software development, and equipment. Over the next three years, approximately \$13 million is expected to be award through procurements. Data also includes the total number of firms that provide services in each of the categories. The percentages are weighted by the dollar amount for a total weighted summary of approximately 25 percent. Staff then reviews past performance, which was also highlighted. For FY2014-FY2016, approximately \$14.4 million in contracts have been awarded to date, with the DBE participation at 29.8 percent and expenditures at 31.69 percent. Approximately four months remain in the fiscal year and there are several active procurement and contracts, so these percentages are expected to fluctuate. Staff believes that the DBE Program is considered successful when it is no longer needed. One of the FTA requirements is the review of what percentage of DBE participation occurs through race conscious versus race neutral means. Race conscious participation is achieved through procurements with a DBE contract goal and race neutral participation is achieved through procurements without a contract goal or through DBE participation that exceed the advertised goal. For the last three years, the ratio of race conscious versus race neutral procurements is approximately 56 percent/44 percent. Staff's proposal for the DBE Participation Goal in FY2017-FY2019 is to maintain the 25 percent goal based on the availability analysis and past performance. Details were provided in Electronic Item 7. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted that the proposed DBE Goal was published on June 1, followed by public meetings June 13-15. The updated DBE goals are anticipated to be presented to the RTC and Executive Board for approval in August 2016.

8. **Status of the Current Comprehensive Development Agreement Managed Lanes: Preliminary Performance of the LBJ and NTE Tolled Managed Lanes:** Michael Morris presented recent performance measures on the two comprehensive development agreement tolled maned lanes, the North Tarrant Express (NTE) and LBJ Express. In addition, outreach education efforts were highlighted. Five areas of communication related to toll managed lanes include: 1) brief, videos of real users in the corridor, 2) frequently asked questions and education for stakeholders, 3) observed behavior fact sheet, 4) economic development near tolled managed lanes, and 5) funding status white paper-thank you to the legislature with regard to how the region can create a better balance of transportation projects in the future. Data for the NTE and LBJ Express was highlighted. In both corridors, traffic dropped during construction and users moved to parallel corridors. To date, all traffic has returned to the corridor. In addition, there has been significant traffic growth rates. Even though the facilities include the same number of general purpose lanes, speeds have significantly improved, and there is a 73 percent reduction in congestion on the NTE and 60 percent reduction on LBJ Express. Since the facilities have opened, over 6 million different vehicles have used the corridors. Data also shows that a variety of users are traveling on the facilities and feedback has been positive. Jungus Jordan suggested that the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Chair send a letter of appreciation to Senator Nichols for major successes in the region that he championed such as Proposition 1 and Proposition 7, and if staff has not done so yet, provide him with an RTC paperweight. Lee Kleinman asked if the presentation was available electronically. Mr. Morris noted that staff would be working to update the presentation, but would provide to members by e-mail following the meeting. Oscar Ward also requested that the presentation made by Senator

Nichols at the most recent Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition meeting be provided to members or shown at a future RTC meeting. Mr. Morris noted that Senator Nichols has requested time to update his presentation, but that staff is in contact with his office and will make it available to the RTC in the future, as well as place a future item on the RTC agenda. Mike Taylor noted that continued education on how the tolled component pays for the free component is necessary. Mr. Morris indicated that staff will continue to refine education efforts.

9. **Upcoming High Speed Rail Industry Forum, June 20, 2016:** Michael Morris discussed the High Speed Rail Industry Forum scheduled for June 20, 2016, in the Transportation Council Room. Firms potentially interested in proposing a high-speed rail project in the Dallas-Fort Worth region have been invited in response to the Federal Railroad Administration and United States Department of Transportation request for proposals. Electronic Item 9 contained a copy of the invitation memo. Proposed corridors include Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth, as well as Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth-Austin-San Antonio and beyond. The North Central Texas Council of Governments' role is to provide Dallas-Fort Worth region information to prospective proposers, encourage private sector participation, and serve as a resource to proposers to ensure consistency with the region's policies and Mobility Plan. Invitations have been provided to global high-speed rail entities, local elected officials, the Commission for High Speed Rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region, engineering firms, railroad firms, and the United States High-Speed Rail Association.
10. **Regional Safety Program Performance Measures Report:** Natalie Bettger provided an overview of items included in the 2015 Safety Performance Measures Report included in Electronic Item 10. Data presented is from the Texas Department of Transportation crash record information system. Crash and fatality data for the 16-county region was highlighted. Crashes have increased by 11 percent and fatalities by 5 percent from 2014 to 2015. Based on data, approximately 41,000 injury crashes occurred in 2015 which accounted for approximately five injury crashes every hour and approximately one fatality in the region per day. On average, every minute of every day 36 first responders are operating on the transportation system. Crash rates by county were also highlighted, including the counties with the largest average increases and decreases in crashes. Contributing factors for serious injury and fatal crashes on limited access facilities indicate that speeding and driver related issues remain the top factors and account for over 40 percent of the incidents. Hazardous material statistics are also collected, and approximately 20 hazmat related crashes occurred in 2015 along dedicated and delivery routes. Ms. Bettger also highlighted the bicycle and safety campaign launched in October 2015, Look Out Texans. Bicycle and pedestrian safety has been a focus area due to higher statistics in the region than other areas. Between 2010 and 2014, the region experienced over 8,200 crashes involving motor vehicles and pedestrian/bicyclists, as well as over 500 fatalities. The campaign provides educational material to pedestrian and bicycle users, as well as vehicle users. Traffic Incident Management is an initiative also implemented in the region to help reduce the impact of crashes on roadways by reducing response time. To date, over 2,000 first responders have attended training. Mobility Assistance Patrol is another program sponsored by the RTC. Highest support was provided to stalled vehicles by providing assistance with flat tires, gasoline, and other types of assistance that prevents the user from being stranded on the roadway for long periods of time. Another safety program implemented in the region is the Wrong Way Driving Pilot Project. Efforts include consistent pavement markings and signage at intersections to avoid confusion, as well as the use of technology for Wrong Way Driving incident notifications. She also discussed Commercial Vehicle Enforcement efforts that help law enforcement to improve information sharing between jurisdictions. In addition,

agencies requested additional training for judges and prosecutors on general commercial vehicles and driver laws so there is a better understanding when presented to the court. Jungus Jordan asked if staff has access to data for toll roads versus tax-funded roadways and noted that the information is worthy of review. Ms. Bettger noted that data was available for all roadways and that staff would review the data. Michael Morris specifically discussed efforts related to the Wrong Way Driving program. He noted appreciation for TxDOT efforts with regard to pavement and signage, but added that it is also important to address the reduction of wrong way driving occurrences in the first place. RTC may be asked to consider, in regular or executive session, focus on major policy questions regarding wrong way driving.

11. **Election of Regional Transportation Council Officers:** Mike Cantrell announced the slate of officers recommended by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Nominating Subcommittee for the 2016-2017 term: Chair Ron Jensen, Mayor, City of Grand Prairie; Vice Chair Rob Franke, Mayor, City of Cedar Hill; and Secretary Gary Fickes, Commissioner, Tarrant County. A motion was made to approve the slate of officers recommended for the 2016-2017 term. Mike Cantrell (M); Jungus Jordan (S). The motion passed unanimously.
12. **North Central Texas Council of Governments 50th Anniversary Video:** Michael Morris discussed the 50th anniversary of the North Central Texas Council of Governments. As part of the celebration, the Transportation Department created a video showcasing department staff sharing memories and thoughts on what has made the Transportation Department successful. The video was shown during the meeting.
13. **Progress Reports:** Regional Transportation Council attendance was provided in Reference Item 13.1, Surface Transportation Technical Committee meeting attendance and minutes were provided in Electronic Item 13.2, and the current Local Motion was provided in Electronic Item 13.3.
14. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.
15. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.
16. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2016, 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Gary Slagel announced that on June 14, 2016, Dallas Area Rapid Transit and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority celebrated 20 years of rail service in the region. He thanked Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Fort Worth Transportation Authority staffs and Board members, as well as the Regional Transportation Council and the North Central Texas Council of Governments for efforts to make rail service successful.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.