



The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

NOTICE OF MEETING

THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

WILL MEET

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 1 pm

IN THE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ROOM (1ST FLOOR)

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

616 Six Flags Dr, Arlington, TX 76011

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Amanda Wilson of NCTCOG 72 hours in advance of the meeting at 817/695-9240. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

1:05 – 1:20

3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. June Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Meeting Date Rescheduled to June 16, 2016, 1:00 pm
2. North Texas Tollway Authority Q&A, Marketing Region-wide Toll Tag Penetration, and Toll Tags in the DFW Connector Corridor Discussion Scheduled for Future RTC Meeting
3. North Central Texas Council of Governments/RTC/Texas Department of Transportation Auto Occupancy Technology Detection Procurement: Issued April 8, 2016
4. HB 20 Status Report
5. Collin County Transit Update/Toyota Donation to Dallas Area Rapid Transit
6. 2016 United States Department of Transportation, Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Announcement (Electronic Item 3.1)
7. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (Electronic Item 3.2)
8. April Car Care Clinics (Electronic Item 3.3)
9. Latest Reminder of the 2016 Clean Diesel Call for Partners, Deadline April 15, 2016 (Electronic Item 3.4)
10. April Public Input Opportunity (Electronic Item 3.5)
11. March Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 3.6)
12. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 3.7)
13. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 3.8)
14. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 3.9)
15. Recent Transportation Performance Measures (Electronic Item 3.10)
16. Transportation Partners Progress Reports

1:20 – 1:35

4. **Final Project Milestone Policy Recommendations and Update Regarding the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Development Timeline**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Adam Beckom, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the Project Milestone Policy recommendations and provide an update on the timeline for the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process.

Background: In June 2015, the RTC approved the Project Milestone Policy that focused on reviewing projects that were selected ten or more years ago. The policy was designed to remove low-priority projects from the TIP/Statewide TIP (STIP) and leave funding capacity for higher-priority projects that are ready to proceed to implementation within the current TIP/STIP. Since November 2015, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff has worked with local implementing agencies, which could justify keeping projects that are still of interest to the respective communities. Agencies were required to provide:
1) documentation of local match availability, 2) a realistic and achievable schedule that has concurrence from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and NCTCOG, and

3) recent policy board action confirming the project. Project submittals were reviewed and proposed recommendations are available in Reference Item 4.1. Included in this item is a proposal that projects with a delay must begin construction within one fiscal year of the year identified in the milestone recommendation list in order to maintain the funding commitment. Upon approval, recommendations in Reference Item 4.1 will be included in the 2017-2020 TIP project listings.

In addition, a new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort among NCTCOG, 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. To this end, NCTCOG staff has met with local partners to receive input and updates on all active projects. The data from these meetings has been organized into a draft project listing, which is financially constrained against the funding allocations identified in the 2016 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

On March 25, 2016, the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommended the 2017-2020 TIP listings for RTC approval. Since STTC approval, staff was made aware of a schedule change at the State level. The 2017-2020 TIP is due to TxDOT on June 24, 2016 (instead of May 2, 2016). Given this change, staff plans to delay the request for final action of the 2017-2020 TIP listings until May 2016. Staff will continue to refine the listings with comments from local agencies, the public, and TxDOT. Final listings will be ready for RTC approval in May 2016.

Additional details regarding the Project Milestone Policy and the draft 2017-2020 TIP development process are available in Electronic Item 4.2.

1:35 – 1:45

5. **Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization Presentation and Continued Partnership**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Elected Officials, Waco MPO

Item Summary: Elected officials from the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) have requested a short presentation to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on common planning needs between the two regions.

Background: The RTC has an interlocal partnership agreement with the Heart of Texas region, including the Waco MPO. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff recently gave a presentation to the Waco MPO outlining possible initiatives that could be beneficial

to its residents and businesses. This item will highlight continued dialog for coordinating transportation planning between the two regions.

- 1:45 – 1:55** **6. 2016 FASTLANE Grant Program Project Submittal**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the 2016 Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program recently announced by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), and will request action on the proposed list of projects to be submitted.
Background: In February 2016, the US DOT announced the 2016 FASTLANE grant program for freight projects with national or regional significance. The program is designed to address congestion on the nation's freight corridors and to support anticipated freight growth in the multimodal transportation system. Electronic Item 6.1 is a copy of the notice of funding opportunity that details the \$800 million grant program, as well as the application requirements. Pre-applications are not required, but applicants were encouraged to e-mail the US DOT with a brief project description by March 25, 2016. Final applications are due to the US DOT by April 14, 2016. Additional information is available online at www.transportation.gov/FASTLANEgrants.

For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware that you must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the application, and that this process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete.

An overview of the 2016 FASTLANE grant program and the projects proposed for submittal on behalf of the RTC is available in Reference Item 6.2.

- 1:55 – 2:05** **7. 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery VIII Project Submittal**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VIII discretionary grant program recently announced by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), and will request action on the proposed list of projects to be submitted.
Background: In February 2016, the US DOT announced the 2016 TIGER VIII discretionary grant program for surface transportation projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or a metropolitan area. Electronic Item 7.1 is a copy of the notice of funding opportunity that details the \$500 million discretionary grant program, as well as the application requirements. Pre-applications are not required for this round of the program, and

final applications are due to the US DOT by April 29, 2016. Additional information is available on the TIGER website at www.transportation.gov/TIGER.

For agencies in the region submitting projects, please be aware that you must complete the Grants.gov registration process before submitting the application, and that this process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete. In addition, if an agency would like to receive a letter of support from the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), requests must be submitted to Rebekah Hernandez by Friday, April 8, 2016, at rhernandez@nctcog.org.

Electronic Item 7.2 details the previous TIGER efforts in the Dallas-Fort Worth region and the resulting funding decisions. An overview of the TIGER VIII process and the projects proposed for submittal on behalf of the RTC is available in Reference Item 7.3.

- 2:05 – 2:15** **8. Environmental Stewardship Program and Appreciation to the North Texas Tollway Authority**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will request the creation of an environmental stewardship initiative to help mitigate the increase in upcoming Proposition 1 and Proposition 7 projects in the region.
Background: The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) paid the region \$3.2 billion in regional toll road funds to build the SH 121 toll road (i.e., Sam Rayburn Tollway). This item would create \$3.2 million for an Environmental Stewardship Program in appreciation to NTTA. The program would be an NTTA/Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)/Regional Transportation Council (RTC) partnership that would support 50 percent of the program and challenge residents and businesses to pay another 50 percent. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff proposes to present this program at Earth Day Texas on April 22, 2016. Of the \$1.6 million request, \$200,000 has already been approved by the RTC. This action would approve an additional \$1.4 million in Region Toll Revenue funds. Electronic Item 8 lists the initial set of projects. This program is also initiated in memory of Chris Anderson, author of the "Shared Environmental Mitigation Program" and former NCTCOG employee who recently passed away, and who also spent a lot of his career at NTTA and TxDOT.
- 2:15 – 2:25** **9. High-Speed Rail Update/Federal Notice of Funding Availability**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Kevin Feldt, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will provide an update of recent progress regarding high-speed rail initiatives for the Dallas-Fort Worth region, including staff efforts to advance the initiatives.

Background: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has adopted a new Mobility 2040 and a regional policy guiding the development of high-speed rail implementation within the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Currently, three separate projects designed to serve the region are ongoing. They are: 1) Houston to Dallas, 2) Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth, and 3) Fort Worth-Austin-San Antonio. North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff continues to coordinate with project partners to ensure the efforts are consistent with the adopted RTC High-Speed Rail Policy and with all transportation partners, consultants, and the public to ensure successful high-speed rail service implementation. NCTCOG staff will continue to serve as the RTC liaison for regional high-speed rail efforts. Staff will provide updates on each project proposed within the Dallas-Fort Worth region, including proposed staff efforts to respond to the Federal Railroad Administration Request for Proposals published in the March 9, 2016, Federal Register seeking proposers to finance, design, construct, operate, and maintain a high-speed rail system.

2:25 – 2:35 10.

Start of Ozone Season/Air Quality Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on a variety of ozone topics pertaining to North Central Texas, including start of the 2016 ozone season, upcoming outreach events, and the status of the two overlapping 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone standards.

Background: The 2016 ozone season began on March 1, 2016, for the North Central Texas ten-county region classified as moderate nonattainment for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2008 eight-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, ≤ 75 parts per billion (ppb). Currently, the region's design value is 72 ppb at Denton Airport South.

As the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) works to finalize the region's State Implementation Plan for the 2008 NAAQS, the Regional Transportation Council continues to support air quality projects and programs to assist the region in meeting federal attainment and transportation conformity requirements for ozone. In recent correspondence to the TCEQ, provided in Electronic Item 10.1, the EPA recognized the region's continued efforts to reduce emissions from mobile sources.

In addition, implementation of the EPA's 2015 eight-hour ozone standard, ≤ 70 ppb, continues. Through April 15, 2016, the TCEQ is seeking comment on potential area designations and boundary recommendations under this new standard. Electronic Item 10.2 is North Central Texas Council of Governments correspondence to local counties of the TCEQ's request. Further details can be found in Electronic Item 10.3.

2:35 – 2:45 11.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Data User Counts

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Karla Weaver, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present information about the regional bicycle and pedestrian data count program. A report is currently available reflecting the first full calendar year in which data was collected.

Background: In 2014, the North Central Texas Council of Governments purchased bicycle and pedestrian count data collection equipment, and in partnership with several local agencies began installing the equipment on shared-use paths in various urban and suburban areas around the region. Additional count equipment has also been purchased and installed by other agencies. A report has been prepared providing an overview of count data collected during 2015 in 26 locations installed in 5 cities across 4 counties. The report presents information for each count station related to mode-share split, total bicycle and pedestrian trips, and seasonal variations in the average daily trips by month. A bicycle and pedestrian count fact sheet is provided in Electronic Item 11.

12. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Reference Item 12.1)
- STTC Minutes and Attendance (Electronic Item 12.2)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 12.3)

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

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

15. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for *1:00 pm, Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.*