

AGENDA

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE Friday, August 26, 2022 North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:30 pm Full STTC Business Agenda

- 1:30 – 1:35** 1. **Approval of July 22, 2022, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Ceason G. Clemens, STTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the July 22, 2022, 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. **Air Quality Funding Recommendations Related to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program**

Presenter: Trey Pope, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Committee approval of funding recommendations for the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects.

Background : The North Central Texas Council of Governments opened the North Texas Clean Diesel Project 2021 Call for Projects (CFP) through an Environmental Protection Agency National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program award. The CFP award grants funds for replacements of on-road diesel vehicles and engines, nonroad diesel equipment, diesel transport refrigeration unit trailers, diesel drayage trucks, locomotive engines, and locomotive shore power installation in North Central Texas. One application was received by the CFP deadline of July 15, 2022. Staff completed review, quantified emissions, and developed project funding recommendations. This initiative is an extension of clean vehicle efforts listed as Weight-of-Evidence in the current State Implementation Plan. Electronic Item 2.1.1 provides an overview of the call for projects and staff recommendations. Electronic Item 2.1.2 provides detailed project listings.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2.2. **Transit Strategic Partnership Program: Summer 2022 Projects**

Presenter: Rachel Jenkins, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval to provide funding to

STAR Transit for expanded transit service to the Cities of Cedar Hill and Duncanville through the Transit Strategic Partnership Program.

Background : In 2021, the Southern Dallas County Transit Study was finalized, focusing on the strategic implementation of transit and mobility services in an area of the North Texas region that has limited access to existing transit services. As recommended in the study, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) began facilitating discussions in 2021 between STAR Transit and the Cities of Cedar Hill and Duncanville on potential expansion of transit service to each municipality. Each city submitted a proposal to NCTCOG's Transit Strategic Partnerships program requesting funding to be awarded to STAR Transit for the purpose of introducing pilot transit service that prioritizes seniors and individuals with disabilities. Requested funding will support a combination of demand response and STARNow same-day service for a pilot period of two years. Staff will request STTC approval to utilize existing Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program funds from the Transit Strategic Partnership Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,260,000 to support STAR Transit's expansion of services to the Cities of Cedar Hill and Duncanville. More details can be found in Electronic Item 2.2.1

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Transit

1:40 – 1:50

3. **FY22 Bridge Investment Program (BIP)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) endorsement of a project to be submitted for funding consideration through the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Bridge Investment Program (BIP). The proposed project will be submitted under the Bridge Projects funding category (eligible costs equal to/less than \$100 million), with applications due to US DOT by September 8, 2022.

Background: In June 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit applications for FY22 BIP funding. This \$2.36 billion program includes three categories of BIP funding opportunities: (1) Planning, (2) Bridge Projects, and (3) Large Bridge Projects (eligible costs greater than \$100 million). Planning applications were due to US DOT by July 25, 2022, but NCTCOG did not submit applications under that category this year. NCTCOG also did not pursue applications this year under the Large Bridge Projects category, and those applications were due to US DOT on August 9, 2022. Just

over \$1 billion of the overall FY22 BIP funds are available for the Bridge Projects funding category. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for bridge replacement, rehabilitation, preservation, and protection projects that: (1) improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of people/goods movement over bridges; and (2) improve the condition of U.S. bridges by reducing (a) the number of bridges (and total person-miles traveled over bridges) in poor condition, or at risk of falling into poor condition, within the next three years, or (b) the number of bridges not meeting current geometric design standards or load/traffic requirements typical of the regional transportation network. Available at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bip/index.cfm>, the FY22 BIP NOFO describes the application requirements, selection and evaluation criteria, applicable program and federal requirements, and available technical assistance during the grant solicitation period. Electronic Item 3.1 lists the 92 regional bridges currently rated in poor condition according to 2022 National Bridge Inventory (NBI) data, organized by TxDOT district and county location. Listings shown in green indicate bridges where treatment projects to address condition are either completed, under construction, or funded and scheduled for near-term construction. Listings shown in blue indicate bridges where the scope of potential treatment projects is pending further study. Listings shown in yellow are bridges which were further evaluated by NCTCOG, TxDOT, and other partners as potential FY22 BIP candidate projects. Staff will provide information supporting selection of the listing shown in red (Sylvania Avenue @ SH 121 – Fort Worth) and request the Committee’s endorsement for submitting a BIP application to address this critical project. Electronic Item 3.2 provides additional BIP details and information on the proposed project.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

1:50 – 2:00

4. **Safe Streets and Roads for All Regional Grant Application**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Julie Anderson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request a recommendation for Regional Transportation Council approval of a regional implementation project submittal to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant program.

Background: The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the solicitation of applications for FY22 SS4A funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new SS4A discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next five years. In FY22, up to \$1 billion is available. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. A maximum of one grant application may be submitted per

agency. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed regional implementation grant application by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the City of Dallas, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) for Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Cedar Crest Blvd. in Dallas. Road Safety Audits for the roadway corridor were facilitated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2021, in partnership with the City of Dallas, Texas Department of Transportation, and NCTCOG. The implementation project will include a complete street retrofit, technology, and safety countermeasures to improve the safety and comfort of all modes of transportation including motor vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian. The anticipated total cost for the project is \$22 million, with an anticipated federal request of \$17.6 million. The local match will be covered by the City of Dallas and DART. An overview of the proposed project is contained in Electronic Item 4.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:00 – 2:10

5. **Transportation infrastructure Certification TransPod and JPods**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Brendon Wheeler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: As an initial step in implementing the Transportation Infrastructure Certification Program, staff will introduce two applicant technologies: TransPod and JPods. Both technologies follow the requirements established by the RTC as defined in Policy P22-2, including the utilization of the initial certification track or pilot corridor for eventual commercial service that fulfills a transportation need identified by the Mobility 2045 Update. Staff will outline next steps for these two technologies within the Certification Program and will request action to recommend RTC advance these proposals to interested local governments that may wish to submit locations for the technology providers to consider.

Background: In May 2022, the RTC adopted Policy P22-2 to develop a process for the Transportation Infrastructure Certification Program. This program serves to guide a consensus-building path among the RTC, interested local governments, and transportation technology providers in bringing innovative transportation solutions to our region with the end goal of a commercial application serving a long-range transportation need. This transparent process ensures a level playing field for transportation technology providers wishing to prove their technology and for local governments wishing to attract unique and innovative transportation technologies to solve their transportation needs. TransPod is a hyperloop developer based in Canada, focused on developing ultra-high-speed vehicles within a low-pressure tube to carry people and goods long distances between cities. JPods is a solar-powered, overhead personal rapid transit system, similar in concept to an advanced gondola/cable car system, that operates on a

low-speed gridded network within or along existing right-of-way to transport people within an urban area. Staff is continuing to review letters of interest from technology providers wishing to join this program and will update STTC and the RTC on the results of these applications as they advance through the process. Additional details are provided in Electronic Item 5.1 and Policy P22-2 is provided as Electronic Item 5.2.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Good Movement, Transit

2:10 – 2:20

6. Federal Performance Measures Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: James McLane and Ezra Pratt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of new targets for federally required performance measures. The targets are set in cooperation and coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation.

Background: Federal Performance Measures were originally introduced in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and carried through in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). These laws and subsequent related rulemaking require that certain performance measures be included in the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process. These measures were established by a series of five rulemakings: Highway Safety (PM1), Infrastructure Condition (PM2), System Performance/Freight/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (PM3), Transit Asset Management (TAM), and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP). Each performance measure rulemaking consists of several specific performance measures. An update will be provided on progress for the PM3, TAM, and PTASP measures. Proposed new targets for the PM3 and TAM measures will be included for future adoption by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on September 8, 2022, to meet the required federal due date of October 1, 2022. Electronic Item 6 provides further details.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality, Transit

2:20 – 2:30

7. Director of Transportation Report on Selected Items

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

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. High Speed Rail (Electronic Item 7.1)

2. High Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Report (Electronic Item 7.2)
3. Parking Garage Policy Update (Electronic Item 7.3)
4. Draft Updated Rules for Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings (Electronic Item 7.4)
5. US 75 Technology Lane for Partnership with Local Government and Texas Department of Transportation

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Roadway, Safety

2:30 – 2:40

8. Status Report on Electric Vehicles/National Drive Electric Week

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Soria Adibi, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the status of electric vehicle (EV) adoption in North Texas. Upcoming National Drive Electric Week events will also be highlighted.

Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) continues to encourage EV adoption as a strategy to improve local air quality by reducing transportation system emissions. As the industry matures, availability and adoption of this technology continues to grow in both the passenger vehicle and heavy-duty sectors. Staff has also begun planning the annual National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) event to showcase EVs to the public. NDEW is between September 23 – October 2, 2022. Additional details are available in Electronic Item 8.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed: Air Quality

2:40 – 2:50

9. Fast Facts

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Item Summary: Staff presentations will not be made. Please reference the material provided for each of the following topics.

1. Walk to School Day Promotion 2022 (Electronic Item 9.1)
2. Comments to FHWA on National Electric Vehicles Infra Plan (Electronic Item 9.2)
3. Regional Vanpool (Electronic Item 9.3)
4. North Texas Center for Mobility Technologies Project Tracking (Electronic Item 9.4)
5. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles
(www.nctcog.org/aqfunding)
6. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events
(<https://www.dfwcleancities.org/events>)
7. 2022 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 9.5)
8. September Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 9.6)
9. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 9.7)
10. Written Progress Reports:
 - Partner Progress Reports (Electronic Item 9.8)

14. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Surface Transportation Technical Committee is scheduled for ***1:30 pm on September 23, 2022.***