



It's Your Region

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Two NCTCOG Environment and Development Department Events, Tuesday, March 5, 2019

1. NCTCOG's Environment and Development Department Hosts First Regional Watershed Stakeholder Forum – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join NCTCOG's Environment and Development Department for its first regional watershed forum. Stakeholders will share and learn about accomplishments in watershed management, and discuss watershed concerns. The forum will culminate with a roundtable discussion and presentation on various water quality topics. Dr. Terry Gentry, Professor of Soil and Aquatic Microbiology with the Texas A&M Soil and Crop Sciences Department, will be the keynote speaker. **The forum will be held at NCTCOG in the William J. Pitstick Conference Room**, located at 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011 in the Centerpoint II building.

Registration is required, and seating is limited. Register here: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/events>. For more information, please contact Ryann Cline at RCline@nctcog.org.

2. NCTCOG's Environment and Development Department Hosts Discussion on Emerald Ash Borer – 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.



The Emerald Ash Borer is a highly destructive invasive non-native wood-boring pest that targets Ash trees. Native to Asia, this insect was discovered in the United States in Southeast Michigan in 2002. Since then, the invasive pest has spread to 33 states, including Texas in 2016, and was identified in Tarrant County in 2017. The Environment and Development Department will host an informational session on the Emerald Ash Borer, and experts from Texas A&M Forest Service will speak on a variety of topics, including:

- how to identify the insect and ash trees;
- how the Emerald Ash Borer has impacted the United States since 2002;
- the potential impacts on our region and what can be done to decrease the impacts; and
- quarantine regulations.

With the Emerald Ash Borer infestation becoming a growing problem, NCTCOG's Environment and Development Department invites you to attend this informational session. **The session will be held at NCTCOG in the Regional Forum Conference Room**, located at 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011 in the Centerpoint II building. For more information, please contact Mia Brown at MBBrown@nctcog.org.

Drive.ai Service Expands in Entertainment District



Drive.ai, the company that has introduced autonomous vehicles to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, has expanded options in Arlington for people who want to experience what it is like to ride in driverless vehicles.

The City of Arlington, in partnership with Drive.ai, has expanded its automated vehicle pilot program to include a weekday service between NCTCOG's Centerpoint Two building, 616 Six Flags Drive, and Texas Live!, located in the City's Entertainment District. Although the new stop is located at NCTCOG's offices, anyone who chooses may hop aboard the orange van at the new stop.

The purpose of this new route is twofold:

1. Increase the amount of service that Drive.ai provides during the pilot program
2. Generate rider feedback to improve Drive.ai's service performance

Each vehicle has a safety driver in place to answer any questions during the ride. The new service launched in December and runs from 11 am to 4 pm weekdays. To access the Drive.ai service, simply visit the kiosk in the Centerpoint Two lobby and order your ride.

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RTC Approves Funding for Alliance Link Transit Service

The Regional Transportation Council approved a funding request for up to \$500,000 in January that will allow Trinity Metro to continue enhanced connectivity between the AllianceTexas area and potential employee pools in Fort Worth, Denton and surrounding areas. The money comes from Regional Toll Revenue funds previously approved for transit.

This service was implemented in 2018, by Toyota after the automaker relocated its North American headquarters to Plano. The pilot project was intended to increase public transit ridership and transportation access in the Alliance area. The RTC's funding will allow the service to continue for two additional years. It was scheduled to conclude January 31, 2019.

The project demonstrated the importance of connecting employees with existing nearby bus routes and final destinations. As the Alliance area continues to grow, transportation will be a crucial component for lasting success.

Trinity Metro is coordinating the service with DCTA and plans to integrate the Alliance Link into the High-Intensity Bus project, or guaranteed transit, taking shape along the Interstate Highway 35W corridor that has been funded by the RTC.

For more information, visit www.ridealliancelink.com.