



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
2:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Tamara Cook)

The meeting began with an introduction of all present.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### 2. **Presentation on COMMON VISION**

- a. Overview of COMMON VISION and the Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) Program (Edith Marvin)

Edith Marvin presented an overview of the Trinity COMMON VISION program history and the goals of the program. Program participants currently include ten cities, four counties, and two special districts in North Central Texas.

### 3. **COMMON VISION Work Program Overview and Activities Update.** NCTCOG staff will provide an overview and update of the listed activities of the Trinity River COMMON VISION Program:

- NFIP/CDC Model Consolidation Team (Matt Lepinski and Lisa Biggs)

Lisa Biggs summarized the work of the NFIP/CDC Model Consolidation Team to update the CDC Manual to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Sections 1 and 3 have been finalized and shared with the FMTF for comment. Section 2 is nearly finalized and will be shared with the FMTF prior to the October meeting. Section 4 is still under development. Matt Lepinski gave a general overview of the Team's work to consolidate the NFIP and CDC models into a single floodplain modelling tool. The CDC Manual 5<sup>th</sup> edition incorporates activities and fees associated with the consolidated model.

- Trinity River CDC Permit Website (~~Brian Geck~~ Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook provided an overview of the [Trinity River CDC website](#), developed by NCTCOG as the central location for submitting and reviewing CDC applications. The website also has the latest versions of the CDC model and manual available for users to download, and a map of all CDC permits issued to date.

- CDC Permitting Update (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook told the committee that 17 CDC applications have been received in FY21 as of September 21, 2021, bringing the total applications since the beginning of the program to 230.

- East Fork Trinity and Denton Creek Community Integration (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook gave an overview of the effort to invite East Fork Trinity and Denton Creek communities to voluntarily join the Trinity COMMON VISION program. The City of Seagoville and Kaufman County joined the program from the East Fork in 2019, and conversations are ongoing between NCTCOG and other communities in these watersheds to join the program. FEMA has contributed \$1.5 million to develop preliminary maps of the East Fork watershed for integration into the NFIP/CDC consolidated model, and USACE has contributed \$270,000 to develop East Fork future flows.

- FEMA 4-day National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Course (Breanne Johnson)

Breanne Johnson provided details on the 25<sup>th</sup> annual NFIP L-273 four-day course, hosted by NCTCOG, FEMA, and TWDB at NCTCOG's offices in Arlington. This year's four-day course will take place November 8-11, 2021, with a TFMA-administered CFM exam held on November 12<sup>th</sup> following the course. Trinity COMMON VISION members receive two weeks of early registration before the course opens to the public.

- Elected Officials Seminar and Community Rating System (CRS) Meeting (Breanne Johnson)

Breanne Johnson gave the Committee a recap of the annual Combined Elected Officials/CRS Users Group Floodplain Seminar that was held virtually on July 29, 2021. Representatives from the Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group, ASCE, and FEMA presented on flood planning for the state of Texas, the 2021 Texas Infrastructure Report Card, utilizing building codes in flood hazard mitigation, and the NFIP's new Risk Rating 2.0 system.

- OneRain Flood Early Warning System (Sue Swenor)

Sue Swenor (High Sierra Electronics) gave an overview of the North Texas SHARE contract with OneRain to create a regional flood early warning system using Conrail software. NCTCOG and OneRain recently negotiated new tier levels for communities interested in utilizing this contract to visualize flood data and receive early warning alerts. Seven communities and special districts in North Texas are currently a part of this contract with OneRain. Flood data for current members can be viewed at [FloodDataNTX.com](https://www.flooddata.com).

## ACTION ITEMS

4. **Summary of 2020 Common Vision Steering Committee Meeting.** The summary of the 2020 meeting is [available online](#) for review. (Tamara Cook)



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A link to the 2020 meeting summary was made available for review and the Committee was asked if there were any corrections or objections to the document as written. No objections were made, and the summary was passed as final.

5. **Approval of FY2022 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program.** The FMTF met June 11<sup>th</sup> and assisted NCTCOG with the selection of work program items presented for the upcoming fiscal year. The FMTF approved the FY2022 work program on August 13<sup>th</sup> and recommended Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee approval. The budget has increased to \$118,192 with the introduction of new communities in the East Fork watershed to the program. Participating entities are welcome to increase individual contributions for FY22 if budgets allow, and additional cost share increases will be discussed throughout 2022. (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook provided an overview of changes between the FY21 and FY22 work programs, and confirmed that cost shares for FY22 have not increased for communities from the traditional annual cost shares. The FY22 work program includes additional activities related to participation in the Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group, updating the CDC Manual and Consolidated Model, and integrating additional communities from the East Fork and Denton Creek watersheds. The Committee members voted verbally, unanimously approving the FY22 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program as presented.

6. **COMMON VISION Participant Cost Shares – For Discussion Purposes.** The Flood Management Task Force (FMTF) discussed potential cost share increase scenarios and additional contributions for FY2022 on August 13<sup>th</sup> and suggested that the options be discussed with the Steering Committee for future consideration. (Edith Marvin)

Edith Marvin presented the idea of increasing cost shares for the original COMMON VISION participant communities for the FY23 Work Program. Cost shares for original program members have not increased since the program's inception in 2001, while program activities have expanded substantially over the same twenty years. An official cost share increase will not be incorporated into the FY22 Work Program, although communities are encouraged to contribute more than their stated cost share if they are able. Discussions regarding an official increase of 35% or 50% will continue over the next year with the FMTF, to be presented to the Committee at the 2022 meeting.

### RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Trinity River National Water Trail Update (Breanne Johnson)

Breanne Johnson gave an update on the efforts of the Trinity Coalition and NCTCOG to form the Trinity River National Water Trail Task Force. The Task Force was formed to support the Trinity River Paddling Trail's new National Water Trail designation through the National Park Service, as granted in October 2020. The Task Force has met twice since its inception in Spring 2021 and is made up of

Planning, Parks & Recreation, Floodplain, and Economic Development staff from the communities bordering the Upper Trinity River.

- Participation in FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) Program (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook provided an overview of completed and ongoing projects as part of FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) grant program. As part of this grant program, NCTCOG facilitates Discovery and Flood Risk Identification phases of the RiskMAP progress. Upcoming projects include the Upper West Fork Discovery and Flood Risk Identification studies in the East Fork (Lowery Crossing) and Hog Branch.

- Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Update (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook gave a brief overview of the iSWM program and its membership, as well as the certificate program. Eight communities are currently iSWM Silver Certified, and one community, Celina, is Gold Certified. Tamara also highlighted the resources posted to the [iSWM website](#), including program guidance and community inventories for the 16 iSWM criteria.

- Upcoming Funding Opportunities for Flood-Related Projects (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook notified the Committee of two federal funding opportunities for flood-related projects: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants. \$1 billion in BRIC funding is available to state, local, and tribal hazard mitigation projects for a variety of disasters and natural hazards. FMA grants are available specifically to projects that reduce the risk of repetitive flood damage to NFIP-insured buildings. Both of these FEMA grant opportunities open for applications on September 30, 2021 and close on January 28, 2022.

- Upper Trinity River Basin Transportation Stormwater Integration (Tamara Cook)

Tamara Cook shared a map of the upcoming Transportation and Stormwater Integration project to target future development in the Upper Trinity River watershed, in collaboration with USACE. The goal of this project is to limit the increase in future flood risk associated with growth and development by providing policy and planning resources to communities. Tamara also shared the current funding sources that have been secured for this \$10 million project from TWDB and the Regional Transportation Council.

- The role of USACE as Technical Advisor (Matt Lepinski - USACE)

Matt Lepinski gave a broad overview of the technical projects that USACE has undertaken in support of the Trinity COMMON VISION program. USACE provides ongoing support to the FMTF through their updates and maintenance to the NFIP/CDC Consolidated Model, as well as through assistance to the CDC manual revisions. USACE also provides funding assistance and general technical advice to the communities in the Upper Trinity Basin and maintains dammed reservoirs



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throughout the region. Matt also provided details on three recent and ongoing studies conducted by the USACE Fort Worth District: the Trinity River Watershed Hydrology Assessment, the Regional Storm Shifting Study, and the Texas Storm Study.

### OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

7. **Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** The Steering Committee and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.

No roundtable items were shared by attendees.

8. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Breanne Johnson by email at [BJohnson@nctcog.org](mailto:BJohnson@nctcog.org), or by phone at (817) 695-9148.

Attendance Recorded via Microsoft Teams

**Lisa Biggs** – City of Fort Worth  
**Barbara Bradford** – NCTCOG  
**Charles Brewer** – City of Hutchins  
**Tamara Cook** – NCTCOG  
**Cameron Cornett** – FEMA Region 6  
**Clair Davis** – City of Fort Worth\*  
**Heather Firn** – TRA  
**Aaron Hoff** – TRWD  
**Rachel Ickert** – TRWD  
**Breanne Johnson** – NCTCOG  
**Jeff Kelly** – City of Lewisville\*  
**Leah King** – TRWD\*  
**Matt Lepinski** – USACE Fort Worth District  
**Edith Marvin** – NCTCOG  
**Cara Mendelsohn** – City of Dallas\*  
**Craig Ottman** – TRWD  
**John Robertson** – City of Grapevine  
**Jim Ross** – City of Arlington\*  
**Lissa Shepard** – Dallas County\*  
**Sue Swenor** – High Sierra Electronics  
**Noe Villarreal** – Dallas County  
**Olivia Whittaker** – City of Dallas

\*Indicates the Committee member or their designated voting proxy