

Meeting Summary

Subject	Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Planning Task Force	Date	July 21, 2021
Facilitator(s)	Travis Liska, Shawn Conrad, Sydnee Steelman	Time	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location	Zoom Meeting	Recorded by	Sydnee Steelman
Meeting Purpose	Coordinate with cities and other interested parties on the coordination of land use and transportation planning in North Texas. The theme of this meeting was equity in land use and transportation planning.		

Discussion Items

Welcome and introductions by NCTCOG staff.

1. Local Updates

Travis Liska and Catherine Osborn, with NCTCOG, presented on the final report of DART Red and Blue Lines Corridor TOD Study, which focused on advancing ridership through Transit-Oriented Development. The study included 28 Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Red and Blue Line stations in Dallas, Richardson, Garland, and Plano. Comprehensive TOD corridor recommendations build on the three prior strategic studies of this project, including the First/Last Mile Routes to Rail Stations, the TOD Parking Study, and the TOD Survey. The report can be found at www.NCTCOG.org/TOD.

Travis also announced an upcoming NCTCOG effort that will focus on the creation of a regional parking database. NCTCOG is seeking volunteers for an advisory group on this data coordination effort. More information can be found on www.NCTCOG.org/Parking.

2. Equity in Land Use and Transportation Planning

Shawn Conrad, NCTCOG, informed the group of the NCTCOG Transportation and Gentrification report that is available at: www.NCTCOG.org/Housing. The report explores the meaning and implications of gentrification in North Texas, summarizes a variety of policy/legislative examples, and provides resources on facilitating positive outcomes for communities affected by gentrification.

Kate Zielke, NCTCOG, discussed the equity and environmental justice activities at NCTCOG. She summarized the requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations related to Title VI and two recently passed Executive Orders related to environmental justice and equity. Kate discussed the various tools and data her team manages that is available by request for external partners.

Chelsea St. Louis, City of Fort Worth, presented on the equity efforts regarding transportation planning and projects **the City of Fort Worth is implementing. She mentioned the City's creation of a Race and Culture Task Force, which** was established to review racial equity and bias in multiple City departments. The Task Force identified various disparities relating to transportation in Super Majority Minority Areas (MMAs), which are Census Block Groups where more than 75% of the population is a minority. The Task Force developed transportation performance measures that aim to decrease the share of poor condition and missing sidewalks, as well as pedestrian and bike crashes in Super MMAs. City planning staff then reviewed the Active Transportation Plan, established equity as a prioritization criterion, and developed a sidewalk implementation strategy to allocate funding to high priority areas. Chelsea stated that the **City's next steps are to finalize the FY 22 Work Plan and 2022 Bond sidewalk project list, as well as continue to populate their asset management system for reliable tracking toward Task Force goals.**

Pam Thompson with the City of Dallas presented on the City's Comprehensive Housing Policy. She stated that the policy goals include creating and maintaining available/affordable housing throughout Dallas, promoting greater fair housing choices, and overcoming patterns of segregation and concentrations of poverty through incentives and requirements. She provided the group with an overview of historical and current inequities in Dallas regarding income, poverty rates, homeownership, home value, computer access, and life expectancy. Finally, she outlined the various programs available through her department including the Home Improvement and Preservation Program, title and property assistance, land bank and transfer, and more. The City will continue improving its housing policy with an upcoming consultant-led development of recommendations to balance investment with preserving affordability and protecting households from displacement.

Robin Bentley, City of Dallas Economic Development, presented on the City's Economic Development Policy. In 2016, the Urban Institute scored various cities on economic and racial inclusion. Out of 274 total cities, the City of Dallas ranked 272 on overall inclusion. The City took various actions to better this score, including the adoptions of the Resilient Dallas Strategy, Dallas Equity Indicators, Welcoming Dallas Strategic Plan, and eventually the adoption of the Economic Development Policy in May 2021. The policy includes four guiding principles regarding correcting disparities, neighborhood-level interventions, sustainability and resilience, and government accountability. The next phase for the department is to develop a City-specific economic development corporation.

3. Panel Discussion

The following are general comments and questions that were discussed throughout the meeting and during the Panel Discussion.

- Question: What work can COG do to help cities incorporate equity into their transportation and land use work?
 - Response: Chelsea St. Louis said in terms of getting the City of Fort Worth's sidewalk program going, what would the contracting look like and what expertise would they need in-house to do this work? She mentioned another group in the planning department that focuses on bond implementation that typically works with contractors. They have tried figure out what tools are available at the City and what would be most cost-effective for the city in regarding to in-house analysis vs. contracting out.
 - Response: Kate Zielke suggested discussing this with the Sustainable Development team at NCTCOG. She mentioned figuring out ways to collaborate on this to assist the City of Fort Worth and address concerns.

- Question: Does your organization have methods for evaluating project impact in terms of equity?
 - Response: Chelsea St. Louis stated that no, the City of Fort Worth does not have any specific methods, but they are working to develop one as a part of the Vision Zero Program. She mentioned that the City has a Director of Diversity and Inclusion who oversees how departments are addressing equity. Part of that project will be focused on outcomes and how equity is measured over time.

- Question: Did you organization use any creative public involvement or outreach efforts to further equity in planning projects?
 - Response: **Chelsea St. Louis stated that she could not speak to the City of Fort Worth's outreach efforts due to being a new employee at the time.**

- Question: How might other communities start the conversation regarding housing, economic development, and transportation policies in their communities? Do they need to wait for a catalyst or is there a way to do so as staff?

- Response: **Pam Thompson stated that her department observed who wasn't involved in stakeholder discussions and actively reached out to them for all programs.** She said they also started a task force with only a few people but then began openly recruiting. Now the task force has 600+ people.
- Response: **Chelsea St. Louis responded that you don't always need a catalyst.** As more cities move toward performance-based planning and focus on data, it can be easy to start with the data and focus on the outcomes.
- Response: Robin Bentley agreed with Chelsea and added that hiring a consultant to provide distance in messaging can make the hard conversations easier.

4. Announcements and Closing:

Sydnee Steelman, NCTCOG, provided background on the NCTCOG Blue-Green-Grey Funding Program and a third round of Blue-Green-Grey funding that was recently published and is now open for applications. She also announced the NCTCOG Green Transportation Infrastructure Workshop that will take place virtually on August 24, 2021 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

More information on the Blue-Green-Grey funding initiative and the Green Transportation Infrastructure Workshop can be found here: www.nctcog.org/greeninfrastructure.

The next meeting was announced for October 20, 2021.

Action Item(s)			
	Item	Responsibility	Target Completion Date
1	NCTCOG to post meeting materials on website	NCTCOG	Late July
2	NCTCOG to distribute meeting notes and other materials to Task Force participants	NCTCOG	August

Next Meeting:

Date: October 20, 2021

Time: TBD

Location: Virtual Meeting

NAME	AGENCY REPRESENTING	NAME	AGENCY REPRESENTING
Aaron Zilz	City of Royse City	Robin Bentley	City of Dallas
Angela Self	City of Garland	Sandip Sen	Trinity Metro
Barbara Walsh	NCTCOG	Shawn Conrad	NCTCOG
Ben Hartman	City of Red Oak	Stu Burzette	NCTCOG
Catherine Osborn	NCTCOG	Sydnee Steelman	NCTCOG
Cauner McDonald	NCTCOG	Tanya Brooks	City of Fort Worth
Chelsea St. Louis	City of Fort Worth	Travis Liska	NCTCOG
Clayton Comstock	City of North Richland Ills	Venus Wehle	City of Forest Hill
DDIJOSEPH		Robin Bentley	City of Dallas
Don Raines	City of Dallas	Sandip Sen	Trinity Metro
Drew Brawner	City of Plano		
Erin Curry	NCTCOG		
Gabriel Ortiz	HDR Inc		
Jack Wierzenski	DART		
Julie Anderson	NCTCOG		
Karl Stundins	City of Lancaster		
Karla Weaver	NCTCOG		
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG		
Ken Schmidt	Town of Addison		
Kevin Spath	City of Dallas		
Luis Tamayo	Dallas County		
Michael Kovacs	City of Fate		
Michael Rogers	City of Glenn Heights		
Mike & Keith			
Nathaniel Barnett	City of Garland		
Olga Chernomorets	Town of Little Elm		
Pam Thompson	City of Dallas		
Patrick Baugh	City of University Park		