

NCTCOG Soliciting Project Partners for Clean Diesel Grant Proposal to EPA

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a funding opportunity for projects that reduce emissions from existing medium to heavy-duty diesel vehicles and equipment. **North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) anticipates submitting a proposal** on behalf of the North Central Texas area and **is conducting a 2020 Clean Diesel Call for Partners (CFP) to seek projects** to identify specific activities to include in the proposal. To be included, vehicles/equipment must operate within the 16-County NCTCOG region.

NCTCOG's proposal will implement projects aimed at reducing emissions from existing fleets of older diesel vehicles. Priority may be given to locations such as rail yards, terminals, or distribution centers which have been identified as focus areas by the EPA. Entities included in the proposal must submit a letter of commitment for grant-required matching funds that will range from 20 to 75 percent of total project cost, depending upon individual activities submitted. Additional requirements are outlined in the CFP application.

Application materials must be received **in-hand no later than 5 p.m. Central Standard Time, on Friday, January 31, 2020**, to Bethany Hyatt, Air Quality Planner, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. **For application materials and additional details, see www.nctcog.org/aqfunding.**

Please forward this announcement along within your organizations and to other potential applicants. If you have any questions, contact Chris Klaus at 817-695-9286 or cklaus@nctcog.org.

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BUSINESS & TECH

Gov. Greg Abbott: Emphasis on Building Out Texas Roads 'Is Going to Change'



JACKIE WANG

20 HOURS AGO



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Gov. Greg Abbott addresses the Rotary Club of San Antonio, touting economic development, education funding, and property tax relief in the state.

Shifting transportation priorities in Texas will phase out expansive road development in the near future, Gov. Greg Abbott predicted Wednesday in a speech to the Rotary Club of San Antonio.

"The bottom line is this: The way people get around, the way people live is going to change," Abbott said. "As a result, this generation of roads that [Texas Transportation Commission Chairman] Bruce Bugg is in charge of building is probably the last major buildout of roads we'll have in the state of Texas, even considering the fact that Texas is the fastest-growing state in America."

Though the governor limited his speculation on potential changes to the transportation landscape to more people walking and the introduction of [flying cars](https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/07/tech/uber-hvundai-flying-taxis-trnd/index.html) (<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/07/tech/uber-hvundai-flying-taxis-trnd/index.html>), his forecast diverged from the way the Texas Department of Transportation has always operated: with the primary purpose of building roads and highways. Asked after his speech about the state's role in improving public transit, Abbott said that is the purview of local governments.

In his address to the Rotary Club at a lunch event, Abbott spoke about state initiatives on education and affordable housing and the continued strength of the state's economy. He also pointed to traffic congestion as a sign people are still flocking to Texas because of a booming economy and a better quality of life.

"Last year, California lost 700,000 of their residents moving to other states," Abbott said. "A community almost the size of San Antonio left the state of California. Illinois is now facing a net population decrease because of people fleeing their state.

"There are regions of the country losing population, so be proud of the fact that one of the reasons why your roads are so congested is because so many people are finding San Antonio and Bexar County and the state of Texas to be so attractive to live in."

Related: [Elected, TxDOT Officials Talk Transportation Funding Beyond Building Highways](https://therivardreport.com/elected-txdot-officials-talk-transportation-funding-beyond-building-highways/)
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The future of transportation lies in alternatives to traditional motor vehicle travel, Abbott said. He cited his 22-year-old daughter as part of a generation that prefers to use ride-hailing platforms such as Uber rather than drive a personal vehicle. A move toward downtown, higher-density living in cities like Austin and Houston also lessens the need for everyone to use their cars, he added.

But Texas needs to keep an eye on keeping its housing costs within reach, Abbott said.

"Housing is far more affordable in Texas than it is California or Illinois or New York or some of these other states that people are fleeing from," he said. "But that affordability issue is now beginning to bite Texas. One thing that is driving up the cost of housing and the cost of living is skyrocketing property taxes – skyrocketing property taxes that are beginning to force people out of homes they've lived for virtually in their entire lives."

Abbott touted the Texas Legislature's [property tax reform efforts](https://therivardreport.com/texas-legislature-approves-property-tax-reform-cap-could-affect-sas-revenue/) (<https://therivardreport.com/texas-legislature-approves-property-tax-reform-cap-could-affect-sas-revenue/>) in the last session. Abbott signed Senate Bill 2 into law in June, requiring cities and counties to get voter approval before raising more than 3.5 percent in property tax revenues compared to the previous year.

The state would be responsible for shortfalls that school districts incur from property tax limits, Abbott said. The Texas Legislature also gave [additional funding last session](https://www.texastribune.org/2019/05/25/Texas-teacher-pay-raise-school-finance-HB3-passes/) (<https://www.texastribune.org/2019/05/25/Texas-teacher-pay-raise-school-finance-HB3-passes/>) toward teacher pay raises and early education.

Related: [Toyota to Invest \\$391 Million in San Antonio Truck Plant \(https://therivardreport.com/ovota-to-invest-391-million-in-san-antonio-truck-plant/\)](https://therivardreport.com/ovota-to-invest-391-million-in-san-antonio-truck-plant/)

He also boasted of the state's recent acquisitions of manufacturing facilities which brought new jobs to the area, including the [\\$391 million investment \(https://therivardreport.com/ovota-to-invest-391-million-in-san-antonio-truck-plant/\)](https://therivardreport.com/ovota-to-invest-391-million-in-san-antonio-truck-plant/) in upgrading the San Antonio Toyota plant and the [\\$250 million investment \(https://therivardreport.com/global-truck-manufacturer-to-build-250-million-plant-in-san-antonio/\)](https://therivardreport.com/global-truck-manufacturer-to-build-250-million-plant-in-san-antonio/) in a new Navistar truck manufacturing plant.

This economic investment in San Antonio has helped Texas earn its reputation as "the state of the decade" from [\(https://businessfacilities.com/2020/01/business-facilities-editor-state-of-the-year-texas-dominated-decade/\)](https://businessfacilities.com/2020/01/business-facilities-editor-state-of-the-year-texas-dominated-decade/) *Business Facilities Magazine* [\(https://businessfacilities.com/2020/01/business-facilities-editor-state-of-the-year-texas-dominated-decade/\)](https://businessfacilities.com/2020/01/business-facilities-editor-state-of-the-year-texas-dominated-decade/), Abbott said.

"There are millions of people from San Antonio who are proud to say they call San Antonio home," Abbott said. "And there are millions more who will come to San Antonio proud to call San Antonio home. And they're coming because of the opportunity that San Antonio provides."

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