

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, March 13, 2014
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

- 1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: wirelessNCTCOG!)**
- 1:00 – 1:05** 1. **Approval of February 13, 2014, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Kathryn Wilemon, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the February 13, 2014, minutes contained in [Reference Item 1](#) will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:05 – 1:05** 2. **Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0
- 1:05 – 1:15** 3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
1. Federal Funding Commitment to TEX Rail (Scott Mahaffey, Board Chair, Fort Worth Transportation Authority and Tom Shelton, NCTCOG)
 2. Regional Transportation Council Multimodal/Intermodal/High Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee Meeting Scheduled for 11 am, April 10, 2014, by Subcommittee Chair Rob Franke
 3. Public Works Council – 2013 Ice Storm Reflection Meeting Notes ([Electronic Item 3.1](#))
 4. Federal Transit Administration Title VI Review Update ([Electronic Item 3.2](#))
 5. Upcoming Texas AltCar Expo, March 27-29, 2014 ([Electronic Item 3.3](#))
 6. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([Electronic Item 3.4](#))
 7. Request for Participation in SmartWaySM ([Electronic Item 3.5](#))
 8. April is National Car Care Month ([Electronic Item 3.6](#))
 9. North Central Texas Council of Governments Citizen Guide (Handout)
 10. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 3.7](#))
 11. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 3.8](#))
 12. Press Releases ([Electronic Item 3.9](#))
 13. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)
- 1:15 – 1:25** 4. **Funding for the North Tarrant Express High Occupancy Vehicle Subsidy Project**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenters: Dan Lamers and Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Approval to shift \$6.85 million of funds from the LBJ High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) 2/3+ Subsidy project to a new North Tarrant Express (NTE) 2/3+ Subsidy project is requested.
Background: The Tolled Managed Lane Policy adopted by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) stipulates that the RTC will be responsible for reimbursing the tolled managed lane operators for the HOV subsidy on the LBJ Express and NTE facilities.

Approximately \$17 million has been included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the LBJ Express project for this subsidy. No funding has been identified to date for the NTE project, but an option is being recommended and will need to be included in the TIP prior to the NTE project opening. Action being requested is RTC approval to shift \$6.85 million of funds from the LBJ HOV 2/3+ Subsidy project to a new North Tarrant Express (NTE) 2/3+ Subsidy project. This action will also confirm that while funds are being shifted from the eastern subregion to the west to cover these costs, funds will not be shifted back from the western subregion to the east, as the above change helps balance the current funding split closer to the RTC approved percentage. Details are provided in [Reference Item 4](#). The Surface Transportation Technical Committee recommended RTC approval of this item at its February 28, 2014, meeting.

1:25 – 1:40

5. **Regional Transportation Council/Texas Department of Transportation Partnership: Flexible Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Funds, Environmental Speed Limits, Reliability and Implementation of the Congestion Management Process, and Transportation Development Credit Transfers to the Texas Department of Transportation**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenters: Christie Gotti and Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Approval of a strategy that combines a response to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) regarding the flexible Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding and lifting of environmental speed limits, as well as implementation of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Transportation Development Credit (TDC) transfer to TxDOT will be requested.

Background: Last month, staff introduced a policy shift by TxDOT regarding CMAQ funds that involves converting traditional CMAQ dollars to a more flexible funding category. Of the \$50 million in flexible CMAQ funds proposed for the State, the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) region's share is approximately \$24.6 million total. The TxDOT Dallas and Fort Worth Districts, along with RTC have been asked to develop a jointly selected project list for consideration. Based on coordination efforts with TxDOT, staff recommends using the flexible CMAQ funds for two Positive Train Control (PTC) projects in the DFW region. This action will release existing, traditional CMAQ funds from those PTC projects.

At the same time, TxDOT has requested that the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)/RTC help facilitate the removal of environmental speed limit restrictions on roadways in the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area. In order to remove these restrictions, air quality emission offsets must be identified. To this end, staff recommends using CMAQ funds

freed up by the two PTC projects to fund several quick implementation projects from the RTC-approved CMP, including Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), truck lane restrictions, intersection improvements, a frontage road reliability program, and signal retiming projects on the State Highway System in the Dallas and Fort Worth Districts.

In addition, new Surface Transportation Program–Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM) funds have been allocated to the DFW region, which must be obligated in FY2014. Also, some traditional CMAQ funds are available for quick implementation projects that are ready to let in FY2014. Given that many projects currently funded with CMAQ and STP-MM funds in the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program are not ready for implementation, staff recommends utilizing some of these funds for the above-mentioned CMP projects as well.

Finally, TxDOT and NCTCOG staff suggest including the transfer of up to 50 million in TDCs to TxDOT in exchange for \$5 million in local funds. The local funds received through this exchange will cover the “revolver” fund needed to implement the RTC’s regional initiatives (e.g., air quality, data collection, management and operations).

NCTCOG staff will explain this program in more detail and request a recommendation for RTC approval at the meeting. [Reference Item 5.1](#) includes a full listing of projects to be funded or modified through this partnership. [Electronic Item 5.2](#) provides more details about the partnership. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) recommended RTC approval of this item in February 2014.

1:40 – 1:50

6. **Legislative Update: Transportation Funding Constitutional Amendment**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will receive a State and federal legislative update. The RTC will be asked to take action on [Reference Item 6.1](#), a position statement supporting the proposed constitutional amendment for transportation funding that will appear on the November 4, 2014, ballot for voter approval. The RTC will also receive a draft RTC Federal Legislative Program, [Electronic Item 6.2](#), as an information item. An updated federal legislative program is needed as the US Congress begins to hold committee hearings to discuss a new transportation authorization measure.

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the Texas Legislature and US Congress. SJR 1, approved by the 83rd Legislature at the 3rd-Called Session, proposes a constitutional amendment that would result in an estimated \$1.4 billion per year for the State Highway Fund. On the federal side, the 2nd Session of the 113th US Congress began on January 7,

2014, and committee hearings are underway to prepare for a new transportation authorization as the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act expires on September 30, 2014.

1:50 – 2:00

7. Regional Transportation Council Bylaws First Reading

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Andy Eads, Chair, RTC Bylaws Revision Subcommittee
Subcommittee Members: Councilmember Vonciel Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Commissioner Ron Brown, Mr. Charles Emery, Commissioner Gary Fickes, Judge Clay Jenkins, Mayor Pro Tem Laura Maczka, Mayor Oscar Trevino, Commissioner Duncan Webb, and Mayor Pro Tem Zim Zimmerman

Item Summary: Recommendations for revision of the Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) Bylaws and Operating Procedures will be presented for a first reading.

Background: The RTC Bylaws Revision Subcommittee has met five times over the last few months to review and discuss possible revisions to the Bylaws and Operating Procedures. Proposed policy changes to the Bylaws include the increase in the RTC membership limit from 43 to 44 and adjustments to cluster representation, the addition of language that encourages the rotation of cluster seat representation among the entities within each respective cluster, and recommended language that directs the Nominating Subcommittee to provide a slate of officers annually to the full RTC that reflects leadership in rough proportion to the revenue distribution of the Eastern and Western Subregions. [Reference Item 7](#) contains these proposed revisions as well as other policy and administrative recommendations. The Bylaws require two readings before action can occur. It is anticipated that action on the proposed Bylaws revisions will be requested in April.

2:00 – 2:05

8. SH 360 Update

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the SH 360 project.

Background: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) headquarters offered a \$300 million loan for tolling SH 360 south of the existing freeway section at approximately the Green Oaks intersection. Financial assistance from Western Subregion revenues was approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) at its December 5, 2013, meeting. In addition, at its February 13, 2014, meeting, RTC approved funding for an RTC/North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) pilot program on tolling, management and operations for SH 360. Specific financial commitments are being determined and will be presented at a future meeting. The SH 360 Project Agreement and Financial Backstop Agreement have been executed by all parties. The next step for SH 360 is TxDOT issuance of a Request for Qualifications to begin the design-build procurement process.

2:05 – 2:15

9. **2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program Development Draft Listings**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process and introduce the draft project listings.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two to three years through a cooperative effort between the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

For regionally significant projects to proceed to implementation, they must be included in the TIP listings. To this end, NCTCOG staff has met with local partners to receive input and updates on all their active projects. The data from all these meetings has been amassed and organized into a draft project listing, which is financially constrained against the funding allocations identified in the 2014 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

Draft listings are available for review in [Electronic Item 9](#).

Please note that the project listings are provided in double-entry format, meaning that each project is listed twice. The first entry, which is not shaded, will show the current limits, scope, and funding for the project. The second entry, highlighted with gray shading, shows the proposed entry in the 2015-2018 TIP including any proposed changes to the project. The listing is sorted by city, and can be searched electronically for ease of use.

2:15 – 2:25

10. **2013 Federal Transit Administration Programs Call for Projects Project Recommendations**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jessie Huddleston, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present a summary of draft recommendations for projects submitted through the 2013 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Programs Call for Projects.

Background: On October 4, 2013, the North Central Texas Council of Governments issued a Call for Projects to competitively award Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding for three programs: the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (§5310), the Job Access/Reverse Commute (JA/RC) Program (§5316), and the New Freedom Program (§5317). Approximately \$2.4 million was available for award in Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington and Denton-Lewisville urbanized areas for projects addressing the transportation needs of low-income persons, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Staff

received 22 projects requesting federal funding of approximately \$6.4 million. [Electronic Item 10](#) provides a summary of projects received and draft funding recommendations.

The following items will be presented if time permits:

2:25 – 2:35 11. 2014 Ozone Season: Inventorying Implementation of Regional Transportation Council Initiatives

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on a request made to local governments and regional transportation providers regarding participation in Regional Transportation Council (RTC) initiatives.

Background: North Texas is classified as “moderate” nonattainment under the current 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) and currently has a regional design value of 87 ppb. With the 2014 ozone season March 1, 2014, start date, staff is conducting an inventory of RTC programs available to local governments and regional transportation providers to determine participation. A list of existing programs highlighted during the February 28, 2014, Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) meeting is outlined in [Electronic Item 11](#). Feedback, including comments on challenges permitting participation in these RTC programs, has been requested from STTC representatives by early April.

2:35 – 2:45 12. Current Freight Planning Studies

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Kevin Feldt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on Freight North Texas: The Regional Freight System Inventory follow-up studies currently underway.

Background: As the nation’s largest metropolitan area without direct access to a seaport, the efficient and safe movement of freight by trucks, rail, pipeline, and air to and through the region is a vital component to the regional economy and to the quality of life for residents. As a follow-up study to the recently published Freight North Texas: The Regional Freight System Inventory, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff, with input from the Regional Freight Advisory Committee (R-FAC), has begun working on two follow-up studies: the Freight Congestion and Delay Study and the Truck Parking Study.

The Freight Congestion and Delay Study will inventory and analyze recurrent and non-recurrent transportation-related delays as well as non-transportation-related delays to freight traffic. As a part of this study, a survey was developed to obtain input from freight industry leaders regarding where conditions are poor. The survey also solicited input regarding opportunities to improve the movement of freight throughout the North Central Texas region.

The Truck Parking Study will review the truck parking inventory in the region and provide an overview of the state of truck parking as well as recommendations for future projects and collaboration. The study includes a review of overnight parking, loading/unloading zones, city ordinances regarding truck parking, and incorporation of Jason's Law.

13. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance ([Reference Item 13.1](#))
- STTC Minutes ([Electronic Item 13.2](#))
- Local Motion ([Electronic Item 13.3](#))

14. **Other Business (Old or New)**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
15. **Future Agenda Items**: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.
16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.***