

Chapter II

Public Involvement

Public involvement is solicited and strongly encouraged in the coordinated metropolitan transportation planning process. Increasing communication among citizens, elected officials, and staff permits stakeholders to work together to achieve desired goals and objectives. The public involvement process emphasizes the importance of involvement from all levels of government to individual citizens. When the public is involved, the direction and content of the planning efforts are more likely to address the wide range of issues that impact decision makers. Involving the public during the planning phase of any project should reduce the time and cost of project implementation.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) hold public meetings as part of their public involvement process. Public input opportunities are held during development and update of the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP) along with individual project implementation, which ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and Section 5307 Program of Projects requirements (49 U.S.C. 5307). The TxDOT public involvement process also ties into a statewide process overseen by the Texas Transportation Commission. Assurance of adequate local input is required prior to final approval by the Commission.

In November 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted a revised NCTCOG Transportation Public Participation Plan (PPP). This revised PPP incorporates new stakeholders added by the FAST Act including public ports and private

providers of transportation (including intercity bus operators, employer-based commuting programs, such as carpool program, vanpool program, transit benefits program, parking cash-out program, shuttle program, or telework program), places a greater emphasis on live-streaming of public meetings, and emphasizes outreach to various community groups outside of public meetings, among other things. The Public Participation Plan is being implemented in a manner consistent with provisions in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). These procedures require that a public meeting on the draft TIP be conducted at least 30 days prior to RTC approval, which includes a 30-day written comment period. Additional components of the Public Involvement Process include reasonable public access to technical and policy information, open public meetings, and explicit consideration and response to public input. The public notification form is available at all public meetings to allow interested individuals the opportunity to receive notification of future public meetings. A copy of the current NCTCOG Public Participation Process is provided in the following pages of this chapter. Public meeting notices, minutes and presentations can be found online at:

<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/outreach/meetings/archives.asp>

During development of the 2021-2024 TIP, public meetings were held to obtain a consensus of the constituency served by the program. Draft project listings were presented to the public at a Public Meeting held on March 9, 2020, in Arlington. Exhibit II-1 is a copy of the flyer advertising this Public Meeting. Also, a video recording of the public meeting in Arlington was posted online for those unable to attend in person.



This meeting was held to educate, inform, and seek comments from the public on transportation issues and the specific projects proposed for funding listed in the TIP. Comments were solicited from those present who wished to speak for the record and any other citizens who wished to submit comments in writing during the comment period ending April 9, 2020. No comments from the public were received on the 2021-2024 TIP.

Since the submittal of the 2021-2024 TIP, two sets of revisions have been processed by staff. Public involvement was conducted for both the November 2020 and February 2021 TIP revision cycles, and no comments were received from the public. Exhibit II-2 and Exhibit II-3 are copies of the flyers advertising these public involvement opportunities.

Furthermore, after the 2021-2024 TIP was submitted to TxDOT for review, it was determined that the STIP was not financially constrained at the Statewide level. Several

changes to projects were requested by TxDOT in order to fall within financial constraints prior to the submittal of the 2021-2024 TIP/STIP to the United States Department of Transportation. An additional public input opportunity was held from January 11, 2021 to February 9, 2021 to solicit comments from the public on these revisions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these public involvement opportunities were provided online only. Presentations were recorded and posted to the NCTCOG website for viewing by the public. Exhibit II-4 is a copy of the flyer advertising this public involvement opportunity.

NCTCOG regularly supports and holds meetings for the NCTCOG Executive Board, the Regional Transportation Council, and the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC). These

committees review, endorse, or approve the development of the TIP and the supporting air quality conformity analysis. These meetings are open to the public, and meeting agendas are available to all interested parties.

Throughout the year, modifications to the programmed projects in the TIP are often necessary to either update project information or to facilitate changes to TxDOT's project letting schedules. Based on the nature of the change, these modifications are either processed administratively or require STTC and RTC approval to proceed. Then, significant project modifications are transmitted to TxDOT for incorporation into the Statewide TIP (STIP) in accordance with the State's rules for modification of the STIP. This process will be discussed in greater

detail in the next chapter. These project modifications are communicated to the public through the public participation process as appropriate.

NCTCOG staff considers

environmental justice issues in the transportation planning process when conducting public meetings. Given the large Metropolitan Area, staff plan public meetings at diverse, accessible locations across the region at both day and evening times. Other efforts to involve minority communities include publication of newspaper display ads in local minority publications and press releases to reporters at minority news sources.

Invitations are mailed to more than 3,800 individuals and e-mailed to more than 11,000 individuals and organizations contained in NCTCOG's public notification database. All public meeting notifications are posted on the Texas Secretary of State Texas Register web site as part of the Open

Public meetings occur throughout the region:

- At diverse, accessible locations
- Preferably near public transportation
- At convenient and varied dates and times

Meetings requirement. Public meeting notices are also mailed to public libraries and city/county offices for posting in public access areas. More recently, public meetings have also been posted on social media outlets such as NCTCOG's Facebook, Twitter,


and Instagram accounts. In addition to the public meetings, video recordings are posted to the NCTCOG website for those unable to make it to the meetings in person.

For more information or public meetings minutes, please visit us at:
<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/outreach/meetings>

EXHIBIT II-1

Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for March 9, 2020

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING



PRESENTATIONS

Transportation Improvement Program: Fiscal Years 2021-2024
The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally and state-mandated list of transportation projects with committed federal, State and local funding within a four-year period. Staff will present an overview of the TIP development process and provide a draft list of active projects in the region.

Proposals on Two Major Projects
The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has considered funding a transportation improvement associated with a transformational land use change at the Collin Creek Mall site. It involves a mixed-use development with transit connections to the Downtown Plano Light Rail Station. Additionally, the RTC has been asked to fund a change order of \$20 million on the Trinity River Bridges in Fort Worth to help speed up completion. Both projects will be presented for public review and comment.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Policy Bundle: Round 4
To encourage the development of alternative, strategic solutions, Mobility 2045 includes a list of voluntary policies that local governments and transportation agencies can choose to adopt. These policies aim to address issues affecting transportation in the region and cover a wide range of topics. Staff will present an overview of how the Mobility 2045 Policy Bundle Program works and how agencies work together to achieve the goals of the plan.







Start of 2020 Ozone Season
The 2020 ozone season begins March 1 and runs through November 30, 2020. The Dallas-Fort Worth region does not meet the federal air quality standard for the pollutant ozone, and NCTCOG staff continues to implement various projects and programs to improve air quality and protect public health. Staff will present an ozone season update as well as strategies to help reduce air pollution.

Dallas Fort Worth Clean Cities Recognition Annual Survey Results
Staff will provide an overview of the 2018 DFW Annual Fleet Survey results, which include statistics on the overall energy impact of fleets. Entities who were recognized for their transportation energy reduction efforts and strategies will also be highlighted.

ONLINE REVIEW AND COMMENT
Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects: www.nctcoq.org/input

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION
Regional Smoking Vehicle Program: www.smokingvehicle.net
Vehicle Incentives & Funding Opportunities: www.nctcoq.org/aqfunding
Mobility Plan Administrative Revisions: www.nctcoq.org/input
Spring Outreach Season: www.nctcoq.org/input

The meeting will be live streamed at www.nctcoq.org/video (click on the "live" tab). A video recording will also be posted online www.nctcoq.org/input.









**MONDAY, MARCH 9,
2020 @ 6:00 PM**
North Central
Texas Council of
Governments
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language translation, contact Carli Baylor at 817-608-2365 or cbaylor@nctcoq.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

Para ajustes especiales por discapacidad o para interpretación de idiomas, llame al 817-608-2365 o por email: cbaylor@nctcoq.org con 72 horas (mínimo) previas a la junta. Se harán las adaptaciones razonables.

To request a free roundtrip ride between NCTCOG and the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort/DFW Airport Station, contact Carli Baylor at least 72 hours prior to the meeting: 817-608-2365 or cbaylor@nctcoq.org.



CentrePort/DFW Airport Station
Arrival Options March 9

Eastbound Train	5:19 pm
Westbound Train	5:31 pm

EXHIBIT II-2

Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for September 8 – October 7, 2020



WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US.

Information will be posted online at www.nctcog.org/input for public review and comment September 8 - October 7, 2020. To request printed copies of the information, call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcog.org.

Fiscal Year 2020 Public Transportation Funding: Program of Projects

NCTCOG staff will present proposed transit projects funded by the Federal Transit Administration through the final award of Fiscal Year 2020 funds for the following four programs: Urbanized Area Formula, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities, State of Good Repair, and Bus and Bus Facilities. This input opportunity meets the federal requirement for public participation in programs of projects. Please note DART hosts their own public meeting and can be contacted directly for more information.

The following agencies' programs of projects will be presented:

City of Arlington, City of Grand Prairie, City of McKinney, City of Mesquite, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), Trinity Metro, Northeast Transportation Service (NETS), Public Transit Services (PTS), Span, Inc., and STAR Transit.

Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emissions Impact Study

In coordination with NCTCOG, an oversize/overweight (OS/OW) heavy-duty vehicles study was conducted by Texas A&M Transportation Institute. The main goal of the study was to characterize and estimate emissions impacts of OS/OW vehicles on air quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area. Staff will present findings and recommendations.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding & Other Clean Vehicle Incentives

Rebate funding will soon be available for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations across Texas through the Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program. Staff will present key details on how to take advantage of this funding as well as provide other opportunities available for citizens or fleets to acquire cleaner vehicles.

Optimizing Freight Movement Project

Staff will present details of a \$5 million project proposal designed to improve the flow of truck traffic between freight hubs and expressways. The project will identify where improving the flow of trucks can do the most good as well as select one or more technologies to improve truck travel.

ONLINE REVIEW & COMMENT (NO PRESENTATION)

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects: www.nctcog.org/input

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

- Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP): www.smokingvehicle.net
- Vehicle Incentives & Funding Opportunities: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding

WWW.NCTCOG.ORG/INPUT



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Learn about transportation in the region and help set future priorities. The Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments, together serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, are seeking public input.

Submit comments and questions to NCTCOG:

Email: transinfo@nctcog.org
 Website: www.nctcog.org/input
 Fax: 817-640-3028
 Phone: 817-695-9240
 Mail: P.O. Box 5888
 Arlington, TX 76005-5888

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language translation, call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcog.org. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

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EXHIBIT II-3

Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for December 14, 2020 – January 12, 2021



WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US.

Information will be posted online at www.nctcog.org/input for public review and comment December 14, 2020 - January 12, 2021. To request printed copies of the information, call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcog.org.

MPO Milestone Policy: Round 2

The MPO Milestone Policy identifies projects funded by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) at least 10 years ago that have not advanced to construction. Project sponsors have been asked to review these projects and confirm whether they are still interested in pursuing them. Staff will present the list of these projects along with recommendations to ensure that they are implemented in a timely manner.

End of 2020 Ozone Season, Compliance with Federal Requirements & Future Outlook

November marks the end of the 2020 ozone season for North Central Texas. Staff will present an update on current air quality standings, compare current standings against previous ozone seasons, and highlight potential implications facing the region for not meeting Federal attainment requirements. Current studies of COVID-19 on air quality will also be covered.

2020 Changes in Regional Trail & Shared Bicycle Use

Staff will provide an update and overview of changes in the use of the regional trail network, including time of day, day of week and mode share.

Regional Rail Information System

NCTCOG staff is working with regional rail partners to develop and implement a Regional Rail Information System (RRIS). This system will maximize efficiency on shared-use freight and passenger rail networks by allowing all rail agencies to exchange timely, accurate and actionable information on train movements in the region. NCTCOG will be publishing a Request for Proposals to solicit interest from potential consultants and will provide an overview of project activities to date.

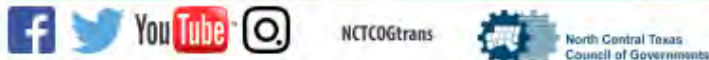
ONLINE REVIEW & COMMENT (NO PRESENTATION)

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RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

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EXHIBIT II-4

Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for January 11 – February 9, 2021



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TELL US.**

Information will be posted online at www.nctcoq.org/input for public review and comment **January 11 - February 9, 2021**. To request printed copies of the information, call 817-608-2365 or email cbaylor@nctcoq.org.

CHANGES MADE TO THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) REQUIRING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL APPROVAL.

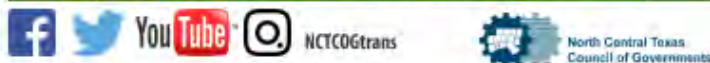
(No presentation; Information posted online for public review and comment only)

Changes were requested by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in order to remain within Statewide financial constraints prior to the State submittal of the 2021-2024 TIP/STIP to the Federal Highway Administration. Requested changes not requiring RTC approval are also included for informational purposes.

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

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