

PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on November 8, 2018.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Thursday, August 20, through Saturday, September 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. Transit comments were in the majority.

In addition, comments were accepted through a new, online map tool. Users can drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. The tool was in test mode and was open to the public through August 2020. This month, there was 1 Bicycle and Pedestrian comment and 2 Transit comments. To read them, visit:

<http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourceReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

Aviation

Facebook –

1. Ernest Huffman of the NCTCOG Transportation Department Aviation Program shares advice for government agencies looking to start a drone program

Ernest also leads up the North Texas UAS Safety and Integration Task Force, which is comprised of 260+ stakeholders and 130+ companies in the Dallas Fort-Worth area, encompassing 16 counties. The Task Force focuses on integrating drone technology into the DFW Metroplex.

#Drones #UAV #UAS #NCTCOG #DronePodcast #UAVs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYePqyNm3Zw> – InterDrone

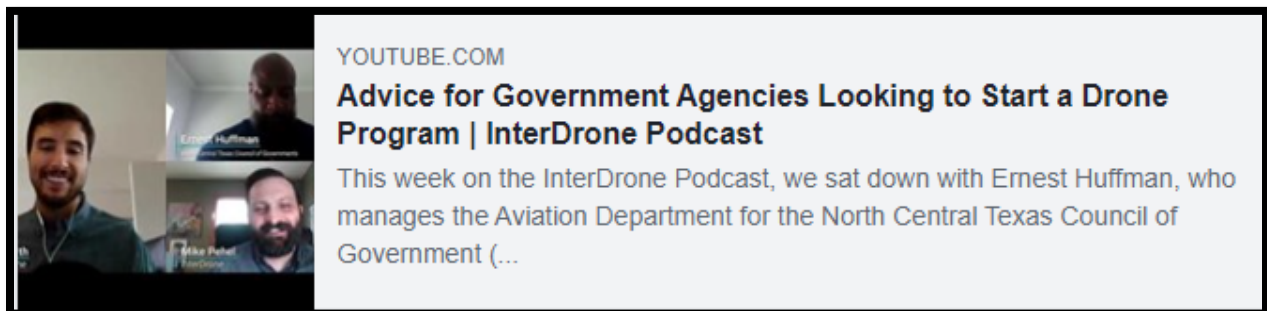


2. Droneresponders announces the 5 C's; Principles of Responsible Drone and UAS use in public safety.

Podcast Guest: Ernest Huffman, NCTCOG Transportation Department

#Drones #UAV #UAS #UAVs #Drone #dronesforgood #publicsafety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAu7KUGqtRA> – InterDrone



3. Check out the full Drone TechTalk and Launch of our Drone Interest Group
 #droneinterestgroup #drones #uavs #womenanddrones #dronephotography Thanks to Tom S Lee, Valqari, Women and Drones, Lewis University, NCTCOG Transportation Department, Alpita Shah – Hub88



Bicycle & Pedestrian

Email –

1. Kristin Turner

Hello! I have been trying to get my town to submit for a grant to put a sidewalk by our elementary for the safety of the community. Unfortunately, the town is unwilling to use CCPD funds or put forth funds to later be reimbursed. My concern is simply safety because it is an accident waiting to happen, numerous kids have nearly been hit just in the year that I have lived here. Can anyone please tell me, are there grants that provide funding upfront? Or, I am versed in legislative language and have read the statute on how CCPD funds may be used, is there anyone that could help me explain to my mayor and city council that the funds are there for this purpose? Thank you!

Response by NCTCOG Staff

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

NCTCOG recently completed a call for projects under the Transportation Alternatives Program, which included opportunities for local communities to request funding to implement construction of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects that improve walking and bicycle safety to/from K-8 schools. The 2020 Call for Projects is now closed and funding has been awarded for fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023. We anticipate it will be a couple years before the next call for projects will occur in our region since the available funding has been programmed through 2023.

More information about the call for projects can be found here:
<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/bikeped/active-transportation-funding-opportunities/2020tacfp>

Additional information about SRTS planning can be found here:
<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/bikeped/saferoutestoschool>

Should you have any additional questions, please contact our principal planner, Shawn Conrad, at sconrad@nctcog.org.

2. Jacob

We need protected bicycle lanes that allow for cycling to transition from the popular leisure activity it already is, into a safe, healthy, inexpensive, environmentally friendly transportation option in North Texas.

3. Mark Solow

Has there been any progress to get the section of trail built that will connect Lewisville to Carrollton? i.e. South of FM 3040 (DCTA) Station.

I know that there are two additional hurdles: Flood Plane, City of Carrollton

Response by NCTCOG Staff

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

We partnered with the Cities of Lewisville, Carrollton, Coppell and Dallas, as well as Denton County, Dallas County, Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), to prepare preliminary design and opinion of probable construction costs for the Regional Veloweb alignment.

A map of the study area/preliminary engineering is posted on this page:
<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/bikeped/veloweb/denton-to-dallas-regional-trail> (also see this Veloweb Trail Map).

The consultant team is currently completing final documents, and the next step is for the cities to identify funding to complete final design and construction.

If you would like to discuss anticipated timeframes to identify funding and initiate construction, we would be happy to provide contact information for city representatives.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact our program manager, Kevin Kokes, at kkokes@nctcog.org.

4. Erica Moss

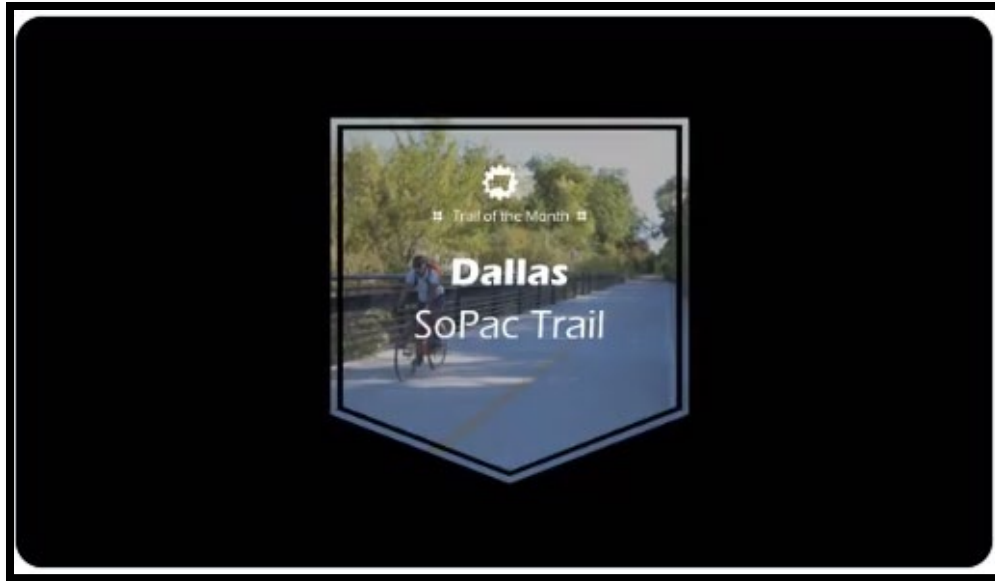
Hello,

First and foremost I would like to say I am not an appointed representative of any nature of "Bird" company listed within this email. I am reaching out solely based on the recent actions taken by the city, which currently interrupt the ongoing contracted services of my very own company Diverse Mobility.

My name is Erica, I am currently a divorced single mother whom was given the opportunity by Bird to actually get ahead and create a viable life for me and my four children. I'd like to see when a community meeting will be held regarding the future of bird scooters in the Dallas metroplex. I know most people think this is just another big corporation, but this is my business. I have put a lot of time energy and money into this wonderful opportunity. Bird is doing it differently than other scooter companies. They are giving otherwise low income families a real chance at pursuing their dreams! I've always had a passion for serving those with mental health problems. I'm now in a position thanks to bird to move forward with my non profit organization that will provide information and resources to people and certain communities in Dallas area whom never really taken mental health seriously. I'll keep it short and sweet Councilman Medrano. This was an opportunity of a life time for me and my family and essentially my passion. Please I'm begging you to take into consideration there are at least 29 others in a similar position now that this has happened. Please consider us when making your final decisions. Thank you for your time. I look forward to possibly meeting with you and hearing from you the recent series of unfortunate events revolving around the future of dock less mobility in Dallas.

Twitter –

1. The recently constructed Southern Pacific "SoPac" trail is a shared-use path in east Dallas, which spans a total distance of 4.7 miles, but is a key connector for so much more. Thanks for riding along with us on this trail journey! Happy trails to you! @CityOfDallas @BikeDFW – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



Connected is the key word here. Connected trails are what we need more of. – Jeff Mizener (@mizesoundguy)

2. In discussion of Amendment 49 from CM @AdamBazaldua Department of Transportation was asked by @caraathome to talk about additional sources of funding for bike lanes. – BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)

Per the department, they have secured \$500k from the @NCTCOGtrans. They are also applying for other grants, and programmed street rehab will include bike lanes, and estimate this will add an additional \$2.5-3M. Director Rogers confirmed that the \$1M budgeted last year was used. – BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)

Is that \$2.5-3M budget a 1-year timeframe?

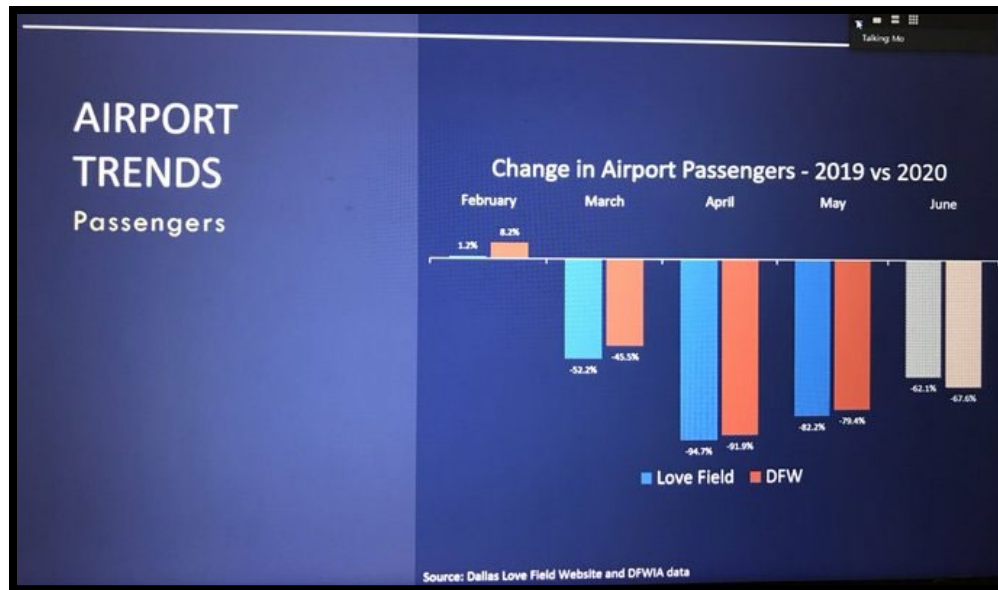
For comparison, OKC has a sales tax revenue that dedicates \$14M to bike lanes and \$20M to trails over a 4 or 5 year period. Some of that may go to matching federal and state funds for an extra boost. Plus a bit more from MuniBonds. – Car-lite Carfangs (@carlitecarfangs)

3. Just wrapped up with the final amendment of the night, #86 was from @AdamMcGoughD10 ensuring that the \$500k grant from @NCTCOGtrans is allocated to bike lanes. It is a wrap folks. Someone owes me a beer. – BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)

Committees

Twitter –

1. .@NCTCOGtrans' Michael Morris presented to our Surface Transportation Committee this morning. – North Dallas Chamber (@NDCC)



High-Speed Transportation

Email –

1. Billy Hanson

No high speed rail.

Twitter –

1. Leave a comment and tell them to get rid of I-30 and replace it with this. Ignore the Hyperloop stuff though... #Dallas #FortWorth – Andrew Wallace (@agwallace92)



Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Twitter –

1. Don't miss our #Webinar Wednesday series: #Transportation Electrification for Utilities, featuring EV & utility experts offering tips & advice on implementing a successful #electrification program! #EVs #electricvehicles #utilities #cleanfuels #CleanCities

https://louisianacleanfuels.org/blog/EV_Utility_Webinars – LA Clean Fuels (@LAcleanfuels)

CLEAN CITIES WEBINARS: Transportation Electrification for Utilities



Join this Clean Cities webinar series to hear from EV expert utilities on how to implement a successful electrification program! This three-part webinar series will provide the latest information on recent developments and obstacles on defining required resources for informed planners of heavy-duty electric vehicle charging infrastructure



September 9th
September 16th
September 23rd



REGISTER NOW

LCF Webinar Wednesdays

CLEAN CITIES PARTNERS:



Thanks to our #CleanCities partners, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (@NCTCOGtrans), Land of Enchantment Clean Cities, and Arkansas Clean Cities (@ArkansasDEQ)! – LA Clean Fuels (@LACleanfuels)

2. Could Dallas become a future hub for autonomous transportation? Experts from @ericsson, Kodiak, and @NCTCOGtrans think so. @DalStartupWeek – Dallas Innovates (@DallasInnovates)



Dallas Startup Week Panelists: How Dallas Is Becoming A Hub for Autonomous Tr...
The virtual panel of leaders from Ericsson and Kodiak discussed Dallas' growth and how startups can seek funding and partnerships from large corporations.
dallasinnovates.com

Why not? – Ryan Key (@iamryankey)

Facebook –

1. UPDATE: Due to Hurricane Laura response, Part 1 of this webinar series has been rescheduled for September 30th.

Don't miss our next Webinar Wednesday series: Transportation Electrification for Utilities! This series will feature EV and utility experts offering tips and advice on how to implement a successful electrification program! Join for our first webinar in this series on September 9th!

#electrification #EVs #electricvehicles #utilities #cleanfuels #cleanair #CleanCities #altfuels #alternativefuels #webinarseries #webinars

Learn more: https://louisianacleanfuels.org/blog/EV_Utility_Webinars – Louisiana Clean Fuels

CLEAN CITIES WEBINARS: Transportation Electrification for Utilities



Join this Clean Cities webinar series to hear from EV expert utilities on how to implement a successful electrification program! This three-part webinar series will provide the latest information on recent developments and obstacles on defining required resources for informed planners of heavy-duty electric vehicle charging infrastructure



September 9th
September 16th
September 23rd



REGISTER NOW

LCF Webinar Wednesdays



Dallas-Fort Worth
CLEAN CITIES

CLEAN CITIES PARTNERS:





ARKANSAS
CLEAN CITIES
COALITION

2. UPDATE: Due to Hurricane Laura response, this webinar has been rescheduled for September 30th from 10-11:30 AM CDT.

Register for Part 1 of our Transportation Electrification for Utilities series on September 9th to hear from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources along with EV experts from Entergy and American Electric Power - AEP as they share their best practices, lessons learned, and

3. Join us for our Transportation Electrification for Utilities Webinar Wednesday series starting on September 16th! Hear from EV and utility experts on how to implement a successful electrification program!

Thanks to our #CleanCities partners for their support: Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (NCTCOG Transportation Department), Land of Enchantment Clean Cities, and Arkansas Clean Cities!

#electrification #EVs #utilities #electricvehicles #cleanfuels #cleanair #altfuels #alternativefuels #CleanCities #webinars – Louisiana Clean Fuels

CLEAN CITIES WEBINARS: Transportation Electrification for Utilities



Join this Clean Cities webinar series to hear from EV expert utilities on how to implement a successful electrification program! This three-part webinar series will provide the latest information on recent developments and obstacles on defining required resources for informed planners of heavy-duty electric vehicle charging infrastructure

**September 16th**
September 23rd
September 30th



REGISTER NOW

LCF Webinar Wednesdays


Dallas-Fort Worth
CLEAN CITIES

CLEAN CITIES PARTNERS:



ARKANSAS
CLEAN CITIES
COALITION

4. Could Dallas become a future hub for autonomous transportation? Experts from Ericsson Kodiak, and NCTCOG Transportation Department think so. #DSW20 – Dallas Innovates

TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

DALLASINNOVATES.COM

Dallas Startup Week Panelists: How Dallas Is Becoming A Hub for Autonomous Transportation » Dallas Innovates

The virtual panel of leaders from Ericsson and Kodiak discussed Dallas' growth and how startups can seek funding and partnerships from large corporations.

Project Planning

Email –

1. Debra McGuire

Most of the highways are so jam-packed that it is impossible to travel anywhere in a safe or timely manner. This hurts businesses, reduces interest in going Downtown, and adds to poor air quality with so many vehicles idling because of the stop-and-go manner of trying to get somewhere on highways that are more like parking lots. The Greater Dallas area needs more travel options AND more highways to move people more efficiently. Growth will be stunted without better infrastructure.

2. Steven Monserrate

When considering transportation projects for North Texas, I would like the regional transportation authority to consider the rural to urban transect models promoted by the Congress for New Urbanism. For example, giving pedestrian and bicycle modes priority over private automobiles in dense urban areas, investing in mass public transit between the urban areas and less dense suburban developments, and encouraging redevelopment in suburban areas to allow for walkable commercial community services in areas zoned strictly residential.

3. Vinny Minchillo

I have two concerns as we move forward with transportation. 1) Keeping a lid on toll costs and toll roads. Tolls have become a real issue for commuters and travelers. Number 2 is safety on public transportation. People need to feel safe on public transportation. Thanks!

Twitter –

1. A Panther Island bridge in downtown Fort Worth may be done sooner than expected: <https://star-telegram.com/article244079607.html>. – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



🎵 Multiple musical notes Like a bridge over troubled water 🎵
Except... Where's the water? – Loren S. (@txbornviking)

That's the "troubled" part. 😊 – Jeffrey A. Stvan (@DioramaSky)

2. I expected it to be done three years ago though – Kyler Tesch (@Kyler_Tesch)



Safety

Twitter –

1. Similarly, @NCTCOGtrans expresses support for ending traffic deaths, but the elected officials of the region have only voted to continue the perverse targets of increasing traffic deaths (just not increasing quite as much as they imagine could happen).

https://nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Quality/Safety/PerfMeasures_2019.pdf
– Vision Zero Texas (@VisionZeroTexas)

Transit

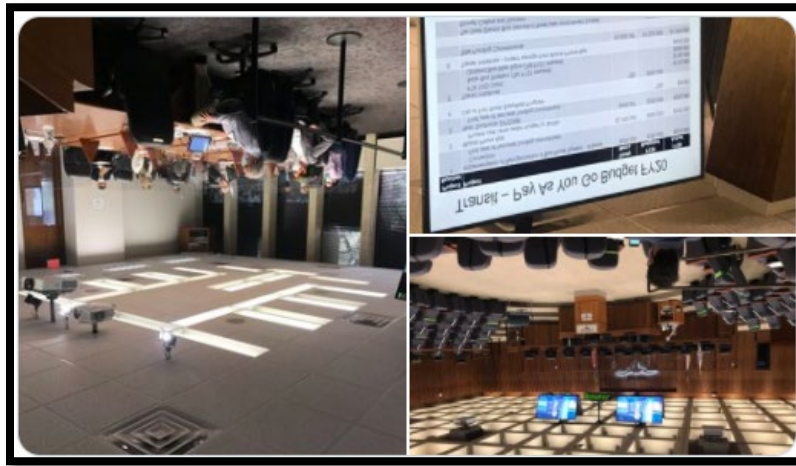
Email –

1. Angele Ortiz

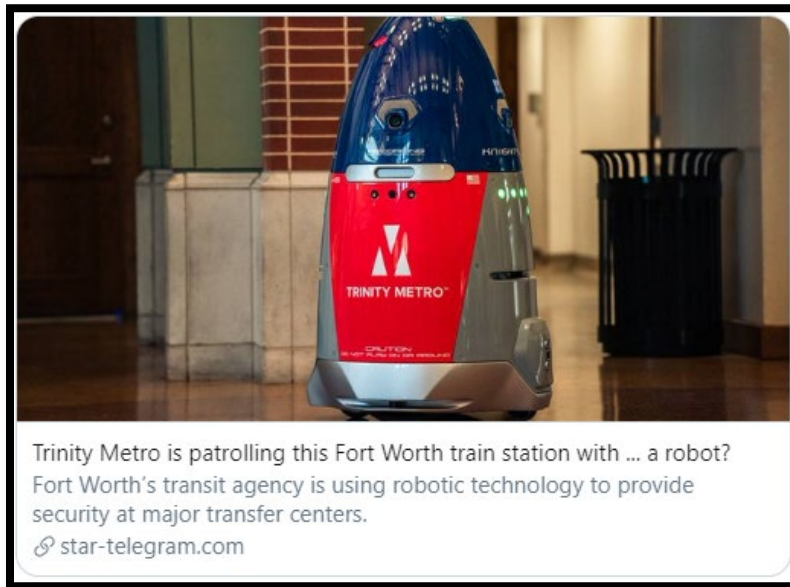
I live in the Oak Hollow subdivision off of Great Southwest, and commute to Uptown Dallas five days a week. It would save me so much money and time if I could take the train into work instead of driving. I have driven into Dallas before to the Westmoreland train station, but that is almost all the way to downtown, and doesn't save me much money in the long run. We need stations here in Grand Prairie.

Twitter –

1. Time for a presentation on transit funding as part of the Fort Worth City Council Budget Workshop. @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



2. Trinity Metro is patrolling this Fort Worth train station with ... a robot? <https://star-telegram.com/news/local/fort-worth/article245100105.html> @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @DTFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



3. @TrinityMetro Today, Wednesday, August 26th at 12 noon is our last online public meeting about "A Better Connection", don't miss out! Join us to learn more about this initiative and provide your feedback. Right pointing backhand index <http://facebook.com/events/3165340...> @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @NCTCOGtrans – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)

4. From @TrinityMetro The latest edition of our bi-weekly newsletter is live on our blog. Click here to read it 📄 <https://tinyurl.com/yyyow25f>. @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



5. All aboard #TEXRail at Fort Worth Central Station to head home after good, productive day at work! @TrinityMetro @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @DTFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



6. From @TrinityMetro: See something? Say something! You can now use the new See Say Now app to report any safety concerns. For more information, please visit <http://RideTrinityMetro.org/SAFETY> @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @NCTCOGtrans - Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



7. The Trinity Railway Express corridor has received \$25 million in BUILD Grants for various improvements, including double tracking and new infrastructure that will reduce travel times and increase reliability. @NCTCOGtrans @TarrantTransit – Fort Worth Urban (@UrbanFortWorth)

BUILD Grants

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program

Urban

PROJECT NAME: North Texas Multimodal Operations, Velocity, Efficiency, and Safety (NT MOVES) Program

APPLICANT/SPONSOR: North Central Texas Council of Governments

BUILD GRANT AWARD: \$25,000,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$55,000,000

PROJECT LOCATION: Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project makes commuter and freight rail capacity improvements between Fort Worth and Dallas including: (1) approximately 1.2 miles of double track from Medical Market Center to Stemmons Freeway; (2) approximately 2.4 miles of second track from Handley Ederville Road to Precinct Line Road; and (3) implementing Clear Path technology to exchange information on train movement in the terminal complex.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS AND BENEFITS:

By replacing or upgrading bridges and double-tracking portions of Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) Trinity Railway Express corridor that also accommodates Amtrak and freight movement, the project will increase reliability and decrease travel time of commuter and freight train movements. The project rehabilitates or replaces aging bridges whose current condition results in speed restrictions. The project installs Clear Path technology for agencies and users to exchange timely and accurate information on train movements to improve rail throughput, safety, and on-time performance in congested, urban rail corridors.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

www.transportation.gov/buildgrants

8. @TrinityMetro recently presented @CityofFortWorth Councilmember @GynaB w/new Trinity Metro Bus Stop Sign. We deeply appreciate her dedicated public service & advocacy for transit! @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans @FTWChamber @FWMBCC @fwhcc @Bob10481548 – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



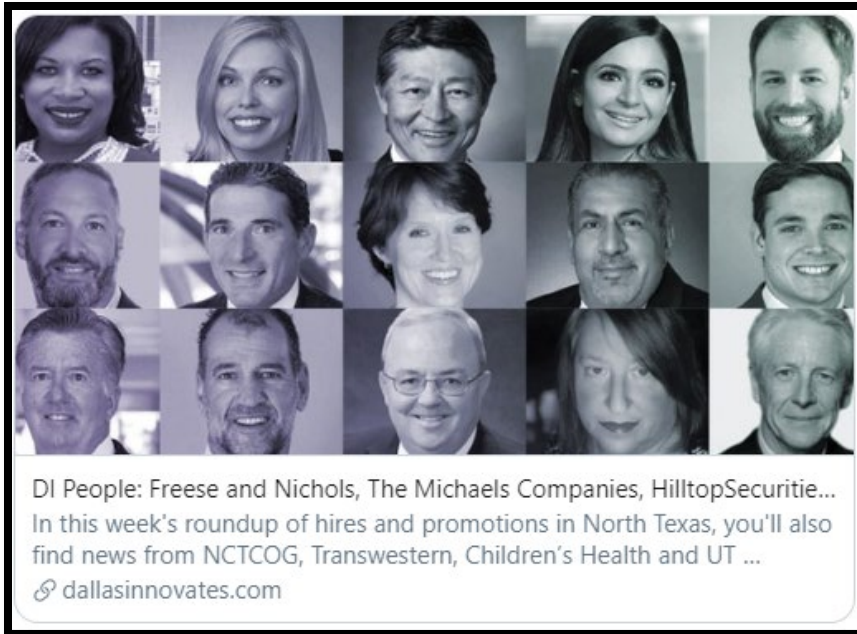
Other

Twitter –

1. Don't be baffled by CRF. Join this free webinar to learn how cities and counties can make the most of the relief fund. @TexasCounties @TML_Texas @NTxCommission @NCTCOGtrans – Cathy Altman (@CathyAltman)



2. In this week's roundup of hires and promotions in North Texas: @FreeseNichols, The Michaels Companies, HilltopSecurities, @NCTCOGtrans, @Transwestern, @SMU, & more – Dallas Innovates (@DallasInnovates)



Facebook –

1. In this week's roundup of hires and promotions in North Texas: Freese and Nichols, Inc., The Michaels Companies, HilltopSecurities, NCTCOG Transportation Department, Transwestern, SMU, & more – Dallas Innovates

DALLASINNOVATES.COM

DI People: Freese and Nichols, The Michaels Companies, HilltopSecurities Make Moves » Dallas Innovates

In this week's roundup of hires and promotions in North Texas, you'll also find news from NCTCOG,...