PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

<u>Purpose</u>

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 Sunday, September 20, through Monday, October 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. Electric vehicle 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 were two Bicycle and Pedestrian comments and two Roadway comments. To read them, visit:

http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourceReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b60 4b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2.

Air Quality

<u>Email –</u>

1. P. Mehta

As a citizen I am concerned about traffic and pollution, especially contributing to climate change and the recent IPCC reports that we must help lower the temperature of the Earth. Here is a summary of the IPCC report:

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Headline-statements.pdf

During this covid 19 pandemic, as less people have been on the roads resulting in less traffic, the air quality has significantly improved per the daily accuweather air quality measurements.

Here is an article about how traffic is a cause of global warming along with solutions from The Union of Concerned Scientists: https://www.ucsusa.org/transportation

As a citizen, I wanted to suggest the idea of offering some type of carpool incentive program, such as the hov lanes, but going further with that, or getting cities, companies and transportation authorities to reduce toll fees and taxes to those who carpool, and of course solutions that the above science website show as it is coming from experts.

Also wondering if there could be some type of electric tram in the middle of our highways to include in the solutions.

Response by NCTCOG

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

The effects of the pandemic have profoundly impacted the North Central Texas region, and NCTCOG staff has been monitoring these impacts on our regional air quality. Emission pollutant levels have reduced in some ways but have remained stagnant in terms of ozone. Since the region is in nonattainment for the pollutant ozone, tracking ozone measures is a key component of our ongoing analysis, which we plan to continue in the forthcoming months.

NCTCOG also works with stakeholders across the region to implement a variety of initiatives to help improve air quality, including transportation system management (e.g. signal timing, intersection improvements), travel demand management (e.g. public transportation, programs to encourage carpooling and other alternative commutes), and programs focused on reducing vehicle emissions through proper vehicle maintenance, idle reduction and the use of alternative fuels and/or electric vehicles.

Additionally, I've enclosed below details on several of our existing programs that aid in travel demand and congestion management.

Again, thank you for contacting us and feel free to let us know if you have any additional questions.

Kind regards,

Carli

Try Parking It

Try Parking It (TPI) is a free alternative commute resource for the North Central Texas region. TPI rewards commuters for carpooling, vanpooling, taking transit, walking, biking, teleworking, working a compressed week and even brown bagging your lunch. If you currently drive alone, you can use TPI to find carpool or vanpool matches. You can also track your greener trips, including biking, walking and telecommuting to earn instant rewards. To establish a Try Parking It account, visit www.tryparkingit.com

or download the free app from the App store or from Google Play.

GoCarma

The Regional Transportation Council, NCTCOG Transportation Department's policy body, established policies for all managed lanes. One of these policies provides a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) toll discount during weekday peak periods. Managed lane users can receive this discount utilizing the GoCarma application, which automatically links to their toll tag account to provide a discount when two or more passengers are riding together in their vehicle. For more information, visit : https://www.gocarma.com/dfw

Thank you.

Bicycle & Pedestrian

<u>Email –</u>

1. Mitzi Davis

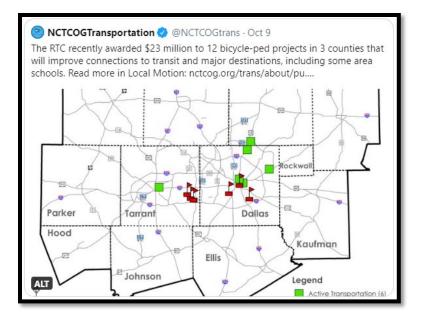
Hello,

My name is Mitzi Davis and I work with the City of Farmers Branch. I wanted to send comments so that Dallas is aware of the possible Denton Road revitalization and connectivity.

Please note that Farmers Branch has done a survey and taken into consideration a cycle track that connects to Dallas. I realize that the limits of the study do not extend all the way to Farmers Branch but it's worth noting to consider future alignment.

<u>Twitter –</u>

1. Fort Worth was awarded \$2,332,000 to "Construct new separated bicycle lanes, PHB signal, bicycle traffic signals, bicycle/pedestrian traffic counters, and related intersection improvements along E First St / E Fourth St from Haltom Rd to IH 35W." @BikeFortWorth @NCTCOGtrans – Fort Worth Urban (@UrbanFortWorth)

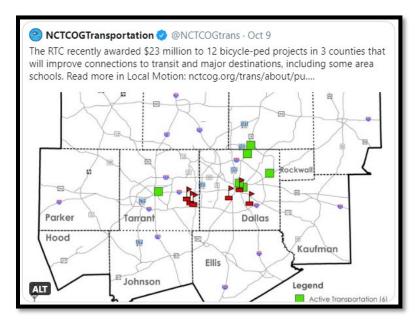


I moved to Fort Worth in May and I still have not seen a single person using any bicycle lane. This seems like having 60 people over for dinner and not having steak because there's one vegetarian in the group. – Jeremy Ross (@jrosstx)

Welcome to communist Russia (@yuri ronin)

I have seen riders using Sylvania's poorly marked and maintained bike lanes. If traffic was less chaotic, I expect there would be more. – Safety on North Sylvania (@SaveSylvania)

2. Exciting stuff all across the region !! - BikeDFW (@BikeDFW)



Electric Vehicles

<u> Fax –</u>

1. John Nolan (See Attachment #1)

<u>Twitter –</u>

1. Check out these BTS shots of an electric lawn service video we're working with @MotorWeek on in Lantana today! #GoElectric – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



Really grateful with the PBS Motorweek Show and the NCTCOG Transportation Department for the interview today! – Carlos Ojeda Treviño (@carlosrojeda)

<u>Facebook –</u>

1. Check out these behind-the-scenes shots of an electric lawn service video we're working with MotorWeek on in Lantana today! #GoElectric – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Awesome, and I live here in Lantana, too! - Paul McManus

Participation Control State of the second s

2. National Drive Electric Week is almost here! From September 26 - October 4, communities across the country will be celebrating electrified transportation in a variety of forms. DFW Clean Cities and NCTCOG are excited to participate in a virtual event being produced just for DFW and will be hosting meetings for our local governments in the following week. We will be providing more EV info will be provided through posts all throughout NDEW! Find details on the full lineup at www.driveelectricdfw.org.#TexasEV #DFWCleanCities #NDEWDFW #DriveElectric #NDEW2020 – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Awesome! I was at the last one and really enjoyed it. - Jamie Howard Pirtle

Glad you enjoyed it, Jamie! 😊 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

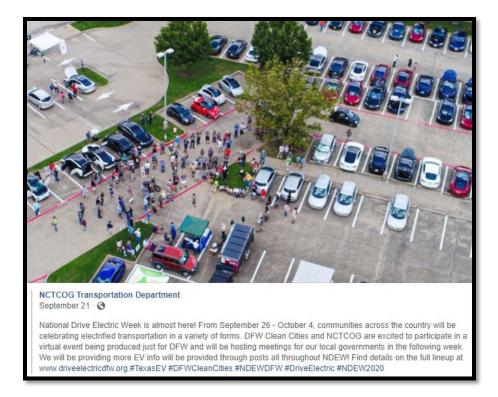
3. Don't miss our Electrification for Utilities: Multi-Port, 1+MW Charging System for Medium- and Heavy-Duty EVs Part 2 webinar on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 11 AM, featuring speakers from Argonne National Laboratory, HDR, and NACFE!

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

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/.../register/WN_jbymvAXLSp6XIKETNgVyug – Louisiana Clean Fuels



4. We love National Drive Electric week. Choosing electric reduces emissions. See NCTCOG Transportation Department post below to learn more about this effort and their virtual event on Saturday, September 26. – Keep Grapevine Beautiful



5. Tomorrow join NCTCOG Transportation Department's FREE National Drive Electric Week webinar out of Dallas-Fort Worth. Topics will include: Cost of Ownership, Driving Experience, EV 101, Home Charging, Incentives, Used EVs. Register at





6. Don't miss out on these upcoming LCF #cleanfuels webinars!

Sept 30:

- Transportation Electrification for Utilities | Preparing Utilities for EVs (10:00 AM)
- Fleet Electrification (Pt. 1): EV Market Watch Work Trucks (2:00 PM) Register:

Oct. 7: Fleet Electrification (Pt. 2): First Steps for Fleets Interested in EVs (2:00 PM)

Oct. 9: Pro Tips for Legacy CNG Fleets (Pt 2) - CNG Stations (10:30 AM)

Learn more on our website: https://louisianacleanfuels.org/meetinginfo.php

#cleanair #electrification #EVs #naturalgas # #electricvehicles #renewables #CNG #fleets #utilities #CleanCities #altfuels #alternativefuels – Louisiana Clean Fuels



7. Join Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (NCTCOG Transportation Department) for a virtual National Drive Electric Week event taking place in Dallas!

Learn more and register: https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=2461&view=public

#electricvehicles #EVs #electrification #NDEW #driveelectric #texasEV #NDEWdfw – Louisiana Clean Fuels



8. TOMORROW! Join Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (NCTCOG Transportation Department) for a virtual National Drive Electric Week event taking place in Dallas!

#electricvehicles #EVs #electrification #NDEW #driveelectric #texasEV #NDEWdfw – Plugin Louisiana: Electric Driving and Charging



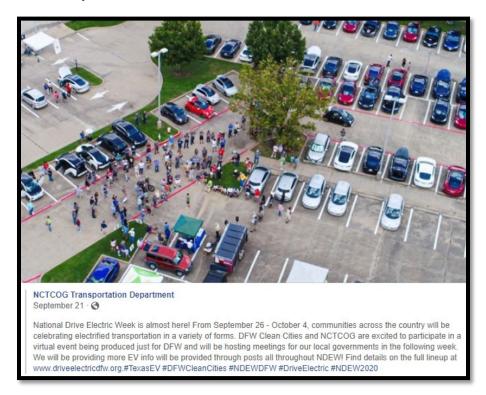
9. Liked our webinar today? Don't forget to register for Part 2 happening on Wednesday, Oct. 7th: First Steps for Fleets Interested in EVs! Hear from LCF, Sawatch Labs, and HDR as they discuss the differences between EVs and gaseous fueled vehicles, benefits of EVs, and total cost of ownership.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/.../register/WN_UB8CreWnRh6Esusm5fZ3Sg

#electrification #cleanfuels #cleanair #CleanCities #altfues #alternativefuels #EVs #electrification #fleets – Louisiana Clean Fuels



10. Today is the start of National Drive Electric Week! NCTCOG Transportation Department and DFW Clean Cities are hosting several virtual events. Learn more at www.driveelectricdfw.org. #TexasEV #DFWCleanCities #NDEWDFW #DriveElectric #NDEW2020 – City of Denton Sustainably



11. Did you know people are 20 times more likely to purchase an electric vehicle when their workplace provides charging stations? If you come across any charging stations, post a photo of it in the comments!

For more information on charging station rebates go to: https://www.chargepoint.com/incentives/commercial/.... #ISpy – NCTCOG Transportation Department



High-Speed Transportation

<u>Email –</u>

1. Thomas Wall Simmons

I have heard rumors that there will be a bullet train running in between Dallas and Houston.

In my opinion this is a good thing, but and that's a big butt, This is competition with Airlines and will be almost mute as far as a good form of transportation. Airlines will fight this to thin nail.

The real place that we need to have rapid rail is in between Dallas Fort Worth running down the middle of I 30.

Present rail systems are slower than a vehicle so no one will ride them until we beat the speed of automobiles or gridlock slow down traffic.

Please move this to a top priority.

<u>Twitter –</u>

1. Transportation planners are considering innovative ways to move people between Dallas, Arlington and Fort Worth. Do you want to learn more about high-speed technologies being considered? We have our last public meeting on them tonight at 6 pm! http://bit.ly/DFWHST – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



How 'bout we start with just providing reliable and faster modern public transit with buses - something DFW hasn't managed to pull off in decades. – Downwinders at Risk (@cleanerair)

Project Planning

<u>Email –</u>

1. Clyde Picht

I'd like to know when the access bridges from and to Chisholm Trail Parkway from I-20 E and Chisholm Trail W will be completed. It appears that access both to and from I-20 is warranted.

2. Mike Gregory

Don't expand Heartlee Field

Rd Denton TX. If there is a need for a major artery place it north of Heartlee and in the development or make the expansion on the side of Heartlee in order to save the houses on the south side.

3. Scott Lebsack

Please do not permit the large new development north of Hartlee Field Road to access and utilize Hartlee Field Road. Please require the development to provide ingress/egress access from Highway 428, Sherman Drive. Thank you for this requirement to protect our neighborhood.

4. Carolyn Barnes

I believe the transportation plans for the area north of Loop 288 and east of I35 in Denton unnecessarily harm existing neighborhoods and rural space to build an overabundance of roads that seem to duplicate service and/or that could provide service in a less disruptive, more coherent manner.

5. Bridget Marshall

At the intersection of FM 428, the proposed Ganzer Freeway will be 3.1 miles from the proposed Outer Loop Freeway and 1.2 miles from Loop 288 Freeway. At its western end, connecting with I35, the spacing is even less with 2.9 miles between Loop 288 and the

proposed Outer Loop Freeway. Based on the NCTCOG standards of freeway spacing of 10 miles in the Outer Loop/Greenbelt Corridor Feasibility Study, the Ganzer Freeway is unnecessary. Also, the proposed Ganzer Freeway would run through an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and require several bridges to cross Clear Creek, Elm Fork of the Trinity River, the Greenbelt and floodplains in Denton County. It would be a very expensive undertaking financially, and cause an immensely negative impact on the environment. Please eliminate the proposed Ganzer Freeway from your plans.

6. Wanda Conlin

Looking at the difference in beautification of retaining walls and overpasses as you travel east from Fort Worth is eye opening. Why can those be beautiful with embellishments and warm colors while the routes through Fort Worth are dull concrete gray? Give Fort Worth roadways more artistic touches.

7. Lee L Mason

Decades of research show us that building more lanes is the best way to increase the use of personal motor vehicles. Please continue to support complete streets for cyclists and pedestrians, to provide alternative means of transit.

<u>Twitter –</u>

1. Nice work, but we STILL don't need @SouthwestAir Herb Kelleher Way to be rammed through the middle of Bachman Lake Park. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

Mayor Eric Johnson
@Johnson4Dallas · Sep 23
Dallas Love Field soars to best large airport in North America.
dallasnews.com/business/airli...

It's not. @VoteOmarNarvaez is getting \$upport from @NCTCOGtrans for an area plan. @CityOfDallas pausing to give CoG process a chance to catch up. Lee M. Kleinman (@LeeforDallas)

Thank you for your leadership, @LeeforDallas! – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

And thanks to @VoteOmarNarvaez for his leadership on this issue, as well. Great to see a City Council working well together! – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)

Let's see what happens. Every problem is Dallas seems to be solved with concrete. Need to stop this. – JJC (@jjcflyin)

Public Meetings & Forums

<u>Email –</u>

1. Catherine Morgan Butschek

We stopped coming to the meeting couple yrs ago as it appeared nothing was getting done. just meeting after meeting. vote and get something approved

Facebook –

1. The Dallas Department of Transportation wants your feedback on potential changes to the City's Dockless Vehicle Program. The meeting begins at 6 pm tonight. Visit http://bit.ly/36L5jNK to join. Access code: 146 183 2055. – NCTCOG Transportation Department

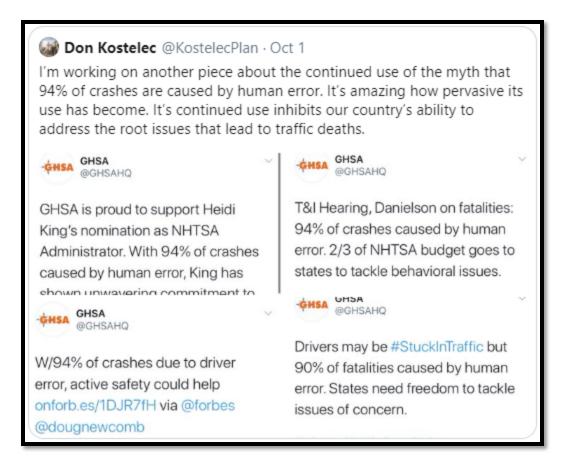


It is great that officials want to hear from the public on this topic! - Carlos Ojeda Treviño

<u>Safety</u>

<u>Twitter –</u>

1. Our @TxDOT and @NCTCOGtrans designed transportation system in North Texas consistently kills several hundred residents each year, seriously injuring thousands more. They don't seem inclined to do much about it. – Wylie H Dallas (@Wylie_H_Dallas)



TxDOT is another agency that spreads the false claim that 94% of crashes are due to human error. @TxDOTCommission @TxDOTCEO should demand their staff stop using it. https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/state-responds-to-safety-concerns-at-finesilver-curve-07-03-2017 – Don Kostelec (@KostelecPlan)



<u>Transit</u>

<u>Email –</u>

1. Patricia Adkins

I would really like to see public transportation connecting to more in-depth Coppell, Texas area. Those without private transportation that do not live right on the bus routes have to walk miles to the nearest connection location; through all kinds of weather and lots of these people are trying to get to their daily jobs. Those that have late or night shifts can't find late night transportation either. Most of these people can't afford to pay for taxis, ubers, etc. So it is a real challenge for the low income to try and ever get ahead...

Response by NCTCOG

Thank you for reaching out to us about public transportation in Coppell. Your concerns about connectivity and accessibility in this area are very important and we appreciate you sharing them. Identifying gaps such as this can help us better understand where the need for expanded public transportation service exists. The following are a few transportation services currently serving the City of Coppell:

The City of Coppell has partnered with Denton County's non-profit SPAN Transit, to provide public transportation services, by appointment, for seniors age 60+ and individuals with disabilities. Service is provided to individuals residing in Coppell to locations in Coppell, northward to Vista Ridge Mall in Lewisville, Westward to Baylor Scott and White Grapevine, Southward to Las Colinas Medical Facility and Eastward along the I-35 corridor. The current fare for Coppell is \$2.50 per one-way trip. To learn more, you can visit their website at https://span-transit.org/.

Metrocrest Services currently provides limited transportation to qualifying Coppell residents. They offer door-to-door rides to local appointments for seniors 65+ or individuals with disabilities. The one-way cost is based on income and ranges from \$3 to \$10. To learn more, you can visit their website at

http://metrocrestresourceguide.org/services/senior-programs/transportation/.

The city of Coppell has also partnered with Lyft and the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) to launch "Work Hard, Get a Lyft," a workforce transit program designed to provide local employees first- and last-mile transportation. Employees at participating businesses can request discounted Lyft rides from several public transit stops directly to the workplace and back, providing an easy solution for the extra few miles of commuting. Passengers will pay the first \$2 of their trip and the City of Coppell will subsidize the next \$15. Any remaining fare over \$17 will be paid by the passenger. To learn more, you can visit their website at https://www.dcta.net/coppell-lyft.

We recognize there is still additional demand for public transportation services in the area. In coordination with a wide range of stakeholders, we document in Access North Texas the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes and others with transportation challenges within our 16-county region and outline strategies to address those needs for the next four years. From our last update of the plan in 2018, our coordination with Dallas and Denton County residents

revealed specific transportation needs, all of which can be found in the Dallas County and Denton County Chapters of the plan, along with strategies for future transportation coordination and development. We will be conducting public outreach in these counties again in 2021. You are welcome to participate if you would like to voice your concerns with transportation staff. More information will be posted to the Access North Texas website as it becomes available.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Rachel Jenkins at rjenkins@nctcog.org.

2. Robert Brown

There is no easy way for those disabled like myself to schedule transportation from Greenville TX to specialty physicians in Dallas. I have Syringomyelia with a Syrinx in my Thoracic that has damaged my spinal cord. So far, it's impact is pain, heart, and the fight or flight reaction from pain. I cannot find anyone that can drive me from Greenville to Carrollton for my pain mgmt appointment.

Response by NCTCOG

Thank you for reaching out to us about public transportation options in the Greenville area. Your concern about transportation accessibility in this area is very important, and we appreciate you sharing. Identifying gaps such as this can help us better understand where the need for expanded public transportation service exists. The following are a few transportation services in the Greenville area:

Senior Center Resources and Public Transit (or The Connection) is a service that is available in your area for individuals who are seniors, low-income, or have a disability. At this time, The Connection serves primarily Greenville and Hunt Counties but can provide round trip service to Dallas at a higher cost for trips booked at least a week in advance. To learn more, you can visit their website at https://www.scrpt.org/transportation.htm or call (903) 454-1444 to speak to a representative.

Hunt County is also serviced by On the Go Taxi service, which is a small private operation. According to their representative, you can reach this service through their Facebook page, On The Go Taxi Service, or through their phone number at (903) 456-6525 during the following times of day:

Monday - Wednesday, 8:00am - 1:00pm

Friday & Saturday, 8:00am - 11:00am & 1:00pm - 7:00pm

Closed Thursday and Sunday

On the Go Taxi indicated that they can take individuals into Dallas County, although it is likely to be costly as they are a small, private operation.

We recognize that transportation accessibility and costs can be burdens, and it is our goal to better understand the transportation gaps in our 16-county North Central Texas region. One of the ways we work toward this goal is through our Access North Texas initiative, which aims to coordinate with the public to document the needs of regional

transit riders. From our last update of the plan in 2018, our coordination with Hunt County residents revealed specific transportation needs, all of which can be found in the Hunt County Chapter of the plan, along with strategies for future transportation coordination and development. We will be conducting public outreach in Hunt county again in 2021. You are welcome to participate if you would like to voice your concerns with transportation staff among other residents of Hunt county. More information will be posted to the Access North Texas website as it becomes available.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Vivian Fung at vfung@nctcog.org.

3. Tyson Moeller

There should be coordinated meetings with DART, UPRR, FWWR and DGNO discussing safety concerns of this proposal.

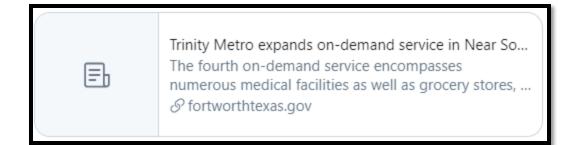
<u>Twitter –</u>

1. Attending a virtual mtg of the Planning, Operations, & Marketing (POM) Committee of @TrinityMetro: Update on System Redesign known as A Better Connection. Here is link to presentation: https://ridetrinitymetro.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/A-Better-Connection-Presentation-by-Huitt-Zollars-September-2020.pdf @CityofFortWorth @TarrantCountyTX @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



Bottom line: Does it make a difference in @CityofFortWorth funding? Or are facts too much for the them to comprehend? – Linda Ld Thornton, APR (@LindaLdThornton)

2. @TrinityMetro's @nearsouthside ZIPZONE, an on-demand dailytransportation option, is expanding its service area to include more access to grocery shopping and medical facilities.@CityofFortWorth @TarrantTransit @NCTCOGtrans @JPS_Health – Salvador Espino Michel (@SAL_FW)



Facebook –

1. ¡Ayuda a crear una visión para mejorar el transporte en el noroeste de Dallas! Se invita a todos los residentes, negocios, y miembros de la comunidad a unirse a una conversación virtual, una "Orientación 101," sobre un próximo proyecto. Para mas información, visite: www.nctcog.org/landuseplanning. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Seems an obvious potential for ecotourism along the greenbelt and forks of the Trinity? Where are current and planned on-street bikeways? – Bud Melton

Hi, Bud! We have a lot of information on current and planned facilities on our website here: https://www.nctcog.org/.../bik.../veloweb/on-street-bikeways. If you have any other questions, just let us know! 🙂 – NCTCOG Transportation Department

Yes, I'm aware; but concerned those less familiar with your resources would have no sense of that depth. Trying to see this from a beginner's mind. (Picture's worth a thousand words...) – Bud Melton

Wonder if having Veloweb alignments on this map would be helpful. Irving and other areas within these borders are just a short bike ride away once such connections are completed. – Bud Melton

<u>Other</u>

Facebook -

1. Is your traffic management center ready to go virtual? David Halloin, P.E., PTOE, and Tom Hartmann, P.E., PTOE, IMSA II, explain how we coordinated a weekend-long interstate closure remotely. City of Grand Prairie - Municipal Government City of Arlington, TX - City Hall NCTCOG Transportation Department Texas A&M Transportation Institute – Kimley-Horn



Is your traffic management center ready to go virtual? Hear how we successfully coordinated a.

Attachment #1

Sept 22, 2020

Dear Judge Harman, Chair Regional Transportation Council

I have just received a copy of the" Fall 2020 mobility matters" I do enjoy reading about various mobility issues, as it affects all of us. I noted that Michael Morris referred to the possibility of installing induction loops on freeways for electric vehicle recharging. That is interesting to research and think of the possibilities. However, that is certainly far in ther future.

It is good to think about getting off the carbon diet, even though much work will need to be done to realize that dream.

Today we need to address having the electric vehicles pay their share to keep up all the roads we all drive on. Currently I have a Toyota Tacoma pickup and drive around 15,000 miles a year. I average approximately 18 MPG. The gas tax (including state and federal) is 38.4 cents/gal. Based upon the above I am paying approximately \$320 a year in gas tax.

As we get more and more plug-in electric vehicle on the road the inequity burden of allowing electric vehicle to drive on the roads and not pay a "road tax" is substantial.

We put dye in the farmers non-taxed fuel, to prevent them from fueling their highway vehicles with a non-taxes source. How is this any different. Previously when farmers converted their pickups to propane, they had to get a tax certificate to ensure that the highway fuel was taxes.

Being at the forefront of transportation I would think the Metropolitan Planning Organization for DFW would have addressed this inequity long ago. Where is the leadership?

Sincerely,

Im Nolan

John Nolan 2313 Garden Lane Arlington, Texas 76015 <u>Jnolan212@sbcglobal.net</u>

RECEIVED

SEP 2 4 2020

CC Theresa Daniel Vice Chair

TRANSPORTATION