



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

June 2021

Transit Bulletin

Topics

- ❖ Transit in the News
- ❖ MOD Working Group
- ❖ College Mobility Hub Studies
- ❖ Access North Texas
- ❖ Provider Meeting Highlights
- ❖ FTA Covid-19 Reporting
- ❖ PTASP Update
- ❖ New NCTCOG Staff

Mark Your Calendars!

Event	Reoccurrence	Due Date
Charter Service Reports	Quarterly	July 15, 2021
TIP Modifications	Quarterly	Mod Requests for Nov. TIP cycle by July 31, 2021
DBE Reports	Semi-Annually	Monthly with invoice submittal
Monthly Reporting	Monthly	The 15 th of each month
Covid-19 Forms	Monthly	The 15 th of each month (in conjunction with monthly reporting)

Local Spotlight

Bob Johnson, City of Arlington Handitran



Bob Johnson has worked for the City of Arlington for 26 years. He has worn many hats in that time and has been given the opportunity to serve the elderly and disabled residents of the area for the last 12 years as Transit Manager for Handitran. He started his

career working for local network broadcasters around the country as a writer, producer, and director. His original role in Arlington was as broadcast coordinator. His experiences in small towns and diverse cities gave him the exposure to the importance of transportation to the fabric of communities. In his down time, he enjoys time with his wife Debbie and their two dogs. His Golden, Buzz Lightyear taught Cane the Schnoodle to swim! He is an avid fisherman.

Reminder

Email Reimbursement Requests to
TRGrants@nctcog.org

Celebrate Your Staff

Do you have extraordinary staff? Let us highlight them in our next bulletin! Send ideas to
vfung@nctcog.org

Transit in the News

FTA Dear Colleague Letter

Beginning Summer 2021, the FTA will conduct audits for select recipients of CARES Act, CRRSAA, and ARP funding that do not have a scheduled Triennial or State Management Review during Fiscal Year 2021. These audits will be conducted to ensure expenses charged to COVID relief funding programs meet federal requirements, as prescribed by Congress and the FTA. For additional information, please see FTA's Dear Colleague [Letter](#): COVID-19 Supplemental Oversight, published April 20, 2021.



DART South Dallas/Fair Park GoLink Pilot Program

Dallas Area Rapid Transit began a [six-month pilot program](#) on April 26th for their on-demand, curb-to-curb GoLink program in South Dallas/Fair Park in response to a survey of 200 South Dallas residents which revealed the difficulties related to short-distance bus travel in the area.

Arlington RAPID Pilot Program

Arlington launched a fleet of five on-demand self-driving shuttles in [a new RAPID service](#) available to riders through the Via app. The service is available to book from 7am to 7pm on weekdays and connects riders to destinations within Arlington.

Federal Mask Order

On February 1, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an order requiring the use of face masks on all public conveyances, including public transportation services. The order requires that all passengers and personnel aboard public transportation vehicles and in public transportation facilities wear a face mask. Transportation providers must also inform the public that masks are required aboard the vehicle and on transit property. As of May 18, 2021, the order has been extended through September 13, 2021. It is unclear at the time of writing whether recent recommendations by the CDC regarding face mask usage in other settings will affect the expiration date of this order.

PTASP Update

In May, the [Regional Transportation Council](#) (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan region, adopted FY 2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regional transit safety targets. Fatality targets were set to zero, in line with our established regional safety position that even one death in the transportation system is too many. Other targets for injuries, safety events, and system reliability represent a 5% improvement over FY 2016 – 2019 baseline averages.

Free Rides to Vaccines

Several transit providers in the region have been working to connect individuals to vaccination resources. Some of these on-going efforts include:

- Trinity Metro: [Free Rides to COVID-19 Vaccination Sites](#)
- STAR Transit: [Free Rides to Vaccination Locations](#)
- DCTA & Span, Inc: [Bus Transportation to Vaccination Clinics](#)
- Catholic Charities of Fort Worth: [Free Rides to COVID-19 Vaccination Sites](#)

Transit Resources

Mobility on Demand Working Group

NCTCOG recently resumed meetings of the Mobility on Demand (MOD) Working Group, a forum for our regional partners to discuss, coordinate, and promote MOD and MaaS concepts and solutions throughout the region. Recent meetings featured presentations on the City of Arlington's Via Rideshare and RAPID services and DART's GoLink service. The group also heard from Spare Labs, Via, and Routematch by Uber, all of which gave introductions to their platforms and services. The topics for future meetings will be curated to fit the needs and interests of group members. The working group meets quarterly, and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 2021. Past meeting materials and future meeting announcements are posted to our website at nctcog.org/mod. Those interested in attending or learning more about the group can contact Rachel Jenkins at rjenkins@nctcog.org.



College Mobility Hub Studies

NCTCOG has received Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds for the implementation of a regional study on Intermodal Transportation Hubs for Colleges and Universities. The goal of this study is to assist colleges and universities in the North Central Texas region with a framework for planning potential intermodal transportation hub locations and associated traffic pattern impacts. This will include the impact to transit ridership, bicycle and pedestrian mobility, and other modes used for on campus traffic circulation and local/regional connections. The study is scheduled to be launched later this year and will utilize consultant assistance. Please contact Ezra Pratt at epratt@nctcog.org with any comments or questions.

Access North Texas

Access North Texas is the regional public transportation coordination plan for the 16-county North Central Texas region. NCTCOG is currently conducting public engagement to identify the regional public transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and others with transportation challenges. Public outreach efforts include 1) Public and Agency Surveys, 2) the NCTCOG Map Your Experience Tool, and 3) a series of county-specific Virtual Public Meetings from April to July of 2021. To learn more about this effort or get involved, visit our website at www.accessnorthtexas.org or email us at accessnorthtexas@nctcog.org.



Highlights from the Biannual Transit Provider Meeting

NCTCOG hosted the annual Transit Providers' Meeting on March 8, 2021. The meeting with providers from across the region covered topics such as apportionment of funding, procurements and contract compliance, the new transit website, and FTA grant closeout procedures. For more information, please visit our webpage at <https://www.nctcog.org/transit>.

FTA COVID-19 Reporting

As part of the effort to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) began requiring transit providers to report on their operational status and how their agency has been affected by COVID-19. FTA requested a baseline report of whether the agency had reduced or suspended service between February 2020 and March 2021 and is subsequently collecting recurring data on the number of transit workers, frontline workers, COVID-19 infections, fatalities, recoveries, and vaccinations. Transit agencies are asked to collect as much information as allowable by health privacy laws.

To streamline reporting, NCTCOG developed a reporting table for subrecipients to record their COVID-19 data. Please contact Martin Bate at mbate@nctcog.org if you would like a copy of this table.

Increasing COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence

According to a survey presented at a recent FTA webinar, about 15% of transportation workers are uncertain about receiving the vaccine and 22% are unwilling to receive it. While medicine and personal health are private matters, transit agencies are still able to provide information and encouragement for those who may have their reservations about the vaccine. Below is a list of ways that the FTA and CDC believe transit agencies can increase confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine among their workers:

- Provide information [from the CDC website](#) on vaccine [efficacy](#) and [safety](#)
- Create a space for workers to express their concerns without judgment and ask questions
- Celebrate the agency reaching vaccination milestones, if tracking
- Speak openly about your own experience with receiving the vaccine

You may [view a recording](#) of this FTA webinar or [view the presentation materials](#) online.

New NCTCOG Transit Staff



Andrew Pagano is a Senior Planner with NCTCOG's Transit Management and Planning team. He's been leading the team's planning efforts since March 2021. Born in New York City and raised in Orlando, FL, he received a Bachelor's in Political Science from University of Central Florida and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. During grad school, Andrew researched and traveled state-wide to identify transportation issues and solutions across New Jersey on behalf of NJDOT. After grad school, he worked for a consulting firm where he managed national, state and regional economic development projects. Recently, he

led the effort for the City of Dallas' Strategic Mobility Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan and shepherded the FTA TOD Planning pilot through Dallas. Andrew is happily married to Maria Pagano since 2019. In his spare time, Andrew can be found playing guitar, drums, deadlifting a small car, attending rock concerts (pre-COVID), getting lost in state/national parks and exploring cities across Texas and beyond. Feel free to reach out to Andrew via email: apagano@nctcog.org