

AGENDA

Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, June 14, 2012
North Central Texas Council of Governments

- 11:00 am **Funding Source Subcommittee Meeting (Transportation Council Room)**
- 11:30 am **Joint Legislative Fundamentals and Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting
(Transportation Council Room)**
- 1:00 pm **Full RTC Business Agenda**
- 1:00 – 1:05 1. **Approval of May 10, 2012, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
 Presenter: Jungus Jordan, RTC Chair
 Item Summary: Approval of the May 10, 2012, minutes contained in [Reference
Item 1](#) will be requested.
 Background: N/A
- 1:05 – 1:05 2. **Consent Agenda**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0
- 2.1. **Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**
 Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
 Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of
 revisions to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement
 Program (TIP) will be requested.
 Background: Revisions to the 2011-2014 TIP are provided as [Reference
Item 2.1.1](#) for RTC consideration. Administrative
 amendments from last quarter are provided for information
 in [Electronic Item 2.1.2](#). These modifications have been
 reviewed for consistency with the air quality conformity
 determination and financial constraint of the TIP. The
 Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC)
 reviewed and recommended RTC approval of the revisions
 at its May 25, 2012, meeting.
- 2.2. **Air Quality Funding Recommendations**
 Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG
 Item Summary: Staff has finalized project recommendations for the North
 Central Texas Clean School Bus Program 2012 Call for
 Projects (CFP) and is recommending opening a new
 opportunity through the Regional Idling Reduction Program
 2012 CFP. Council approval of funding recommendations
 will be requested. In addition, information is provided on
 results of two recent funding opportunities through which
 the North Central Texas Council of Governments
 (NCTCOG) solicited projects to include in regional
 proposals to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 and Department of Energy (DOE).

To access the agenda and linked reference/electronic items as one file, please use the following link:
<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc/2012/06June/agenda.packet.rtc061412.pdf>

Background: NCTCOG received grant funding from multiple sources for the administration of clean vehicle projects. Funding received from EPA, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) has been dedicated for clean school bus projects. Eligibility extended to public and private schools, school districts, and school bus operators in the 16-county NCTCOG region. Staff has finalized funding recommendations.

Staff proposes to award the balance of CMAQ funding available under the Air Quality Initiatives project through a Regional Idling Reduction Program 2012 CFP. This will allow for purchase and installation of technologies that reduce idling from both light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles and non-road equipment. In addition, if funds previously awarded for other idle reduction projects are released due to withdrawn or under-budget projects, staff recommends that those funds be reallocated to projects wait-listed through this CFP as dollars become available.

New funding opportunities were recently made available through both the EPA and DOE. In order to submit strong proposals to each agency, NCTCOG opened CFPs to invite project submittals to be combined into regional applications. NCTCOG expects to be notified of EPA award in July and DOE award by September 2012.

Details on these items are provided in [Reference Item 2.2](#), which also includes a summary of currently available funding opportunities.

1:05 – 1:10 3. Election of Regional Transportation Council Officers

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: B. Glen Whitley, Chair, Nominating Subcommittee

Item Summary: Approval of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) officers for the next 12-month period will be requested.

Background: According to the RTC Bylaws and Operating Procedures, the officers of RTC are elected to serve for a term of one year. The Nominating Subcommittee is charged with providing a slate of officers to the full Council for consideration in June of each year. The Nominating Subcommittee, in its deliberations, shall address issues of diversity, including sensitivity to gender, ethnicity, and geography in its recommendations. Officers shall be elected public officials appointed by and from the governing body of the member government. The Chair shall rotate annually between the Eastern and Western Subregions.

1:10 – 1:25

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Progress North Texas Award, Brian Wilson (NCTCOG, Transportation) and Kristy Keener (NCTCOG, Public Affairs)
2. Regional Success Lapel Pins Available, Vercie Pruitt-Jenkins, NCTCOG
3. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Biennial Membership Appointments
4. Transportation Planning Funds
5. Federal Railroad Administration Waiver Received by the Stadler Rail Group
6. RTC Meetings Available on RTC Web Page
<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc/video.asp>
7. May Public Meeting Minutes ([Electronic Item 4.1](#))
8. Air North Texas' Be Air Aware ([Electronic Item 4.2](#)) and Clean Air Action Day ([Electronic Item 4.3](#))
9. NCTCOG Airport Encroachment Handbook (Handout)
10. Texas Department of Transportation Opportunities Two, Three, and Four
11. Air Quality Update
12. Funding for High Speed Rail Investigations
13. Our North Texas Tollway Authority Partners have Requested an Agenda Item in July
14. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 4.4](#))
15. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 4.5](#))
16. 2012 Progress North Texas (Handout)
17. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)

1:25 – 1:40

5. **Additional Revenue from the Texas Department of Transportation: Opportunity 1 Related to the \$507 Million Program**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenters: Michael Morris and Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing to program \$2 billion statewide in new transportation funds with approximately 25 percent being allocated to the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Staff will outline the projects project for these funds. The Austin Metropolitan Planning Organization may be asking the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to receive its \$130 million allocation of funds in exchange for funds currently available in the Dallas-Fort Worth region in the out years.

Background: [Reference Item 5.1](#) contains background information on the process and proposed projects for these funds. These funds are intended to advance IH 35W, IH 35E, SH 183, Loop 9, and Trinity Phase 1. [Reference Item 5.2](#) contains a financial summary of draft recommendations.

1:40 – 1:50

6. **Congressional Demonstration and High-Priority Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenters: Christie Gotti and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the latest developments regarding federal rescissions of congressional demonstration and high-priority projects. Staff will also request action to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP) to ensure that these funds are not lost to the region.

Background: In November 2011, the US Senate released a version of the surface transportation reauthorization bill, MAP-21, that contained language threatening the rescission of unused earmarks. The MAP-21 language would rescind unobligated earmarks from past authorization bills at the end of FY2012. In April 2012, the US House passed a continuing resolution for an additional 90-day extension to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

With the potential of losing federal earmark funding imminent, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) district offices have coordinated to determine the best possible action to minimize rescissions on earmarks within the region. [Reference Item 6.1](#) contains a listing of remaining earmarks in the TxDOT Dallas District. [Reference Item 6.2](#) contains the TxDOT Fort Worth listing of potentially affected projects. Please note that the Paris District has no pending earmarks in Hunt County.

1:50 – 2:00 7. **Legislative Update and Follow Up to Transit Funding Initiative Subcommittee Meetings**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the federal surface transportation authorization bill. In addition, staff will present a letter for approval provided in [Reference Item 7](#) relating to the elimination of funding for the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey in the FY2013 appropriations bill. A follow up to the Transit Funding Initiative Subcommittee meetings will also be given.

Background: The US Senate has passed a surface transportation authorization bill and has agreed to a conference committee with the US House on its 90-day extension. Conferees have begun negotiations toward a reauthorization proposal. The current Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) extension expires June 30. Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives has passed the FY2013 Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill, which removes funding for the US Census Bureau’s American Communities Survey and currently awaits Senate approval. A letter to the US Senate local delegation has been prepared. Finally, the Legislative Fundamentals Subcommittee, Partnerships Subcommittee, and Funding Source Subcommittee are scheduled to meet before the RTC meeting.

2:00 – 2:10

8. **Update on Urbanized Area**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

Item Summary: On March 27, 2012, the US Census published the final designation of urbanized areas associated with the 2012 US Census. Staff will present the final urbanized area for Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney Areas and highlight potential ramifications of these designations on funding and service delivery.

Background: Over the past two years, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff has been providing briefings to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) regarding the designation of urbanized areas within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. Two primary concerns were noted in these presentations: 1) the anticipated likelihood that a significant portion of land area and thereby population residing within the Metropolitan Area would again be omitted from these designations, and 2) despite now meeting the criteria historically published by the US Census for combining urbanized areas within a metropolitan area, the likelihood that the US Census was going to elect not to combine the three urbanized areas within the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. This presentation will address these issues in light of the recent final Urban Area designation associated with the 2012 Census.

2:10 – 2:20

9. **Cotton Belt Innovative Finance Initiative Status Report**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Tom Shelton, NCTCOG

Item Summary: As approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), staff is working toward identification of a scope of work for the next phase of the Cotton Belt Corridor Innovative Finance Initiative. Staff has recently provided a project status report to the Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) Board of Directors and the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Rail Ad Hoc Committee. The DART Board recently approved an extension of the North Central Texas Council of Governments/DART MOU until September 30, 2012.

Background: At the request of DART and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T), the North Central Texas Council of Governments staff and consultants have conducted a thorough investigation of potential innovative funding strategies for the capital and operating funding needs for the regional 62-mile Cotton Belt Corridor. North Central Texas Council of Governments staff recently completed the Final Report for the Cotton Belt Innovative Finance Initiative Project. The Final Report is available to all members and corridor stakeholders at www.nctcog.org/ifi.

10. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided as Reference Item 10.

- RTC Attendance ([Reference Item 10.1](#))
- STTC Attendance and Minutes ([Electronic Item 10.2](#))
- Local Motion ([Electronic Item 10.3](#))
- North Texas Transportation Connection ([Reference Item 10.4](#))

11. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

12. **Future Agenda Items:** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

13. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***Thursday, July 12, 2012, at 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.***