

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, July 12, 2012
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

- 11:30 am** **Legislative Fundamentals Subcommittee (Transportation Council Room)**
- 11:30 am** **Partnerships Subcommittee (Metroplex Conference Room)**
- 1:00 pm** **Full RTC Business Agenda**
- 1:00 – 1:05** 1. **Approval of June 14, 2012, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Pete Kamp, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the June 14, 2012, minutes contained in [Reference Item 1](#) will be requested.
Background: N/A
- 1:05 – 1:15** 2. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
1. Important Agenda and Significant Opportunities for Partnerships in Passenger Rail
 2. Transportation Improvement Program Proposed Procedure Changes
 3. Brownfields Program
 4. Status on SH 183 SB1420 Committee
 5. Air Quality Funding Update ([Electronic Item 2.1](#))
 6. Ozone Season Update ([Electronic Item 2.2](#))
 7. Be Air Aware Reminder ([Electronic Item 2.3](#))
 8. AirCheckTexas Vehicle Replacement Update
 9. Landfill Methane Capture: Field Trip to McCommas Bluff Landfill ([Electronic Item 2.4](#))
 10. Meeting on Electric Vehicles, August 3, 2012, 1:00 pm ([Electronic Item 2.5](#))
 11. Status Report on Bylaws
 12. Texas Department of Transportation Opportunities Two, Three, and Four
 13. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 2.6](#))
 14. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 2.7](#))
 15. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)
- 1:15 – 1:45** 3. **North Texas Tollway Authority Progress Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 30
Presenter: Gerry Carrigan, NTTA
Item Summary: The North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) requested an opportunity to present information to the Regional Transportation Council (RTC).
Background: From time to time, our transportation partners wish to brief RTC. NTTA is a major partner in the implementation of projects in Mobility 2035.

1:45 – 1:45

4. **Consent Agenda**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

4.1. **High-Speed Rail**

Presenter: Tom Shelton, NCTCOG

Item Summary: As defined in Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas, all opportunities for high-speed rail serving the region will include service access via the three-station concept serving downtown Dallas, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, and downtown Fort Worth. Both the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Rail Division and private sector interests are evaluating opportunities for high-speed rail service to the region. The specific action sought by RTC is:

- 1) add \$640,000 to an already approved \$640,000 to support preliminary location analysis to advance the three-station concept, and
- 2) articulate specific policy parameters that the region will follow when implementing at-grade and grade-separated high-speed rail in the region.

These funds will be for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), TxDOT, transportation authorities, and/or private consultants.

Background: Currently, NCTCOG staff is working in collaboration supporting efforts by both the TxDOT Rail Division and private sector interests in pursuit of high-speed rail service to the Dallas-Fort Worth region. NCTCOG staff is expecting these efforts to increase significantly in the near term as the alignment evaluations, technology evaluations, and environmental considerations proceed this year. NCTCOG staff will request RTC approval of a funding plan for these efforts, which the Surface Technical Transportation Committee (STTC) endorsed at its June meeting.

1:45 – 1:55

5. **Regional Air Quality Assessment for IH 35E: Process and Endorsement in August**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will summarize a regional air quality assessment effort for IH 35E and seek Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to implement appropriate procedural steps over the next month. Elements will include providing necessary information to our transportation conformity interagency consultation partners, soliciting and incorporating public comments, preparing appropriate documentation, and seeking RTC endorsement in August.

Background: On July 14, 2011, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) granted a transportation conformity determination for Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central

Texas and 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program for North Central Texas – 2011 Amendment. Since this time, the IH 35E SB 1420 Committee was formed to determine the delivery method for the IH 35E project. The SB1420 Committee concluded, based on the availability of funding and the desire to expedite improvements in the corridor, no changes to the ultimate design of the facility in Mobility 2035, but recommended year 2020 operational modifications to its construction staging. Currently in discussions with the transportation conformity interagency consultation partners, staff is proposing to demonstrate that the year 2020 operational modifications to IH 35E are consistent with the existing July 14, 2011, USDOT conformity findings. Further explanation and preliminary technical results will be provided at the meeting.

1:55 – 2:05 6. Federal Legislative Update and Follow Up to Transit Funding Initiative Subcommittees

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG; Legislative Fundamentals
 Subcommittee Chair Rob Franke, Mayor, City of Cedar Hill; and
 Partnerships Subcommittee Chair Charles Emery, Board Chair,
 DCTA

Item Summary: Staff will present information on the new federal authorization bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), which was passed by Congress on June 29, 2012. A follow up to the Transit Funding Initiative Subcommittee meetings will also be given.

Background: The US Congress has been working on a new surface transportation authorization bill since the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) expired on September 30, 2009. SAFETEA-LU was extended 10 times, the last one through July 6, 2012, which allowed time for the MAP-21 Conference Report to be prepared and presented to the President for signature. Also, the Legislative Fundamentals Subcommittee and the Partnerships Subcommittee are scheduled to meet before the RTC meeting.

2:05 – 2:15 7. Process to Proceed with Phase II and Phase III of the Cotton Belt

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Tom Shelton, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on recent activities regarding the Cotton Belt Innovative Finance Initiative. Staff will recommend action by the Regional Transportation Council directing staff to work with regional partners to initiate a process to procure necessary services to implement the project.

Background: During the last year and a half, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff along with our key partners at Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Fort Worth Transportation Authority, and Denton County Transportation Authority have been working collaboratively on the Innovative Finance Initiative in developing a funding and implementation strategy to construct, operate, and

maintain passenger rail service along the entire Cotton Belt corridor from Southwest Fort Worth to the Red Line connection in the Plano/Richardson area.

- 2:15 – 2:45**
8. **Executive Session**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 30
Presenter: Pete Kamp, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.
Background: Under the authority granted under the Open Meetings Act, the RTC will be convened in Executive Session under:
1) Section 551.087, to discuss commercial or financial information received from a business prospect to locate in the region and/or discuss the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect to locate in the region; and
2) Section 551.071, to consult with its attorney on legal matters.
- 2:45 – 2:55**
9. **Consideration of Items Discussed during Executive Session**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Pete Kamp, RTC Chair
Item Summary: RTC will consider whether to take any action related to items pursuant to Section 551.087 and Section 551.071 of the Open Meetings Act discussed during Executive Session.
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 will not conflict with the upcoming Irving Summit. Therefore, the RTC meeting is scheduled for its regular location and time, ***Thursday, August 9, 2012, at 1:00 pm, North Central Texas Council of Governments.***