

3.2. **Western Extrusions Transit Pilot**

Presenters: Shannon Stevenson and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council approval for funding to Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to enhance connectivity between Western Extrusions and DART service areas will be requested.

Background: In August 2019, the City of Carrollton requested assistance from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to find a first/last mile solution to connect Western Extrusions employees with existing nearby rail stations and final destinations. Western Extrusions currently employs 900 North Texas residents and is a second-chance employer, providing meaningful employment opportunities to those with criminal records and limited transportation options. As a company, they are dedicated to expanding transit access and purchasing transit passes for employees who will use public transportation, as well as adjusting shift times to accommodate local rail schedules. However, they are located over a mile away from rail stations and pedestrians are challenged with lack of sidewalks and unsafe crossings. In coordination with DART and Western Extrusions, NCTCOG is recommending to pilot on-demand service in the area to connect employees with the nearby rail stations. Funding will support an on-demand transit pilot for two years while DART determines if service will be incorporated through their bus network redesign.

Staff requests authorization to utilize existing Regional Toll Revenue funds previously authorized by the Regional Transportation Council for transit projects in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 to support enhanced connectivity between Western Extrusions and potential employee pools in DART service areas.

Electronic Item 3.2.1 contains a copy of the City of Carrollton's request with NCTCOG's response and Electronic Item 3.2.2 provides additional details on this project.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement and Bridge Condition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transit Asset | <input type="checkbox"/> System Performance/Freight/CMAQ |

3.3. **Approval of Additional Funding to Expedite Environmental and Design Review for Surface Transportation Projects**

Presenters: Michael Morris and Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval for \$100,000 in RTC Local funds to expedite environmental and design review for surface transportation projects will be requested.

Background: In March 2018, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) executed a consultant agreement to support environmental clearance and design review for surface transportation projects. This agreement was funded with Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds approved by the RTC in August 2015. This arrangement has been very successful; therefore, staff proposes an extension.

This effort will involve development of the environmental documentation for the Collin County Outer Loop and the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study, as well as other technical assistance as may be required. Existing funding of \$600,000 in RTR funds will be used, and an additional \$100,000 of RTC Local funds is needed. The contracting mechanism was approved by the NCTCOG Executive Board at its March 26, 2020, meeting. Staff requests RTC approval of the additional RTC Local funds.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement and Bridge Condition |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transit Asset | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System Performance/Freight/CMAQ |

3.4. **Letters to the Texas Department of Transportation on High-Speed Rail**

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to submit letters to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in three high-speed rail areas. At this time, it is requested that the letters be sent to the Executive Director of TxDOT.

Background: The first letter impacts high-speed rail from Fort Worth to Monterrey, Mexico. The letter will request a path forward to conduct the Tier II environmental document. The results of the AECOM study will be completed in April 2020.

The second letter impacts the Tier II environmental document that the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is conducting between Fort Worth and Dallas. Before costs are incurred on environmental clearance, the RTC wishes to confirm that public sector right-of-way is available for high-speed rail use and to confirm interests to pursue discretionary funds from the federal government. These two elements were the result of a previous meeting with Mayor Betsy Price and Governor Greg Abbott.

Negotiations are proceeding on the Virgin Hyperloop One Certification Center. The third letter clarifies the

status of this technology being able to be constructed on public sector right-of-way.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

3.5. Contingency Funds for Negotiations on the Tier II Environmental Document from Fort Worth to Dallas

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has approved approximately \$5 million to conduct the environmental document on high-speed rail between Fort Worth and Dallas. This dollar amount assumes there is some monetary value in the environmental work previously conducted by the Texas Department of Transportation. Staff is negotiating with the winning proposer and may need additional funds. Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds are requested to close the funding gap.

Background: The RTC has instructed the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to procure a consultant to conduct the environmental documents necessary between Fort Worth and Dallas. Negotiations are currently underway with the winning proposer. The NCTCOG Executive Board will be requested to authorize an agreement with the winning consulting firm. The RTC is being asked to provide additional STBG funds necessary to close the funding gap on the required environmental documentation. Staff is not advertising a specific amount be requested in order to not bias the negotiations currently underway.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

3.6. Federal Transit Administration Funding Allocations in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Presenters: Shannon Stevenson and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council approval of United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding allocations in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) will be requested.

Background: The US DOT's Federal Transit Administration announced April 2, 2020, a total of \$25 billion in federal funding allocations to help the nation's public transportation systems respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Funding is provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed by President Trump on March 27,

2020. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is the designated recipient for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (DFWA) Urbanized Area (UZA) and the Denton-Lewisville UZA.

The DFWA UZA will receive \$318,629,129 and the Denton-Lewisville UZA was allocated \$23,461,867. Funding will be provided at a 100 percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support operating, capital and other expenses generally eligible under the Urbanized Area Formula Program, and incurred beginning on January 20, 2020, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

FTA funds are typically included in the Transportation Improvement Program and follow that approval process, but the FTA is waiving those requirements for these funds in order to expedite the process. While NCTCOG continues to interpret the details related to the CARES Act, staff is seeking phased RTC approval for the FTA funding to be allocated based on the federal formula methodology and will bring back final recommendations at a later date for approval. More information regarding FTA's response to COVID-19 can be found at www.transit.dot.gov/coronavirus.

Performance Measure(s) Addressed:

- Safety Pavement and Bridge Condition
 Transit Asset System Performance/Freight/CMAQ

1:20 – 1:30

4. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report (Presented by Request Only)**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. 2020 and 2021 Unified Transportation Program Status Report (Electronic Item 4.1)
2. Dallas-Fort Worth Area High-Occupancy Vehicle Transportation Control Measure Substitution (Electronic Item 4.2)
3. Auto Occupancy/High-Occupancy Vehicle Quarterly Report (Electronic Item 4.3)
4. 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Draft Listings (Postponed at the March 12, 2020, Meeting and will Remain Postponed)
5. Mobility 2045 Update (High-Speed Rail Recommendations) (Postponed at the March 12, 2020, Meeting and will Remain Postponed)
6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Schedule (Postponed at the March 12, 2020, Meeting and will Remain Postponed)
7. Trail of the Month Video (Postponed at the March 12, 2020, Meeting and will Remain Postponed)
8. Postponement Announcement for the May 2020 Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course (Electronic Item 4.4)

9. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/funding-and-resources/fundingvehicle)
10. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (www.dfwcleancities.org/dfw-clean-cities-meetings)
11. Regular Travel Behavior Reports/Start of 2020 Ozone Season: A New Day (Electronic Item 4.5)
12. March Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 4.6)
13. April Online Input Opportunity Notice (Electronic Item 4.7)
14. Public Comments Report (Electronic Item 4.8)
15. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 4.9)
16. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 4.10)
17. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 4.11)

5. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Electronic Item 5.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 5.2)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 5.3)

6. **Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.
7. **Future Agenda Items:** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.
8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm, Thursday, May 14, 2020.***