

AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, November 8, 2012
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

1:00 pm

Full RTC Business Agenda

1:00 – 1:05

1. **Approval of October 11, 2012, Minutes**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Pete Kamp, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the October 11, 2012, minutes contained in [Reference Item 1](#) will be requested.
Background: N/A

1:05 – 1:05

2. **Consent Agenda (There are no items on the Consent Agenda)**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 0

1:05 – 1:20

3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
1. Aerial Photographs: Forty Years of Progress
 2. NCTCOG Air North Texas Partner Awards: Our Recognition to Others
 3. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Petroleum Recognition ([Electronic Item 3.1](#))
 4. Tarrant County Needs Assessment for Transit
 5. Recalculation of the Eastern/Western Funding Suballocations as a result of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)
 6. Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Subcommittee Membership
 7. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Opportunity 4: Funding Revolver and TxDOT Opportunity 5: Transit Update
 8. Texas Transportation Commission Reception, Dan Dipert University Welcome Center on the Campus of University of Texas at Arlington, November 14, 5:00 pm
 9. Texas Transportation Commission Meeting, The Ball Park In Arlington, Hall of Fame Theater, November 15, 9:00 am
 10. Final RTC Legislative Program ([Electronic Item 3.2](#))
 11. Air Quality Funding Update ([Electronic Item 3.3](#))
 12. NCTCOG MAP-21 Fact Sheet ([Electronic Item 3.4](#))
 13. Vehicle-for-Hire "Other Cities" Update
 14. Mobility 2035, 2013 Amendment
 15. RTC Members Summary (Handout)
 16. October Public Meeting Minutes ([Electronic Item 3.5](#))
 17. November Public Meeting Flyer ([Electronic Item 3.6](#))
 18. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 3.7](#))
 19. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 3.8](#))
 20. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)

1:20 – 1:40

4. **Managed Lane Policies**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 20

Presenters: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the policies contained in [Reference Item 4.2](#) and [Reference Item 4.3](#).

Background: In 2006, RTC adopted policies for managed lanes. Through the development of managed lanes on LBJ, North Tarrant Express, and the DFW Connector, which will begin opening next year, there is a need to modify some aspects of the policies. There is also a need to develop policies for the transition of the current high occupancy vehicle (HOV) facilities to managed operation concurrent with the opening of the new managed lanes. Comments from the RTC Work Session on September 13, public meetings in early September and October, as well as at the Surface Transportation Technical Committee in September and October have been considered. This was an information item at the September RTC meeting but was not presented due to time constraints. However, staff recommendations were included in the reference items for the meeting. Staff will outline the proposed modifications to the permanent Managed Lane Policies, as well as the newly proposed transitioned Express Lane/HOV Lane Policies. In order to meet schedules for the opening of the managed lanes next fall, RTC action is needed at this meeting. A copy of the presentation is provided in [Reference Item 4.1](#), minor revisions to the current managed lane policies are provided in [Reference Item 4.2](#), and the proposed transition of immediate action managed lanes is provided in [Reference Item 4.3](#).

1:40 – 1:55

5. **Enhancements Call for Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 15

Presenter: Karla Weaver, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the proposed eligible and ineligible project types for future RTC selection in the upcoming Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects.

Information will also be presented and feedback requested on proposed screens and emphasis areas for project ranking.

Background: TxDOT issued a \$70 million Transportation Enhancement Call for Projects on September 14, 2012, utilizing remaining Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) funding. Due to program rule making changes, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth region qualifies to be awarded a portion of funds to select projects. Information will be provided about the Call for Projects and action will be requested regarding regional eligibility of projects to strategically prioritize funding toward projects that advance implementation of Mobility 2035. Details are provided in [Reference Item 5](#). Additionally, information will be provided regarding other proposed screens, emphasis areas, and the schedule.

- 1:55 – 2:05 6. **North Texas Tollway Authority/Regional Transportation Council Resolution on Upcoming Toll Road Projects**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will discuss recent conversations with local governments, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the North Texas Tollway Authority. A draft resolution on upcoming public-private partnerships requiring legislative support is proposed.
Background: At its October meeting, the Regional Transportation Council identified the next group of public-private partnerships for the upcoming legislative session. [Electronic Item 6](#) highlights recent discussion on this topic.
- 2:05 – 2:15 7. **Proposal to Change the Transportation Improvement Program Modification Policy**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will discuss proposed changes to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Modification Policy.
Background: The TIP is the four-year transportation funding document that outlines all federal, State, and local funding on regional projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. It is updated on a quarterly basis as projects move through the implementation process. The number of modifications to projects in the TIP has increased dramatically over the last 10 years, largely due to requirements set forth in the last transportation bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which required significantly more information for each project. These changes were carried through in the new transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The expanded amount of information required for each project has multiplied the number of modifications needed throughout a project's lifecycle under the current TIP Modification Policy. Staff proposes updates to the policy in an effort to reduce the number of modifications needed and the number of changes that require RTC action, while continuing to maintain RTC's authority to approve major changes to a project's scope of work, limits, and funding. [Reference Item 7.1](#) contains staff's proposed TIP Modification Policy changes. [Electronic Item 7.2](#) is the presentation summarizing this recommendation.
- 2:15 – 2:25 8. **Ellis County Project Prioritization**
 Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will summarize the latest project prioritization efforts in Ellis County and brief the Council on the process and timeline for Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and Regional Transportation Council (RTC) consideration of project changes, including subsequent inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP).

Background: Earlier this year the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) identified Ellis County as a focus area for the next round of funding efforts in the region. [Electronic Item 8.1](#) references the past, present, and future funding efforts by county. NCTCOG, in coordination with the TxDOT-Dallas District and Ellis County began discussions to prioritize transportation needs across the County. Details of the process and important discussion points are highlighted in [Electronic Item 8.2](#). [Electronic Item 8.3](#) contains a draft list of prioritized roadway projects.

2:25 – 2:35

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

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Tom Shelton, NCTCOG

Item Summary: As previously approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), staff is identifying an implementation strategy for the Cotton Belt Corridor passenger rail project. Staff has recently lead efforts with the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T), Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), and a private-sector consortium to develop an implementation process for the corridor. Staff will provide an update regarding recent and expected upcoming efforts. In addition, staff will provide an update on the complimentary project initiatives including vehicle manufacturing facility, positive train control, and procurement of regional rail vehicles and streetcars.

Background: At the request of DART and The T, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) 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 passenger rail project. NCTCOG staff has received a Business Approach Letter (Letter of Interest) from a private-sector consortium indicating interest to design, build, operate, maintain, and finance the entire 62-mile project. Details are provided in [Electronic Item 9](#).

2:35 – 2:45

10. **End of Ozone Season**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the 2012 ozone season for the Dallas-Fort Worth region, as well as provide information on recent developments with regard to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone.

Background: The end of October concludes another ozone season for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Staff has been tracking the exceedance days at each monitor and will provide a summary of the 2012 ozone season data. On May 1, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final designations and classifications for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb). The Dallas-Fort Worth region was classified as “moderate” nonattainment under this new standard and Wise County was added to the existing nine counties in the nonattainment region. This new designation requires a

transportation conformity by July 2013 and a revised State Implementation Plan by 2015 to the EPA. Additional information is provided in [Electronic Item 10](#).

11. **Progress Reports**

Action Possible Action Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided as Reference Item 11.

- RTC Attendance ([Reference Item 11.1](#))
- STTC Attendance and Minutes ([Electronic Item 11.2](#))
- Local Motion ([Electronic Item 11.3](#))

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

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

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