

AGENDA

Regional Transportation Council Thursday, January 10, 2013 North Central Texas Council of Governments

11:30 am

RTC Workshop

1:00 pm

Full RTC Business Agenda

1:00 – 1:05

1. **Approval of December 13, 2012, Minutes**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 5

Presenter: Pete Kamp, RTC Chair

Item Summary: Approval of the December 13, 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. **2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications**

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested.

Background: Revisions to the 2013-2016 TIP are provided as [Reference Item 2.1.1](#) for RTC consideration. Administrative amendments from November 2012 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 December 7, 2012, meeting.

2.2. **\$25 Million Exchange of Federal/Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) Funds for Rail Vehicles**

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff requests Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to exchange Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds on two projects in Denton County for federal funds and move the RTR funds to the Regional Passenger Rail Vehicle Procurement project.

Background: In December 2012, RTC approved \$25 million in federal funds for the procurement of passenger rail vehicles in the region. At the time, it was noted that a non-federal procurement process was necessary to enable "best-value" procurement (versus the traditional low-bid process). Staff has found two on-system projects that could receive federal funds without a delay to the

To access the agenda and linked reference/electronic items as one file, please use the following link:

<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc/2013/01Jan/packet.rtc011013.pdf>

projects. The first project is US 380 from FM 423 to Denton/Collin County Line (TIP 20096/CSJ 0135-10-050) and the second project is FM 426 from 1.4 miles west of Loop 288 to 1.1 miles east of Loop 288 (TIP 11217/CSJ 0081-11-012). Staff requests RTC approval to remove \$25 million in RTR funds from these projects and replace them with federal funds. Staff also requests approval to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program.

1:05 – 1:20

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

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

1. Regional Transportation Council Video Recording Report
2. New North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Aviation Web Sites ([Electronic Item 3.1](#))
3. NCTCOG Awarded Funds for Clean Cities Implementation Initiatives to Advance Alternative Fuel Markets ([Electronic Item 3.2](#))
4. Air Quality Funding Update ([Electronic Item 3.3](#))
5. Comments to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Proposed Stationary Diesel Engine Exemption Rule Revisions ([Electronic Item 3.4](#))
6. December Public Meeting Minutes ([Electronic Item 3.5](#))
7. Recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety and Education Materials (Handout)
8. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 3.6](#))
9. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 3.7](#))
10. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)

1:20 – 1:40

4. **Action Items from the Earlier Regional Transportation Council Workshop: Texas Department of Transportation/Regional Transportation Council Partnership**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 20
Presenters: Michael Morris and Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff requests Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a partnership proposed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and others. This request will address several projects RTC has discussed in the recent past.

Background: TxDOT is proposing a partnership to advance transportation projects as part of a larger partnership with RTC. The partnership involves new funding for US 67 in Johnson County and advances funding for SH 121/Section 13 and FM 2499. In return, RTC is asked to reallocate Category 2 funds to complete funding of the IH 35E project. Texas Transportation Commission approval may occur for the above-mentioned funding in January 2013. In addition, TxDOT would like to partner with RTC on a partnership to finalize the scope and funding for SH 360 and SH 183 and initiate pre-construction activities on several other projects. RTC will be asked to approve this partnership, take the project to the public, and direct staff to amend the Transportation Improvement Program in order to gain access to the funds in an expedited fashion. [Reference Item 4](#) includes additional details.

1:40 – 1:50

5. **Transportation Mobility Funds/Transit Partnership/Dallas Streetcar**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Michael Morris, Christie Gotti, and Tom Shelton, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval will be requested to move \$30.87 million in Texas Mobility Funds (TMF) from the Seamless Aviation Connections at Love Field project to the Dallas Streetcar project to cover rail vehicles, a northern extension, and a southern extension. Dallas City Council input is being sought on this initiative.

Background: In 2004, RTC approved TMF dollars to fund seamless aviation connections from the rail system to Love Field Airport. Since that time, rail connections are still being discussed and funds may be at risk. The proposal is to fund \$8 million for rail vehicles, \$12.87 million for the southern extension (Phase 2), and \$10 million for the northern extension (Phase 3). Staff requests RTC approval to reallocate the TMF funds as noted in [Reference Item 5](#) and to direct staff to administratively amend the Transportation Improvement Program to make these changes.

1:50 – 2:00

6. **Job Opportunity Partnership Program with Sidewalk/Landscaping Construction Projects**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Michael Morris and Chris Anderson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff requests Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to allocate \$2 million for the Job Opportunity Partnership Program. The program's aim is to increase minority contractors' competitive effectiveness for construction jobs and provide untrained, disadvantaged residents with construction skill sets to be employable on transportation construction jobs. This program has an ancillary component of providing paid field experience for trainees who are not able to be placed immediately on Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) construction projects by giving them the option of gaining experience on smaller-scale construction projects. While the Job Opportunity Partnership Program and paid field experience component are estimated at \$1 million each, they will be funded from different sources. Details are provided in [Electronic Item 6](#).

Background: This program originated with Dallas City Councilmember Carolyn Davis working in concert with TxDOT, Workforce Dallas, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The program envisions enhancing minority contractors' ability to compete for transportation construction projects and recruiting/training area residents in various highway construction job categories. The program will be open to all residents. Training is anticipated to begin in 2013 so that trainees can receive the proper certifications and be eligible to work on TxDOT's SM Wright project, targeted to let the first quarter of 2014. Program funding will run from 2013 to mid-2017 at an overall cost of \$1 million. This cost is not eligible for any Metropolitan Planning Organization-selected funding sources. An agreement has been reached between NCTCOG and TxDOT

to swap federal or Regional Toll Revenue funds for a TxDOT funding source that is eligible for this type of program. Action by the Texas Transportation Commission is anticipated in January 2013. The Program is slated for February 2013 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revisions. An additional \$1 million is needed to provide paid field experience for trainees not immediately placed on TxDOT construction projects. These may be TxDOT and/or city projects. These projects may include, but are not limited to beautification and aesthetic treatments, maintenance, and safety work. Likewise funded from 2013 to mid-2017, cost is estimated to be \$1 million and funded with Surface Transportation-Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM) or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds. This project is slated for May 2013 STIP revisions.

2:00 – 2:10

7. **Legislative Update**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will receive an update on State and federal legislative actions. The Texas Legislature convenes on January 8, 2013. The new US Congress convened January 3, 2013. Transportation issues will be a focus for both the Texas Legislature and US Congress.

Background: The Texas Legislature and US Congress will be in session at the time of the January RTC meeting. This item will allow staff to provide updates on key positions of the RTC and allow any additional positions to be taken, if necessary.

2:10 – 2:20

8. **Mobility 2035 – 2013 Amendment**

Action Possible Action Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chad Edwards, NCTCOG

Item Summary: A brief overview for the purpose of the Mobility 2035 – 2013 Amendment, including an updated schedule and a list of major projects that is expected to be included will be presented. [Electronic Item 8](#) is a copy of the presentation.

Background: Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas (MTP) was approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in March 2011. Since that time, transportation partners have continued to develop and refine projects recommended in the MTP. As projects are refined and move closer to implementation, they must be reflected accurately in both the MTP and the Transportation Improvement Program to receive funds. The amendment process allows RTC to modify the MTP with the most current project level assumptions. Additionally, an air quality conformity analysis will be conducted to measure the effects of project changes to the emissions budgets identified for North Central Texas.

The following items will be presented if time permits.

2:20 – 2:30 9. **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) 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 modification policy in an effort to reduce the number of modifications needed and the number of changes that require Regional Transportation Council (RTC) action, while continuing to maintain RTC's authority to approve major changes to a project's scope of work, limits, and funding. [Electronic Item 9.1](#) contains staff's proposed TIP modification policy changes. [Electronic Item 9.2](#) highlights these changes.

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](#))

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, February 14, 2013, at 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.***