Regional Transportation Council

The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

Posted on official bulletin board on **Friday, December 04, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.**
12/4/2015 CSO 2:13 PM

NOTICE OF MEETING

THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

WILL MEET

Thursday, December 10, 2015, 1 pm

IN THE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ROOM (1ST FLOOR)

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
616 Six Flags Dr, Arlington, TX 76011

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Amanda Wilson of NCTCOG 72 hours in advance of the meeting at 817/695-9240. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

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AGENDA

Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, December 10, 2015
North Central Texas Council of Governments

11:00 am **Multimodal/Intermodal/High-Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee**

1:00 pm **Full RTC Business Agenda**
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)

1:00 – 1:05 1. **Approval of November 12, 2015, Minutes**
☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Mark Riley, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the November 12, 2015, 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. **General Electric Test Track Funding Proposal**
Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG
Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be asked to approve the General Electric (GE) Test Track funding proposal, which would allocate up to $3 million in Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds from costs savings from the BNSF Railway Mainline relocation project.
Background: City of Fort Worth, Denton County, RTC, and GE representatives have been working to develop design, construction, and right-of-way cost estimates with shared funding responsibilities for the GE Test Track. The total cost estimate for the project is $21.484 million. The RTC previously approved $12 million and GE previously committed $2.430 million for the project, leaving a shortfall of $7.054 million. The project partners have developed a funding proposal to address the funding shortfall where the partners share in costs and potential savings. The proposed RTC share of the funding shortfall is $3 million from costs savings associated with the BNSF Railway Mainline relocation project. Additional information is included in Reference Item 2.1.

1:05 – 1:20 3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. 2016 Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Meeting Schedule (Reference Item 3.1)
2. Michael Morris, NCTCOG, and Brian Barth and Kelly Selman, TxDOT: Update on Recent Events

3. Draft Unmanned Aircraft Systems Ordinance (Electronic Item 3.2)
4. Federal Legislative Update
5. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (Electronic Item 3.3)
6. Clean Fleet Policy Adoption Update (Electronic Item 3.4)
7. December Public Meeting Notice, December 14,15, and 16 (Electronic Item 3.5)
8. Proposition 7 Fact Sheet (Electronic Item 3.6)
9. Texas Department of Transportation Safety Initiative: #EndTheStreakTX, See Photo in Electronic Item 3.7
10. RTC Questions for Texoma Area Paratransit System Board Member
11. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 3.8)
12. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 3.9)
13. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 3.10)
14. Transportation Partners Progress Reports

1:20 – 1:30 4. **Second and Final Installment of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Revolver Fund and Partnership with City of Dallas and Dallas County**

☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the partnership with the City of Dallas and Dallas County regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Revolver Fund and request action on the last two project funding exchanges needed to create the remaining $4.577 million of the MPO Revolver Fund.

Background: An MPO Revolver Fund is needed to provide cash flow for regional programs and projects that are funded with federal dollars. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) rules permit the transfer of Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to another MPO or to the Texas Transportation Commission (43 Texas Administrative Code §5.111). As such, these rules allow local funds to be freed up to create an MPO Revolver Fund.

In July 2013, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) allocated 150 million, of the total 465 million TDCs, to transfer to TxDOT and other MPOs. As part of this effort, staff began negotiations with those agencies which resulted in the first partnership proposal with TxDOT and Dallas County that was approved in September 2015. A second partnership proposal with the City of Dallas and Dallas County is necessary to complete the transaction. In June 2014, the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) approved the transfer of 100 million TDCs for a $10 million MPO Revolver Fund. As part of this action, the TTC set aside $10 million in Category 12 funds that can be used to free up local funds for the MPO Revolver Fund. Subsequently, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, TxDOT, City of Dallas, and Dallas County have identified projects in which Category 12 funds can be used and local funds can be transferred to the RTC for the revolver fund. Reference Item 4.1 contains detailed information about the

action. Electronic Item 4.2 includes background information about the RTC MPO Revolver partnership.

1:30 – 1:40 5. **Mobility 2040: Approval to Go to Public Meetings**

☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the development of Mobility 2040, the next long-range transportation plan for the region. Proposed draft recommendations will be presented, including major roadway and transit corridors. Staff will seek Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to present the draft recommendations to the public at meetings scheduled for December and January.

Background: One of the primary responsibilities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization is the development and maintenance of a metropolitan transportation plan (MTP). The last comprehensive update of the MTP occurred in 2011 with the adoption of Mobility 2035. Since then, Mobility 2035 has gone through two revisions: an update in 2013 and an amendment in 2014. Work has been underway throughout 2015 on the development of the new MTP, Mobility 2040. The population of the region in 2040 is estimated to be 10.7 million persons. This Plan will reassess existing recommendations and include new demographics, financial forecasts, and planning initiatives. Draft recommendations are proposed to be presented at public meetings on December 14, 15, and 16, 2015, and January 7, 12, and 13, 2016. The RTC is expected to take action on Mobility 2040 in March 2016. Details are provided in Electronic Item 5.

1:40 – 1:50 6. **Regional Transportation Council Policies for Mobility 2040: Approval to Go to Public Meetings**

☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to present the draft policies that are proposed to be included in Mobility 2040 and the development of a credit bank to the public for comment.

Background: As part of the development of Mobility 2040, staff has identified new policies to be considered for inclusion in Mobility 2040. Staff discussed the draft policies with the RTC in November, as well as the possibility of bundling the policies to allow agencies to select a subset of policies that have an opportunity to impact the overall transportation system performance and air quality. Staff is recommending that a credit bank of 100 million in transportation development credits be assigned by the RTC to offset local funds on federal projects as an incentive to local governments to implement the policy bundles. Reference Item 6 contains a table of the proposed policies and bundles.

1:50 – 2:00 7. **Contingency Emergency Supplement Transit Options for Texoma Area Paratransit System Service**

☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jessie Huddleston, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval to provide emergency transit operations for governmental agencies that are currently under contract to Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS).

Background: Reference Item 7 outlines actions necessary to provide continuous transit operations in Collin and Wise Counties. Staff will provide an update on recent issues and outline interim service strategies that may be needed to ensure passengers are not left stranded. This request would potentially come from governmental agencies that are currently under contract with TAPS, with local governments indicating TAPS is no longer able to fulfil its transit obligations. The strategies include utilizing a mix of existing transportation providers to fill gaps in transit service, including Metropolitan Transportation Authorities (e.g., DART and DCTA), rural/small urban providers, and private taxi companies. The interim services would be provided for approximately 90-120 days to allow jurisdictions to make alternative transit service arrangements. The Federal Transit Administration completed a Financial Management Oversight review of TAPS in June 2015 and requested findings be addressed through a recovery plan. TAPS has continued to struggle to keep services running as it works through its recovery plan. Interim transit services may need to be provided as soon as December 2015.

2:00 – 2:10 8. **Managed Lane Auto-Occupancy Detection Equipment Procurement Process**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Regional Transportation Council (RTC) staffs have been working to procure technology to automatically detect vehicle occupancy in managed-lane corridors. TxDOT has cancelled the procurement initiated in the spring and has requested the RTC to lead the reissuance of the procurement with TxDOT support.

Background: The RTC's Tolled Managed Lane Policies provide for a discount for high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs) of 50 percent during the peak periods. The occupancy requirement for the discount is two or more occupants (2+) and may go to three or more occupants (3+) on or after June 1, 2016, as determined by the RTC. The policy is currently enforced manually with technology support, but provides that over time more advanced technology verification will be used as it becomes available.

2:10 – 2:20 9. **Multimodal/Intermodal/High-Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee Follow-Up: Dallas-Fort Worth Region High-Speed Rail Initiatives Update**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 10

Presenters: Rob Franke, Chair, Multimodal/Intermodal/High-Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee and Kevin Feldt, NCTCOG

Item Summary: An overview of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Multimodal/Intermodal/High-Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee meeting will be presented.

Background: An RTC Multimodal/Intermodal/High-Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee meeting is scheduled prior to the RTC meeting. Electronic Item 9 is the Subcommittee's meeting agenda.

2:20 – 2:30 10. **State of Texas Lawsuits Against Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and Audi of America, LLC**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will highlight findings and activity related to defective devices installed in certain Volkswagen and Audi diesel vehicles.

Background: In May 2014, a West Virginia University's Center for Alternative Fuels, Engines and Emissions on-road study found Volkswagen diesel engines exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standard for emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (NO_X). The study showed these diesel engines, found in seven different Volkswagen models and five different Audi models, emit up to 40 times the level of NO_X emissions these vehicles are allowed to emit per EPA's engine standards. As a result of this study, on October 8, 2015, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced two separate lawsuits against Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and subsidiary Audi of America, alleging violations of the State's consumer protection laws and clean air standards. Harris County has also filed a separate suit for actions related to Harris County.

Electronic Item 10.1 is draft correspondence to the Texas Attorney General requesting if any settlement funds are awarded as a result of the lawsuit against Volkswagen and Audi, these funds be dispersed to nonattainment regions in Texas for air quality projects and/or programs. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 10.2.

2:30 – 2:40 11. **Air Quality Freight Initiatives**

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Shannon Stevenson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding current air quality initiatives that are related to freight activities.

Background: Heavy-duty diesel vehicles contribute approximately 41 percent of all on-road nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions in the Dallas-Fort Worth ozone nonattainment area. The Regional Transportation Council has authorized staff to pursue a variety of activities that directly address emissions from this sector. They include

SmartWay, Idling Restrictions, a Heavy-Duty Diesel Inspection and Maintenance Pilot, and a new education and outreach program titled Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions. Through these initiatives, air quality will be improved through three of the seven air quality emphasis areas: high-emitting vehicles, idling, and energy/fuel consumption. Electronic Item 11 provides additional details.

12. **Progress Reports**
☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information
Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided in the items below.

- RTC Attendance (Reference Item 12.1)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 12.2)

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

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

15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm, Thursday, January 14, 2016, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments***.