

Posted on official bulletin board on **Friday, February 05, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**

*2/5/2016 CSO 10:53 AM*



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

# NOTICE OF MEETING

**THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

**WILL MEET**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016, 1 pm**

**IN THE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ROOM (1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

## AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council  
Thursday, February 11, 2016  
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

- 1:00 pm Full RTC Business Agenda  
(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)**
- 1:00 – 1:05 1. Approval of January 14 and January 20, 2016, Minutes**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5  
Presenter: Mark Riley, RTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the January 14 and January 20, 2016, minutes contained in Reference Item 1.1 and Reference Item 1.2 will be requested.  
Background: N/A
- 1:05 – 1:05 2. Consent Agenda**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 0
- 2.1. Unified Planning Work Program Modifications**  
Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council approval of modifications to the FY2016 and FY2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested.  
Background: The Unified Planning Work Program is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and transportation-related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2016 and FY2017 UPWP identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2015, and September 30, 2017. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect project modifications and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments have been presented to the public through the January 7, 12, and 13, 2016, public meetings and are also included as Reference Item 2.1.1. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee has recommended RTC approval. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 2.1.2.
- 1:05 – 1:20 3. Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 15  
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG
1. Introduction of Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Captain Mike Steffen
  2. Mesquite Transit Update (Electronic Item 3.1)
  3. Texoma Area Paratransit System Update
  4. Earth Day 2016: Regional Toll Revenue/North Texas Tollway Authority  
Thank You

5. January Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 3.2)
6. February Public Meeting Notice (Electronic Item 3.3)
7. Mobility Matters (Handout)
8. Air Quality State Implementation Plan (Electronic Item 3.4)
9. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles (Electronic Item 3.5)
10. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Outstanding Recognition and Annual Report (Electronic Item 3.6)
11. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 3.7)
12. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 3.8)
13. Recent Press Releases (Electronic Item 3.9)
14. Transportation Partners Progress Reports

1:20 – 1:30

4. **Proposed Policy for Possible Employer Location**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: At the January 14, 2016, Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting, staff proposed a policy for RTC consideration regarding how the Council may wish to consider requests for infrastructure assistance associated with the location of new employers to the Dallas-Fort Worth region. This item came at the request of Councilmember Sandy Greyson. RTC members determined that additional time was needed to consider how to handle such requests.

Background: In October 2015, the RTC was asked to approve a funding request for infrastructure needed to attract/retain a potential major employer in a specific location in the region. At the meeting, RTC members expressed a desire to develop a policy for handling such requests fairly in the future to ensure that all interested localities have an equitable chance to participate. To this end, at the January 2016 RTC meeting, staff proposed a two-step process. Initially, after a request is received, an item is posted on the RTC agenda declaring that an employer is considering a relocation to Dallas-Fort Worth and that infrastructure has been requested by the potentially affected entity. This notification is intended to level the playing field and allow other entities to participate in the process. Then, the actual funding request will be brought back to the RTC for action. In most cases, the provision of funding for transportation improvements will be contingent upon the location being chosen (i.e., if the location is not chosen, the funding would not be needed for transportation improvements). Reference Item 4 contains the proposed RTC policy to assist local governments in attracting large employers (This is unchanged from last month and would need to be developed further if the RTC is interested). Significant discussion occurred at the January 2016 RTC meeting with members asking staff to bring the item back this month for further consideration. One possible solution would be to eliminate the first step and not have a policy. The RTC would simply respond to the step two request and confirm its intent based on the merits of the transportation recommendation.

1:30 – 1:50

5. **Mobility 2040 and Transportation Conformity**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 20

Presenters: Chad McKeown and Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the development of Mobility 2040, the next long-range transportation plan for the region and the associated 2016 Transportation Conformity. Draft recommendations will be presented, including major roadway and transit corridors. Staff will also provide a review of the policy bundle initiative. In addition, staff will provide preliminary results of the air quality conformity analysis.

Background: One of the primary responsibilities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 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, along with two successful conformity determinations. Work has been completed throughout 2015 on the development of a new MTP, Mobility 2040. This plan reassesses existing recommendations and includes new demographics, financial forecasts, and planning initiatives.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires MPOs to perform an air quality conformity determination when a new MTP is developed to ensure the multi-modal transportation system complies with applicable Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB) established for the region. Per the CAA, staff has conducted the analysis for the required MVEB analysis year (2017), the MTP horizon year (2040), and two interim years (2027 and 2037), not more than 10 years apart.

Staff has initiated the formal public involvement process on the draft recommendations of Mobility 2040 and the associated transportation conformity. The draft MTP recommendations are summarized in Electronic Item 5.1, including the draft results of the conformity analysis, and the draft Mobility 2040 document is available for review at the link provided in Electronic Item 5.2. Staff will request RTC approval of Mobility 2040 in March 2016.

1:50 – 2:00

6. **Cotton Belt Corridor Policy**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present the draft Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Policy Position on Transit Implementation in the Cotton Belt Corridor.

Background: At its December 10, 2015, meeting, the RTC requested public input on recommendations in the Cotton Belt Corridor. Public comments were presented at the January 14, 2016, RTC meeting, as well as a draft policy regarding transit service in the Cotton Belt Corridor. A copy of the policy is provided in Electronic Item 6. It is unchanged from last month's meeting.

Staff is requesting members provide possible amendments to the policy so it can be approved with Mobility 2040 at the March 10, 2016, meeting.

- 2:00 – 2:10**    7.    **Federal Legislative Update**  
 Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:    10  
Presenter:        Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG  
Item Summary:    The Regional Transportation Council will be provided with information on the new long-term transportation bill, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.  
Background:      The FAST Act was approved by Congress and signed by the President on December 4, 2015. The FAST Act replaces the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) Act and provides five years of authorization and funding for federal highway and transit programs. A summary of the bill is provided in Electronic Item 7. Congress had been working to approve a new surface transportation bill since MAP-21 expired on September 30, 2014, and was continuing on multiple extensions.
- 2:10 – 2:20**    8.    **Manages Lanes Communication Workshop Update**  
 Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:    10  
Presenter:        Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG  
Item Summary:    An overview of the Managed Lanes Communication Workshop will be presented. Staff will outline a path forward to improve the understanding and purpose of managed lanes in the region.  
Background:      A Managed Lanes Communication Workshop took place prior to the January 14, 2016, Regional Transportation Council meeting. The agenda and presentation is provided in Electronic Item 8.
- 2:20 – 2:30**    9.    **Update Regarding the Texas Department of Transportation Congestion Relief Program**  
 Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:    10  
Presenters:        Michael Morris and Christie Gotti, NCTCOG  
Item Summary:    Staff will update the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) regarding the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Congestion Relief partnership with the RTC.  
Background:      Last month, TxDOT indicated that statewide funding of approximately \$1 billion - \$1.3 billion was available for partnerships with metropolitan areas of the State for congestion projects. At the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) meeting on January 28, 2016, the final dollar amount of \$1.3 billion was confirmed. The Dallas-Fort Worth region’s share of the total funding is \$163.8 million for the western subregion and \$364 million for the eastern subregion. Through this agenda item, staff will brief the RTC on changes to specific projects resulting from the larger dollar amount. Any adjustments to the region's east/west equity will be addressed during the March RTC meeting, when the quarterly east/west equity report is presented. TxDOT’s final approval date is scheduled for February 25, 2016. Electronic Item 9 provides additional details about the partnership and the proposed projects.

**2:30 – 2:40 10. 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program Development Draft Listings**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Adam Beckom, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will brief the Council on the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process and present the draft project listings.

Background: A new TIP is developed every two years through a cooperative effort among the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation, local governments, and transportation authorities. The TIP is a staged, multi-year listing of transportation projects with committed funding from federal, State, and local sources within the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Electronic Item 10.1 contains the draft project listings to be included in the 2017-2020 TIP. Comments from local and transportation agencies are due to NCTCOG by February 12, 2016, in order for updated information to be included in the final listings being presented at public meetings in early March 2016. These listings were provided to Surface Transportation Technical Committee members on January 22, 2016, to initiate the review process. Additional details regarding the 2017-2020 TIP development effort are available in Electronic Item 10.2.

**2:40 – 2:50 11. Air Quality Freight Initiatives**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Jeff Hathcock, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide information regarding current air quality initiatives that are related to freight activities and provide an update on the new Texas Department of Transportation Freight Mobility Plan.

Background: Heavy-duty diesel vehicles contribute approximately 41 percent of all on-road nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) 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. The initiatives include SmartWay, idling restrictions, the Heavy-Duty Diesel Inspection and Maintenance Pilot program, 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. Finally, the new Texas Freight Mobility Plan was recently approved by the Texas Transportation Commission and will provide a blueprint for future economic growth by strengthening freight mobility throughout the State. Electronic Item 11 provides additional details.

2:50 – 3:00 12.

**Lawsuits Against Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., Audi of America, LLC, and Porsche Cars North America**

Action       Possible Action     Information      Minutes: 10

Presenters: Chris Klaus and Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will highlight findings and activity related to emission test-cheat devices installed in certain Volkswagen, Audi, and Porsche diesel vehicles.

Background: Late last year, certain 2.0 and 3.0 liter diesel engines in Volkswagen, Audi, and Porsche vehicle models were identified to have emissions test-cheat devices allowing tailpipe emissions up to 40 times the legal level of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). In response to these findings, both the Texas Attorney General (AG) and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) have separately filed lawsuits against the auto manufacturers. Elsewhere in Texas, Harris County filed a separate suit for actions related to Harris County.

Electronic Item 12.1 is draft correspondence to the DOJ and Texas AG requesting, if any settlement funds are awarded as a result of the lawsuits against Volkswagen, Audi, and Porsche, these funds be dispersed to nonattainment regions for air quality projects and/or programs. At the March 10, 2016, Regional Transportation Council meeting, staff will request approval to transmit this correspondence to the DOJ and Texas AG. Additional information is provided in Electronic Item 12.2.

13. **Progress Reports**

Action       Possible Action     Information

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

- RTC Attendance (Reference Item 13.1)
- STTC Minutes and Attendance (Electronic Item 13.2)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 13.3)

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

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

16. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for ***1:00 pm, Thursday, March 10, 2016, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.***