

TO: Regional Transportation Council  
Interested Parties

DATE: August 8, 2014

FROM: Michael Morris, P.E.  
Director of Transportation

SUBJECT: Notice of Meeting – August 14, 2014

The next business meeting of the RTC will convene at **1:00 pm, Thursday, August 14, 2014**, in the Transportation Council Room, First Floor at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), 616 Six Flags Dr., Arlington, TX, 76011.

Enclosed with this memorandum is a summary agenda containing links to material supporting items to be addressed at the meeting. The meeting agenda and all items can be accessed through the Internet at NCTCOG's Transportation Department RTC home page. The address is [www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc](http://www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc).

Should you have any questions about this material, please feel free to call me, or I will be happy to meet at your convenience. I hope that each of you will be able to attend the meeting.

Michael Morris, P.E.

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Enclosures

**If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting; please contact Amanda Wilson at NCTCOG 72 hours in advance of the meeting at 817/695-9284.  
Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.**

## AGENDA

**Regional Transportation Council  
Thursday, August 14, 2014  
North Central Texas Council of Governments**

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

- 1:00 – 1:05** 1. **Approval of July 10, 2014, Minutes**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 5  
Presenter: Mike Cantrell, RTC Chair  
Item Summary: Approval of the July 10, 2014, 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. **Unified Planning Work Program Modifications**  
Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of modifications to the FY2014 and FY2015 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 FY2014 and FY2015 UPWP identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2015. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project modifications, and funding adjustments. The proposed amendments were presented to the public during the July 14 and 17, 2014, public meetings. The proposed modifications are also included as [Reference Item 2.1.1](#). A presentation summarizing the modifications is provided in [Electronic Item 2.1.2](#). The Surface Transportation Technical Committee recommended RTC approval at its July 25 meeting.
- 2.2. **Transportation Development Credits: "Type 2 – Local Agency has Federal and Local Revenue" Call for Projects – Final Recommendations**  
Presenter: Christie Gotti, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of projects submitted during the "Type 2 – Local Agency has Federal and Local Revenue" Call for Projects.  
Background: There are three forms of local match for federal projects: 1) cash, 2) in-kind, and 3) Transportation Development

Credits (TDCs). TDCs are assigned to states by the Federal Highway Administration to represent “value added” from tolling federal transportation facilities. This “value” can be used to reduce cash commitments associated with federal funding requirements. To this end, the RTC set aside 50 million in TDCs for use in this call for projects.

In January 2014, the RTC initiated a call for projects to use TDCs to offset the federal match requirement on existing federally funded projects. The local match funds freed up would then be used on another locally implemented transportation project. Projects have been evaluated against the established goals of the call for projects, and a recommendation has been developed.

The original call for projects announcement letter is provided in [Electronic Item 2.2.1](#). A final draft recommendation is provided in [Reference Item 2.2.2](#). Additional details are available in [Electronic Item 2.2.3](#).

### 2.3. **Supplemental Data Collection Revenues**

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request approval of supplemental funding to support the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) grant opportunity.

Background: In February 2014, the FHWA announced the fourth round of opportunities in the Strategic Highway Research Program. If awarded, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) anticipates utilizing the funds to develop an advanced network modeling tool for the region through use of Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA). Funding of \$700,000 was requested as part of the grant application. In addition, \$500,000 of supplemental funding to support this initiative is requested from the Regional Transportation Council if this project is funded by FHWA.

### 2.4. **Endorsement of Comments to the Texas Department of Transportation Regarding the Transportation Alternatives Program**

Presenter: Karla Weaver, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will request endorsement of North Central Texas Council of Governments comments to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on proposed Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) rulemaking.

Background: On June 26, 2014, the Texas Transportation Commission was provided draft rule making by TxDOT staff regarding its proposed Transportation Alternative Program for the State. This funding is to be used for bicycle and

pedestrian projects, including Safe Routes to School-type initiatives. One impact of the proposed program rules was that funds would not be eligible within the large urbanized areas to agencies that submit to a Metropolitan Planning Organization for TAP funding. Staff provided comments on the proposed rules to allow for agencies in the Dallas-Fort Worth region to apply to the State program and is seeking RTC endorsement of the comments. A copy of the communication is included in [Reference Item 2.4](#). The deadline for receipt of comments by TxDOT was August 11, 2014.

1:05 – 1:20

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

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

1. Recognition of Former Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Member, John Willis
2. July Public Meeting Minutes ([Electronic Item 3.1](#))
3. Tolled Managed Lanes Community Workshops ([Electronic Item 3.2](#))
4. Blacklands Corridor Connection ([Electronic Item 3.3](#))
5. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video
6. Congratulations to Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport: DFW Airport Station Opening August 18, 2014
7. Air Quality Funding Opportunities for Vehicles ([Electronic Item 3.4](#))
8. Ozone Season Update ([Electronic Item 3.5](#))
9. IH 30 Travel Survey – Opportunity to Participate ([Electronic Item 3.6](#))
10. August Texas Transportation Commission Meeting and Events in Dallas – August 27-28 (Handout)
11. Recent Correspondence ([Electronic Item 3.7](#))
12. Recent News Articles ([Electronic Item 3.8](#))
13. Press Releases ([Electronic Item 3.9](#))
14. Transportation Partners Progress Reports

1:20 – 1:30

4. **Transportation Development Credits Revolver Fund: 100 Million Credits for \$10 Million**

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

Item Summary: Staff will update the Council on the latest information regarding the “Category 4: Sell Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)” initiative and request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of the transfer of TDCs in exchange for funds to create an MPO Revolver Fund, along with a resolution to this effect.

Background: TxDOT’s rules permit the transfer of TDCs to another MPO or the Texas Transportation Commission (43 Texas Administrative Code §5.111). In July 2013, the 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.

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 a larger partnership with the region. Staff briefed the RTC at the July 10, 2014, meeting regarding TxDOT's action and it was presented to the public in July 2014. The MPO Revolver Fund will be used to pay invoices that involve federal funds that will then seek reimbursement under federal contracting rules.

[Electronic Item 4.1](#) contains an excerpt of Exhibit A of the TTC minute order that approves the transfer of \$10 million for 100 million credits. Additional information on the Category 4 TDC initiative and the MPO Revolver Fund can be found in [Electronic Item 4.2](#). The resolution to be considered is available in [Reference Item 4.3](#).

1:30 – 1:40

5. **Environmental Speed Limit Transportation Control Measure Substitution**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide an update on the Environmental Speed Limit (ESL) Transportation Control Measure (TCM) substitution effort and seek the Council's approval to use traffic signalization project emission reductions within the central urban area to offset emission increases associated with ESL reversal.

Background: On January 9, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a direct final rule in the *Federal Register* approving a revision to the Texas State Implementation Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment area to recategorize the local ESL control measure as a TCM (Vol. 79, No. 6, pp. 1596-1599). Since the adoption of this direct final rule, NCTCOG staff identified and quantified recently funded traffic signalization projects to offset emission reductions credits lost by reversing the ESLs, implemented in 2001. A draft resolution for RTC approval is provided in [Reference Item 5.1](#). Additional details are provided in [Electronic Item 5.2](#).

Pending public comments currently underway, final adoption by EPA is anticipated in October 2014. Once EPA adopts the ESL TCM substitution to reverse the five-mile-per-hour speed-limit reductions, the Texas Department of Transportation will begin its efforts to change the speed limits based on current safety studies conducted on the various corridors.

1:40 – 1:50

6. **Texas Transportation Commission Follow Up on SH 360 and Regional Tolling Services Agreement**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will be briefed on Texas Transportation Commission items related to SH 360 and the Regional Tolling Services Agreement (TSA). RTC action will

be requested to approve: 1) principles guiding the development of a Regional TSA between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), 2) the concept of a streamlined approach based on trust and partnership, and 3) a recommendation that the NTTA and the Commission approve a Regional TSA which incorporates these principles.

Background: In June, the Commission deferred action on permitting TxDOT to issue a Request for Proposals for the SH 360 project. At the same meeting, the Commission approved an interim TSA for the DFW Connector project and directed TxDOT to work with NTTA and RTC staffs to develop a Regional TSA that would cover TxDOT managed lanes and design-build projects. In July, the RTC approved sending a letter to the Commission to reiterate the importance of SH 360 given RTC's financial backstop commitment and to instruct staff to work with TxDOT and NTTA on the Regional TSA. The TSA is the agreement between TxDOT and NTTA that governs the tolling services provided by NTTA as required by law and identifies the associated compensation.

TxDOT, NTTA, and RTC staffs have developed a streamlined Regional TSA for the NTTA Board and Commission consideration at their meetings in August. [Reference Item 6](#) contains the principles developed by the working group that are incorporated in to the Regional TSA. With the development of these principles, the Commission in July authorized the issuance on the RFP for the SH 360 Project.

1:50 – 2:00

7. **Legislative Update and Committee Testimony**

Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10

Presenter: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

Item Summary: The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) will receive a State and federal legislative update. On the federal side, discussions have been ongoing regarding a reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) Act, as well as a patch to the Highway Trust Fund to keep reimbursements flowing to states. Related to items within Texas, Proposition 1 will be on the ballot in November and the RTC will be briefed on efforts related to the proposition's passage, including recent testimony, and asked to add its name to the list of supporting entities. In addition, staff will brief the RTC on efforts to develop a legislative program for the upcoming 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

Background: Transportation issues continue to be a focus for both the United States Congress and the Texas Legislature. Congress recently approved a measure providing funding for the Highway Trust Fund and extending the surface transportation programs of MAP-21. The Texas Legislature continues to hold interim committee hearings as it prepares for the 84th legislative session beginning January 13, 2015. Additional details are provided in [Electronic Item 7](#).

- 2:00 – 2:10**    8.    **Innovative Revenues/Financial Backstop Analysis**  
 Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:    10  
 Presenter:        Michael Morris, NCTCOG  
 Item Summary: The Council will be briefed on the status of Regional Transportation Council (RTC) financial backstop commitments and associated risks, including an inventory of projects with innovative revenue streams.  
 Background:     The RTC has a history of supporting and developing innovative funding strategies to advance critical transportation projects in the region. One such recent example is the RTC financial backstop for the SH 360 toll project, which ensures that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) construction advance will be repaid and operations and maintenance costs will be paid in the event of revenue shortfalls. As part of the discussion regarding SH 360, the RTC requested a report on RTC financial backstop commitments to date and associated risks. Staff will provide a summary of backstop commitments, including an inventory of projects with innovative revenue streams.
- 2:10 – 2:20**    9.    **Regional Vehicle-for-Hire Implementation Plan**  
 Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:    10  
 Presenter:        Jessie Huddleston, NCTCOG  
 Item Summary: Staff will provide an update to the Regional Transportation Council on the Regional Vehicle-for-Hire (RVFH) Program and provide information on upcoming activities.  
 Background:     As part of an ongoing effort to coordinate transportation options in the region, the City of Dallas, City of Fort Worth, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) have been working cooperatively to develop a regional program to improve service in the for-hire vehicle industry. The RVFH Program encourages a consistent and centralized approach to administration and regulation, standardized requirements for companies and drivers, ensured safety and seamless service throughout the region, and uniform enforcement to encourage a fair working environment for traditional and emerging service models. [Electronic Item 9](#) provides recent correspondence to the RVFH Policy Committee and includes an implementation plan to initiate the Program regionwide by Spring 2015.
- 2:20 – 2:30**    10.    **Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment**  
 Action             Possible Action     Information            Minutes:    10  
 Presenter:        Chad McKeown, NCTCOG  
 Item Summary: An overview of the Mobility 2035 – 2014 Amendment will be provided including a draft list of major projects expected to be incorporated into the recommendations.  
 Background:     The Mobility 2035 – 2013 Update was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council in March 2013 and serves as the current long-range transportation plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth



region. Since that time, transportation partners have continued to develop and refine projects recommended in the long-range plan. The Plan will be strategically amended to accurately reflect the latest project-level assumptions on a small number of corridors seeking environmental clearance before the end of 2015. These strategic amendments will allow projects to meet critical deadlines and progress towards implementation.

**The following items will be presented if time permits:**

- 2:30 – 2:40** 11. **Transportation Emission Reduction Summaries for the Region's State Implementation Plan**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10  
Presenter: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: Staff will highlight an inventory of regional transportation investments providing air quality reductions submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for inclusion in the region's State Implementation Plan (SIP) update.  
Background: The TCEQ has been working on a Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) SIP revision in response to the area being classified moderate nonattainment for the current 75 parts per billion 8-hour ozone standard. The DFW SIP is required to be completed and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency no later than July 20, 2015. As part of this DFW SIP development and consistent with past efforts, NCTCOG has compiled, summarized, and transmitted to the TCEQ a listing of completed and financially committed transportation projects, programs, partnerships, and policies, under the condition that they be included in the DFW SIP as good faith efforts at the local level with no commitments to emission benefits. Resulting emission benefits from these initiatives will be available for use by the RTC in, for example, future transportation conformities and necessary project substitutions. [Electronic Item 11](#) highlights this initiative.
- 2:40 – 2:50** 12. **People Mover Initiative: Next Steps**  
 Action       Possible Action       Information      Minutes: 10  
Presenter: Tom Shelton, NCTCOG  
Item Summary: North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff will present a summary of discussion from the recent People Mover Planning Workshop, summary of the survey conducted during the Workshop, and a description of possible next steps.  
Background: On June 27, 2014, a People Mover Planning Workshop was conducted with presentations heard from representatives of nearly a dozen regional project opportunities for people-mover technology. A consensus was reached among the participants that a coordinated regional effort was warranted in order to achieve cost efficiencies, minimize potential operational costs, and possibly reduce spare part needs, long-term maintenance, and replacement costs.



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 ([Electronic Item 13.2](#))
- Local Motion ([Electronic Item 13.3](#))
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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 ***Thursday, September 11, 2014, at 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.***