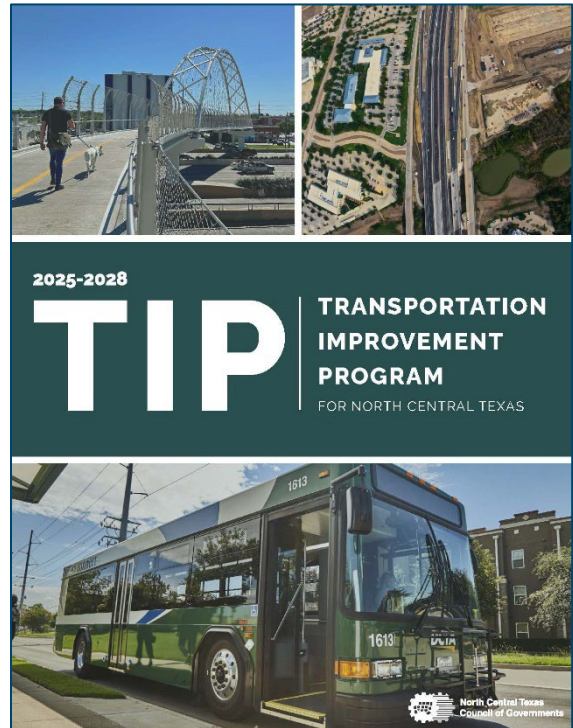


Chapter II Public Involvement

2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program



Chapter II

Public Involvement

BACKGROUND

Public involvement is solicited and strongly encouraged in the coordinated metropolitan transportation planning and programming process. Increasing communication among citizens, elected officials, and staff permits stakeholders to work together to achieve desired goals and objectives. The public involvement process emphasizes the importance of involvement from all levels of government and individual citizens. When the public is involved, the direction and content of planning efforts are more likely to address the wide range of issues that impact decision makers. Involving the public during the planning phase of any project should reduce the time and cost of project implementation.

PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) hold public meetings as part of their public involvement processes. Public input opportunities are hosted during development and update of the Transportation Improvement Program/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (TIP/STIP), and during individual project implementation. This multi-faceted process ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and Section 5307 Program of Projects requirements (49 U.S.C. 5307). The TxDOT public involvement process also ties into a statewide process overseen by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC). Assurance of adequate local input is required prior to final approval by the TTC.

In November 2022, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted the latest NCTCOG Transportation Public Participation Plan (PPP), which can be downloaded at https://www.nctcog.org/getmedia/cc5c1ad8-17b4-4eb1-8b28-81ede887e00e/Public-Participation-Plan_2022amendment-appendices_FINAL.pdf.

This PPP incorporates stakeholders required by legislation, including the general public, local governments, public transportation providers, toll providers, public ports, private providers of transportation (e.g., intercity bus operators), employer-based commuting programs, and many others. It places a greater emphasis on live-streaming public meetings and outreach to various community groups outside of public meetings, among other things. The PPP is being implemented in a manner consistent with provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These procedures require that a public meeting on the draft TIP be conducted at least 30 days prior to RTC approval, which includes a 30-day written comment period.

Additional components of the Public Involvement Process include reasonable public access to technical and policy information, open public meetings, and explicit consideration and response to public input. The public notification form is available at all public meetings to allow interested individuals the opportunity to receive

notification of future public meetings. Public meeting notices, minutes, and presentations can be found at: <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/archive>.

During development of the 2025-2028 TIP, public involvement was conducted to obtain a consensus of the constituency served by the program. Draft project listings and the draft TIP document were presented to the public during a Public Involvement opportunity in May 2024. Exhibit II-1 is a copy of the flyer advertising that opportunity. Presentation materials are posted online for viewing at the above link.

These meetings were held to educate, inform, and seek comments from the public on transportation issues and the specific projects proposed for funding listed in the TIP.

Comments were solicited from those present who wished to speak for the record and citizens were invited to submit comments in writing during the comment period, which ended June 11, 2024, for the May meeting. No comments from the public were received on the 2025-2028 TIP following the May meeting. Any comments received as part of the May 2024 public meeting will be posted online at <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/archive>.

NCTCOG regularly supports and holds meetings for the NCTCOG Executive Board, the RTC, and the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC). These committees review, endorse, or approve the development of the TIP and the supporting air quality conformity analysis. These meetings are open to the public, and meeting agendas are available to all interested parties.

Throughout the year, modifications to the programmed projects in the TIP are often necessary to either update project information or to facilitate changes to TxDOT's project letting schedules. Based on the nature of the change, these modifications are either processed administratively or require STTC and RTC approval to proceed. Then, significant project modifications are transmitted to TxDOT for incorporation into the STIP in accordance with the state's STIP revision rules. This process is discussed in greater detail in the next chapter. These project modifications are communicated to the public through the public participation process as appropriate.

NCTCOG staff consider environmental justice issues in the transportation planning process when conducting public meetings. Public meetings are streamed live on the internet or accessible by a call-in phone number and the video is made available following the meeting to ensure that those not able to travel to the meetings are able to participate virtually. Other efforts to involve minority communities include publication of newspaper display ads in local minority publications and press releases to reporters at minority news sources.

Public meetings occur throughout the region:

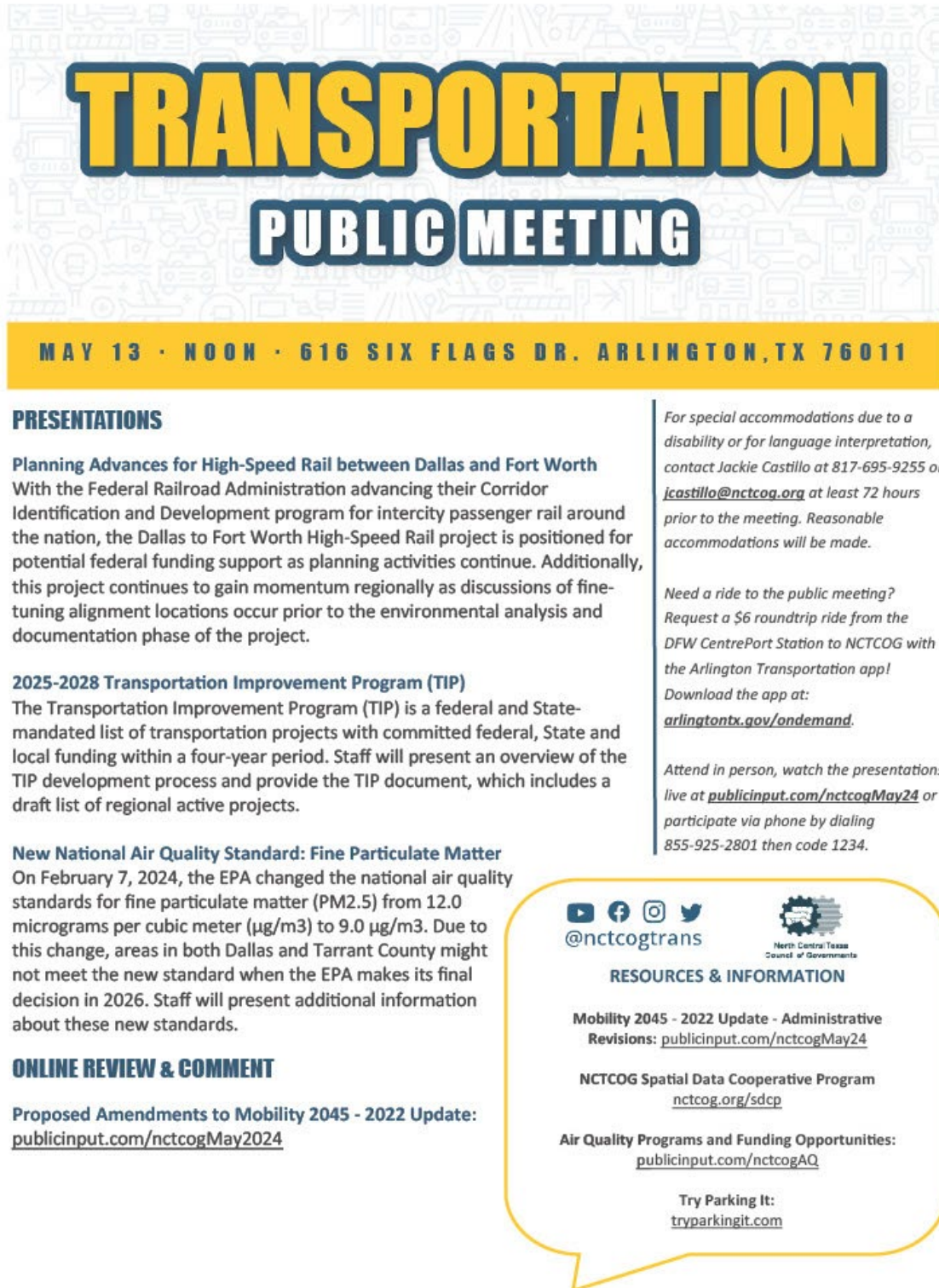
- At diverse, accessible locations
- Preferably near public transportation
- At convenient and varied dates and times

Public meeting invitations are mailed to more than 3,400 individuals and e-mailed to more than 10,200 individuals and organizations contained in NCTCOG's public notification database. All public meeting notifications are also posted on the Texas Secretary of State Texas Register website as part of the Open Meetings requirement, mailed/emailed to public libraries and city/county offices for posting in public access areas, and posted on social media outlets such as NCTCOG's Facebook and X/Twitter accounts. Meetings are hosted in a hybrid format, allowing members of the public to participate online or in-person at the NCTCOG campus in Arlington. Additionally, video recordings are posted to the NCTCOG website for those unable to participate in real time at <https://nctcog.publicinput.com/>. North Texans can submit comments via postal mail, email, online, phone, text, and fax.

For more information or public meeting minutes, please visit:

<https://www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/archive>.

Exhibit II-1. Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for May 2024



The flyer features a background of light blue icons related to transportation and technology. The main title 'TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow and blue letters. Below the title, a yellow banner contains the date, time, and location: 'MAY 13 · NOON · 616 SIX FLAGS DR. ARLINGTON, TX 76011'. The content is organized into sections: 'PRESENTATIONS' with three topics, 'ONLINE REVIEW & COMMENT' with a link, and 'RESOURCES & INFORMATION' with links to mobility updates, spatial data, and air quality programs. A yellow speech bubble on the right contains additional details about accommodations, transportation, and attendance options. Social media icons and the NCTCOG logo are also present.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC MEETING

MAY 13 · NOON · 616 SIX FLAGS DR. ARLINGTON, TX 76011

PRESENTATIONS

Planning Advances for High-Speed Rail between Dallas and Fort Worth
With the Federal Railroad Administration advancing their Corridor Identification and Development program for intercity passenger rail around the nation, the Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail project is positioned for potential federal funding support as planning activities continue. Additionally, this project continues to gain momentum regionally as discussions of fine-tuning alignment locations occur prior to the environmental analysis and documentation phase of the project.

2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federal and State-mandated list of transportation projects with committed federal, State and local funding within a four-year period. Staff will present an overview of the TIP development process and provide the TIP document, which includes a draft list of regional active projects.

New National Air Quality Standard: Fine Particulate Matter
On February 7, 2024, the EPA changed the national air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) to 9.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Due to this change, areas in both Dallas and Tarrant County might not meet the new standard when the EPA makes its final decision in 2026. Staff will present additional information about these new standards.

ONLINE REVIEW & COMMENT

Proposed Amendments to Mobility 2045 - 2022 Update:
publicinput.com/nctcogMay2024

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language interpretation, contact Jackie Castillo at 817-695-9255 or jcastillo@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

Need a ride to the public meeting?
Request a \$6 roundtrip ride from the DFW CentrePort Station to NCTCOG with the Arlington Transportation app!
Download the app at:
arlingtontx.gov/ondemand.

Attend in person, watch the presentations live at publicinput.com/nctcogMay24 or participate via phone by dialing 855-925-2801 then code 1234.

@nctcogtrans
North Central Texas Council of Governments

RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Mobility 2045 - 2022 Update - Administrative Revisions: publicinput.com/nctcogMay24

NCTCOG Spatial Data Cooperative Program
nctcog.org/sdcp

Air Quality Programs and Funding Opportunities:
publicinput.com/nctcogAQ

Try Parking It:
tryparkingit.com