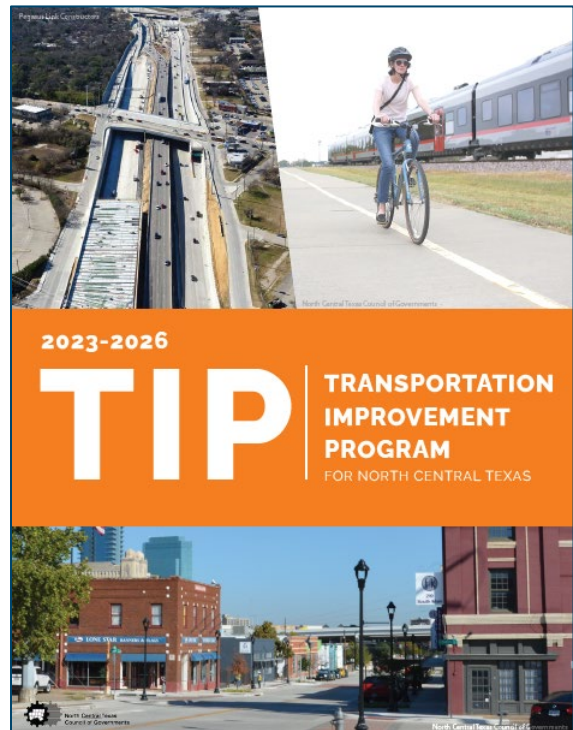


Chapter II Public Involvement

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program



Chapter II

Public Involvement

BACKGROUND

Public involvement is solicited and strongly encouraged in the coordinated metropolitan transportation planning 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 the 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 process. 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 state-wide process overseen by the Texas Transportation Commission. Assurance of adequate local input is required prior to final approval by the Commission.

In March 2020, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) adopted the latest NCTCOG Transportation Public Participation Plan (PPP), which can be downloaded at

www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/Public/Public-Participation-Plan_2020amendment_042720-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: www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/meetings/archive.

During development of the 2023-2026 TIP, public meetings were held to obtain a consensus of the constituency served by the program. Draft project listings were presented to the public during a Public Involvement opportunity in March 2022, and the project listings and TIP document were presented in May 2022. Exhibit II-1 is a copy of the flyer advertising the first public involvement opportunity. Exhibit II-2 is a copy of the flyer advertising the second public involvement 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 April 12, 2022, for the March meeting. No comments from the public were received on the 2023-2026 TIP following the March meeting. Any comments received as part of the May 9, 2022 public meeting will be posted online at www.nctcog.org/trans/involve/meetings/archive.



Public meetings occur throughout the region:

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

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 considers environmental justice issues in the transportation planning process when conducting public meetings. Given the large Metropolitan Area, public meetings are held at diverse, accessible locations across the region at both day and evening times. 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 meeting invitations are mailed to more than 3,400 individuals and e-mailed to more than 8,700 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 web site 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 Twitter accounts. In addition to live streaming the public meetings, video recordings are posted to the NCTCOG website for those unable to make it to the meetings in person.

For more information or public meeting minutes, please visit: www.nctcog.org/input.

Exhibit II-1. Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for March 2022



MARCH 14 · NOON · 616 SIX FLAGS DR. ARLINGTON, TX

PRESENTATIONS

Mobility 2045 Update

One of the primary responsibilities of a Metropolitan Planning Organization is the development and maintenance of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). NCTCOG staff has initiated the development of an update to the current MTP, Mobility 2045, and will provide an overview and update on the timeline for the Plan, including the Plan's official public comment period.

Autonomous Vehicles 2.2/2.3 Projects: Round 2

NCTCOG staff is seeking approval from the Regional Transportation Council for a second round of project proposals for the Automated Vehicle 2.2 and 2.3 programs. The first round of projects was approved in July 2021 as part of the larger Automated Vehicle 2.0 (AV2.0) initiative. The purpose of AV2.0 is to deepen transportation innovation within the region, provide a level playing field for all communities to participate, and apply relevant technology solutions to transportation challenges in situations where the market may lag.

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally 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 a draft list of active projects in the region.

Regional Parking Utilization Database

Does North Texas have too much parking? NCTCOG is launching a Regional Parking Utilization Database to study the demand and options for more efficient parking in the DFW region. This presentation will provide an overview of the project and request commercial property owners and managers to volunteer for the study.

ONLINE REVIEW & COMMENT (NO PRESENTATION; HANDOUTS POSTED ONLINE)

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

A comprehensive list of funded transportation projects through 2024 is maintained in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Projects with committed funds from federal, State, and local sources are included in the TIP. To maintain an accurate project listing, this document is updated on a regular basis and posted online for review and comment.

Unified Planning Work Program Modifications

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Regional Transportation Planning provides a summary of the transportation and related air quality planning activities to be conducted in North Central Texas. Proposed modifications to the FY2022 and FY2023 UPWP will be posted online for review and comment.

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language interpretation, contact Thao Tran at 817-704-2510 or tctran@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

To request a free roundtrip ride between NCTCOG and the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort/DFW Airport Station, contact Thao Tran at least 72 hours prior to the meeting: 817-704-2510 or tctran@nctcog.org.

Attend in person or watch the presentations live at nctcog.org/input. A video recording will be made available afterward. To attend the meeting via phone, dial 855-925-2801 then code 6339.


@nctcogtrans



RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Interactive Public Input-Map Your Experience:
nctcog.org/mapyourexperience

Regional Smoking Vehicle Program (RSVP):
www.smokingvehicle.net

Vehicle Incentives & Funding Opportunities:
nctcog.org/aqfunding

Fair Treatment & Meaningful Involvement :
nctcog.org/input

Exhibit II-2. Transportation Public Meeting Flyer for May 2022



**TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC MEETING**

MAY 9 · NOON · 616 SIX FLAGS DR. ARLINGTON, TX

PRESENTATIONS**Mobility 2045 Update & 2022 Transportation Conformity**

One of the primary responsibilities of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the development and maintenance of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). NCTCOG staff has initiated the development of an update to the current MTP, Mobility 2045, and will provide an overview of the draft plan materials which are available at nctcog.org/PlanInProgress.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires MPOs to perform an air quality analysis when a MTP is developed/updated. This analysis is to ensure the multimodal transportation system complies with applicable Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB) established for the region. Per the CAA, staff has conducted successful analyses for the required MVEB analysis year, the MTP horizon year, and interim years.

Proposed Awards from EV Charging Station Call for Projects

Staff will give an update on funding recommendations from the NCTCOG Electric Vehicle Charging Station Call for Projects April 22, 2022 application deadline. This grant funding is for the purchase and installation of publicly accessible Level 2 and Direct Current Fast Charge (DCFC) electric vehicle charging stations.

AV2.1: Preparing for Emerging Transportation Technology with Local Partners

In 2021, work began on NCTCOG's regional planning exercise looking at future mobility development within the region—AV2.1: Planning for Local Partners. NCTCOG staff will present an update on the status of the project, including information about the early scenario development efforts, public outreach initiatives, and educational materials in development for interested school districts. More information: connectNTXfutures.org

Parking Garage Policy and Projects

NCTCOG staff has been working with several cities across the region on funding partnerships for parking garages in proximity to transit stations. An overview of the proposed policy pertaining to parking garage funding requests along with proposed projects will be presented for review and comment.

East/West Funding Formula Update

With the passage of each new transportation funding bill, the funding distributions between the Eastern and Western portions of the Dallas-Fort Worth region are re-evaluated. An overview of the process for establishing the funding split and the proposed new splits for both mobility and air quality funds will be provided for review and comment.

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally 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 a final list of projects with funding in FY 2023-2026 and the TIP document for review and comment.

For special accommodations due to a disability or for language interpretation, contact Thao Tran at 817-704-2510 or tctran@nctcog.org at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made.

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Attend in person, watch the presentations live at nctcog.org/input, or participate via phone by dialing 855-925-2801 then code 6341.

**RESOURCES & INFORMATION****Interactive Public Input-Map Your Experience:**

nctcog.org/mapyourexperience

Mobility Plan Administrative Revisions:

nctcog.org/input

Statewide EV Infrastructure Plan:

txdot.mysocialpinpoint.com/tx_ev_plan

Fair Treatment & Meaningful Involvement:

nctcog.org/equitybrochure