

PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

The public comments report is in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Process, which became effective June 1, 1994, as approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the transportation policy board for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and amended on November 8, 2018.

This report is a compilation of general public comments submitted by members of the public from Saturday, November 20, through Monday, December 19. Comments and questions are submitted for the record and can be submitted via Facebook, Twitter, fax, email and online.

This month, public comments were received on a number of topics across social media platforms and via email. High-speed transportation comments were in the majority.

In addition, comments were accepted through a new, online map tool. Users can drop a pin on a location in the region and leave a detailed comment. This month, there were three bicycle and pedestrian comments, three transit comments and four roadway comments. To read them, visit: <http://nctcoggis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=b014e6d39b604b3ca329d9094ed1e9e2>.

Air Quality

Twitter –

1. Jenny Narvaez of @NCTCOGtrans says that in the Dallas/Fort Worth area air pollution in 2020 really wasn't any different from any other year. More research can help shed light on #emissions and #AirQuality.

Find resources in our latest blog

<http://ow.ly/8tM150H3f6y> – TRB (@NASEMTRB)



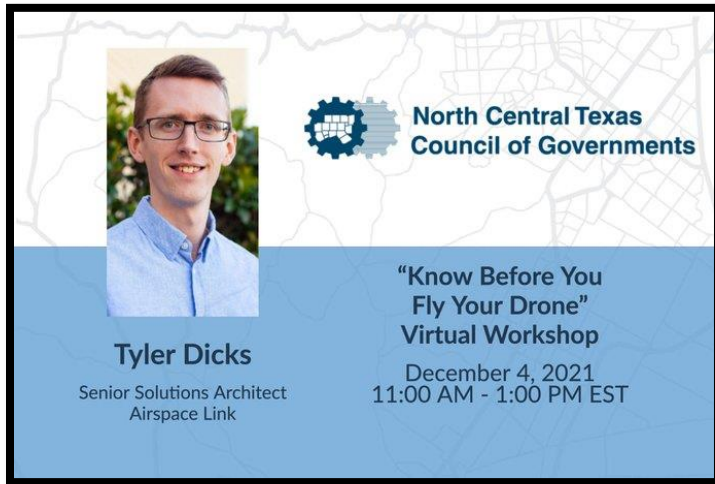
Aviation

Twitter –

1. Join #AirspaceLink's Tyler Dicks as he demonstrates how to easily plan a flight, gain greater situational awareness, and submit for #LAANC authorization with AirHub™ for Pilots at the “Know Before You Fly Your Drone” Virtual Workshop, presented by

@NCTCOGtrans.

#Drones #FAA – AirspaceLink (@AirspaceLink)



Bicycle & Pedestrian

Twitter –

1. Irving and Dallas friends go get involved ! This is a huge project that will benefit all our communities ! – Corey Carrasco (@corcarrasco)



2. Walked over to the @NorthavenTrail bridge ramp site this morning. The curved ramp is starting to take shape. Looking good, @TxDOTDallas! #DallasParks #DallasTrails – Jeff Kitner (@JeffKitner)



Very nice and great update! I can't wait to see the planned connection from the Coombs Creek Trail to the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. – Daniel Huerta (@WSeriesBound)

Facebook –

1. We want to hear from you! Please visit FortWorthtoDallasTrail.com to share your opinions, experiences and ideas about the future of the trail connecting downtown Fort Worth to downtown Dallas. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Plz – Hoang Nguyen

I care less about the name, more about the completion... – Laura Pyle

The Trail of Two Cities – Kathy Powell
DFW Bike Highway – David Shuford Jr.
Texas two Step – Sharon McNutt
The Turnpike – James White
The Connector – Shane Salley
The Connect – Alex Flores
NTX Trinity Trail – Cody Knecht

High-speed Transportation

Twitter –

1. Fort Worth to Dallas in under 20 minutes? Proposed transit system could be the ticket:
<https://greensourcedfw.org/articles/DFW-planners-high-speed-rail>. – NCTCOGTransportation
(@NCTCOGtrans)



Yes and yeah. – Osman (@Hossein16Osman)

Build Fort Worth to Dallas high-speed rail. – Osman (@Hossein16Osman)

2. Judging from TRE ridership, there is near-zero demand for this project. – Nathaniel Barrett
(@ncoxbarrett)



3. Literally no one is asking for this. Take us to Austin, Houston, San Antonio and El Paso then maybe sure but otherwise a 30 minute plus traffic drive to Fort Worth is the least of my worries. Have you been on the TRE?? It's forever empty. – jacquesucksateverythingsanta 🙄 🌲 🧑🏻‍🎅 🧑🏻‍🎅 ❄️ 🧑🏻‍🎅 ☁️ (@thatgirljacqs)



Facebook –

1. Fort Worth to Dallas in under 20 minutes? Proposed transit system could be the ticket: <https://greensourcedfw.org/.../DFW-planners-high-speed-rail>. – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Hope y'all do a better job on this than you did on the stupid TEXPress lanes in Tarrant County! – Wm Atkins

Innovative Vehicles & Technology

Email –

1. Katherine Homan

Hello, me again - this time with the following email

for y'all to take into consideration. TU!

Imagine Florida with a hurricane coming toward Miami. The Governor orders an evacuation.

All cars head north. They all need to be charged in Jacksonville. How does that work? Has anyone thought about this? If all cars were electric, and were caught up in a three-hour traffic jam with dead batteries, then what? Not to mention that there is virtually no heating or air conditioning in an electric vehicle because of high battery consumption.

If you get stuck on the road all night, no battery, no heating, no windshield wipers, no radio, no GPS (all these drain the batteries), all you can do is try calling 911 to take women and children to safety. But they cannot come to help you because all roads are blocked, and they will probably require all police cars will be electric also. When the roads become unblocked no one can move! Their batteries are dead.

How do you charge the thousands of cars in the traffic jam? Same problem during summer vacation departures with miles of traffic jams. There would be virtually no air conditioning in an electric vehicle.

It would drain the batteries quickly. Where is this electricity going to come from? Today's grid barely handles users' needs. Can't use nuclear, natural gas is quickly running out. Oil fired is out of the question, then where?

Consider what could occur if the U.S. was attacked by a Foreign enemy and we had no fuels for Military Armored Vehicles, Bombers, Fighter Planes or every other type of defense armaments. They can't operate on Batteries, solar Energy or Wind.

Lastly, what will be done with billions of dead batteries, can't bury them in the soil, can't go to landfills.

The cart is way ahead of the horse with no thought whatsoever to handling any of the problems that batteries can cause.

Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff

Thank you for posing another excellent question. Fuel availability during emergency evacuations is a concern for vehicles of all fuel types, and cars have run out of gas during previous disasters, as detailed in this Texas House of Representatives report following Hurricane Rita. This is an important consideration for electric vehicles (EVs), especially as adoption rates increase.

Electric Vehicle Energy Usage: Unlike gasoline-powered vehicles, an EV's electric motor stops when the vehicle stops, so EVs do not waste energy idling. However, just like gas vehicles, EVs do have heating and A/C that can reduce range when used heavily. EVs are 60% to 73% efficient, and most of the energy used is to "power the wheels"(EVs and hybrids use regenerative braking to recover up to 22% of power to the battery). More information on where the goes energy for EVs, as well as hybrids and gasoline vehicles, can be found on FuelEconomy.gov here.

Examples of what is being done to plan:

Since your email mentions Florida, the Florida Office of Energy prepared a Florida Electric Vehicle Roadmap that identifies locations best located for direct current fast charging (DCFC) stations during times of evacuations that also outlines some innovative solutions such as using portable battery systems (which will tie into the question about the end of life options for EV batteries).

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is the new federal transportation bill signed into law and outlines funding for EV charging stations, and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) has issued a Request for Information for guidance on how to deploy EV charging infrastructure under this new funding program. NCTCOG is submitting comments that will recommend prioritizing evacuation routes for deploying EV infrastructure and that integrated distributed energy solutions, such as battery storage, microgrids, and/or onsite generation, are eligible costs under the program.

In response to a solicitation for input from Electrify America, the Texas Electric Transportation Resources Alliance (TxETRA) recommended a list of locations for funding EV charging stations after overlaying the ERCOT power distribution, TxDOT traffic flow, and emergency evacuation route maps. A copy of the map and list of recommended locations can be found on their website here: <https://txetra.org/charging-map-recs-1>. NCTCOG also submitted comments and recommended locations for charging stations to Electrify America, and several locations recommended by TxETRA were included in our list (the table on pgs. 26-28 marks these locations): [https://nctcog.org/getattachment/trans/quality/air/Funding-and-Resources/Volkswagen-Settlement/NCTCOG_EACycle3-\(1\).pdf.aspx?lang=en-US](https://nctcog.org/getattachment/trans/quality/air/Funding-and-Resources/Volkswagen-Settlement/NCTCOG_EACycle3-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-US).

EV Battery Reuse and Recycling: A battery that is no longer usable to power an EV can have a variety of second life applications, including portable battery systems that may offset peak grid demand or provide power during outages. You may be interested in checking out this article on second-life batteries for more information on the market and value of used EV batteries (as well as a list of existing second-life projects): <https://blog.ucsusa.org/hanjiro-ambrose/the-second-life-of-used-ev-batteries/>.

Locally, there is a company called Blue Roof Foundation (now Oso Electric) that has been developing electric lawnmowers, and they started off by using used Nissan LEAF batteries to be able to swap batteries out throughout the day. MotorWeek wrote a story that includes a profile of their prototypes posted at: https://www.motorweek.org/features/auto_world/commercial-lawn-mowers. The aforementioned IIJA also provisions funding research and development on EV battery recycling and second-life applications. A summary of EV-Related Provisions in the IIJA bill may be found here: <https://www.atlasevhub.com/materials/invest-in-america-act-h-r-3684/>.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, and we look forward to your next question!

Twitter –

1. Per @EnergyUT study, transition to many more #EVs in Texas could require up to 30% more annual #electricity demand, thousands more #charging stations, & consumer education. Are they ready? @UTAustin @NCTCOGtrans @energy

Via @dallasnews @DomDiFurio – Electrical Apparatus (@ElecAppMag)



Project Planning

Email –

1. **Christine Otakan**

Hello, can you please tell me the current status of the project below? When is ROW acquisition anticipated to begin for this project? If I'm contacting the wrong person, can you please tell me who the project manager is?

090238140

ON OLD WEATHERFORD RD FROM FM 3325 TO E OF CODER DR.

Response by NCTCOG Transportation Staff

Hi, Chris,

Thank you for contacting the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

The latest information we have from the project sponsor (Parker County) is that the project is currently being designed. Right-of-way acquisition is beginning this month. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2022 and be completed in summer 2023.

Please contact us if you need additional assistance.

Twitter –

1. This RAISE grant will allow us to plan for connectivity between the southern Dallas communities that surround our #parkwithapurpose and the @DallasZoo. So grateful for support from @POTUS @SecretaryPete @RepEBJ @JohnCornyn @NCTCOGtrans and @CityOfDallas – Southern Gateway Park (@SouthernGWPark)



Facebook –

1. Meet the People Behind the Plan! As you know, we are always planning for the future and here are some of the people who use your comments to help. An update to the Mobility 2045 plan is currently underway and the team would love your feedback! Visit <https://www.nctcog.org/trans/plan/mtp/mobility-plan-update> for details.

More to come. 🗣️ #PeopleBehindThePlan – NCTCOG Transportation Department



Love it! Great job! 🙌❤️ – Pamela Klekar Burns

Roadway

Twitter –

1. John Donaghey

Dear NCTCOG,

One intersection of note:

- a. North bound traffic on Southview Dr. is hard to see when turning left from W.. Lucas Dr. onto E. Lucas Dr. Many near misses there.
- b. Trailer traffic can hardly make the right turn from East Lucas Dr. onto W. Lucas Dr. The guard rail tells the tale. I have often seen such traffic cut across the vacant lot in order to make the turn.

The whole intersection needs study and revision.

The traffic flows in our part of the county have improved dramatically since it has become a priority. THANK YOU.


Safety

Twitter –

1. Please slow down, pay attention, & don't drink and drive. Your family and friends will be devastated by your tragic death. First responders don't get used to pulling bodies out of cars.

@VisionZeroTexas

@NCTCOGtrans

@MADDOonline – caraathome (@) (@caraathome)



Transit

Email –

1. Billy Hanson

We need regional transportation service for Tarrant, Denton, Dallas, Collin and Rockwall counties etc. Dart should be the hub branching out to the neighboring counties.

Twitter –

1. It must suck to miss a chunk of whatever show you're going to because of parking and traffic, but why is there not a mention in this story that there is a DART stop basically adjacent to the gate that gets you to the Music Hall? – Matt Goodman (@goodmoine)



I invite you to start/end your journey from #D12 to the music hall at night, dressed up in heels & jewelry, and take @dartmedia v driving. DART says it takes approx 2 hours, 17 min of which is walking, some without sidewalks and 114 stops along the way.

@NCTCOGtrans – caraathome (@🏠) (@caraathome)

There are plenty of park and ride options between your district and Fair Park that would help cut down the commute time. – Matt Goodman (@goodmoine)

Think like a woman.... It is at least 15+ min drive to park & ride, where she would park in dark lot, stand outside in heels getting hair messed up, in fancy clothes, with increased safety risk. Then walk dart station to music hall & reverse for home, even later @ night. No thx. – caraathome (@🏠) (@caraathome)

Also, of the 4 options that come up on dart trip finder, none use a park & ride. – caraathome (@🏠) (@caraathome)

Map it on Google from your nearest station. Trip finder will use your current location to plot a route. For instance, if you wanted to

see Hamilton tonight at 7:30, there are a number of options from Arapaho Center that will get you to the Music Hall at Fair Park in ~45 min. – Doyle Rader (@DoyleRader)

Yes. DART should be an option that is considered, especially in how this piece is framed. Besides, if more folks ride DART, there will be more room for all those cars coming from D12! – Matt Goodman (@goodmoine)

We are a transportation desert and losing one of our main bus routes under the "improvements" with no GoLink. Even the dreaded Cotton Belt won't have a stop nearby & no connected trails or protected bike lanes. Ps-D12 is one of the highest density districts #workingonit – caraathome (@🏠) (@caraathome)

The nearest park & ride is more than 15 minutes away. – caraathome (@🏠) (@caraathome)

I'm confused. – Matt Goodman (@goodmoine)

2. Looks like passenger rail will happen Baton Rouge to New Orleans with @CanadianPacific's blessing. A future train for Dallas-Shreveport-Meridian MS as well? @TXRailAdvocate @RailPassengers @NCTCOGtrans <http://texasrailadvocates.org/2021/12/09/canadian-pacific-commits-to-passenger-train-service-baton-rouge-new-orleans-talks-of-dfw-meridian-ms/> – Peter J LeCody (@railadvo)



The CP official seemed very positive about the Meridian Speedway route of public leaders can bring in NS in partnership. Shreveport is already building a platform at its new intermodal transit center. Seems even more likely than BR, TBH... – RAIL Magazine (@RAILMag)

3. Heads up! DCTA Bus Service Scheduled to End in Lewisville, Riders Encouraged to Use GoZone: <https://nbcdfw.com/news/local/dcta-bus-service-scheduled-to-end-in-lewisville-riders-encouraged-to-use-gozone/2836589/#:~:text=Riders%20are%20encouraged%20to%20utilize,said%20DCTA%20CEO%20Raymond%20Suarez.> – NCTCOGTransportation (@NCTCOGtrans)



What about the handicaps that uses wheelchairs? This is not good for my uncle!. – Gabriela G. Cruz (@gaguo2981)

GoZone is available for your transportation needs and it's accessible for everyone, including our residents who use a wheelchair. Simply download the GoZone app or call customer service to book your ride. It's only 75 cents. – DCTA (@RideDCTA)