

MINUTES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

10-Year Plan Update

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Public Transportation Funding: American Rescue Plan & FY21 Programs of Projects

FY2022 and FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Project Proposals for AV2.2 and AV2.3

Federal Certification Review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

Online Public Input Opportunity Dates

Monday, June 7, 2021 - Tuesday, July 6, 2021 – The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) posted information at www.nctcog.org/input for public review and comment.

Purpose and Topics

The online public input opportunity was provided in accordance with the NCTCOG Transportation Department Public Participation Plan, 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. Staff posted information regarding:

1. 10-Year Plan Update
2. Congestion Management Process (CMP)
3. Public Transportation Funding: American Rescue Plan & FY21 Programs of Projects
4. FY2022 and FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program
5. Project Proposals for AV2.2 and AV2.3
6. Federal Certification Review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process
7. Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects

The NCTCOG online public input opportunity was provided to inform and seek comments from the public. Comments and questions were submitted by email at transinfo@nctcog.org, online at www.nctcog.org/input, by mail at PO Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005 and by fax at 817-640-3028. Printed copies of the online materials were also made available by calling 817-608-2365 or emailing transinfo@nctcog.org.

Summary of Presentations

10-Year Plan Update presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/2021-10-Year-Plan-Update.pdf>

Project List:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/10-Year-Plan-Project-List.pdf>

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) are required by law to develop 10-year plans using performance-based planning and project selection methods. A regional 10-Year Plan was first approved by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in December 2016 and includes projects selected by NCTCOG, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC). A series of updates were made to the Plan in August 2017, August 2018, September 2019 and October 2020 in conjunction with the development of TxDOT's Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

While reviewing projects for the 10-Year Plan, staff sought to focus on the following principles:

- Projects should be included in Mobility 2045
- Focus on system versus new, stand-alone projects
- Fully fund existing projects before funding new projects
- Ensure equity of county allocations
- Maintain toll lanes/toll managed lanes on selected corridors
- Refund previously unfunded projects when possible
- Ensure all RTC projects are approved in the 2022 UTP
- Projects must be scored and should have a score sufficient to qualify for funding

Since the last 10-Year Plan update, TxDOT has begun developing the 2022 UTP and has coordinated with NCTCOG staff on project updates as well as potential new projects. Proposed new projects to be included in the 10-Year Plan were scored using the same process used in previous years, and a draft project listing was developed that included project scores, project revisions and potential new projects.

Next steps include finalizing update efforts with TxDOT staff and bringing back any project changes to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and RTC once the TTC approves the UTP.

The RTC will take action on the 10-Year Plan update on July 8, 2021. The TTC will take action on the 2022 UTP in August 2021.

Congestion Management Process (CMP) presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/CMP.pdf>

A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federal requirement in any urbanized area with a population exceeding 200,000. Developed and implemented as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process, it is a regionally accepted approach for managing congestion and provides information on transportation system performance. The CMP assists in managing travel demands, reducing single occupancy vehicle travel, improves safety and efficiency of the transportation system, and maximizes transportation funds.

The CMP strategy corridor review process includes organizing a group of NCTCOG staff and staff from cities, counties and transit agencies to review upcoming projects on the corridor and select appropriate strategies. These strategies include demand management, operational traffic and public transportation improvements, and additional system capacity where necessary.

The projects are packaged and brought to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) and the Regional Transportation Council for approval. Additionally, a set of performance measures is developed to evaluate the effectiveness of the selected strategies.

The RTC will take action on the CMP in July 2021.

Public Transportation Funding: American Rescue Plan & FY21 Programs of Projects presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/POPs.pdf>

Public Transportation Funding: Fiscal Year 2021 Programs of Projects

Public transportation is part of a comprehensive transportation system and includes various types of services, such as fixed route, commuter, demand response and rail. Investing in these modes has a positive economic impact within communities, provides access for people with mobility impairments, reduces roadway congestion and improves air quality as well as safety.

Three urbanized areas: Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney, are eligible to receive formula funds through the Programs of Projects. There are four federal funding programs for the aforementioned areas:

- Urbanized Area Formula
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
- State of Good Repair
- Bus and Bus Facilities

The Dallas-Fort Worth region received approximately \$136 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funds through the Fiscal Year 2021 award cycle. NCTCOG utilizes two different processes to award these funds. Two percent of the funding is set aside for strategic partnerships. Ninety-eight percent of the funding is available annually through the Programs of Projects process.

Approximately \$124.48 million of the Programs of Projects funding for Fiscal Year 2021 was utilized by transit authorities. Of this \$124.48 million, 63 percent was utilized by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), 21 percent by Trinity Metro and 6 percent by the Denton County Transit Authority (DCTA). The remaining 10 percent of funding was utilized by all other transit providers.

Public Transportation Funding: American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021 and helps alleviate the nation's public transportation funding shortfalls due to the pandemic.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was provided with \$30.5 billion in supplemental funding to allocate to transit agencies and is being provided with no local match required. The ARP Act prioritizes use of funds for operational and payroll needs but also supports expenses

traditionally eligible under the Urbanized Area Formula Program and Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program.

NCTCOG is a designated recipient of FTA Urbanized Area (UZA) Formula funds for North Texas and will receive the following funding amounts through the ARP Act:

- DFW-Arlington UZA: \$339,826,672
- Denton-Lewisville UZA: \$14,073,192

For a complete list of federal funding allocations for transit providers in North Central Texas, visit www.nctcog.org/input

FY2022 and FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/UPWP.pdf>

Draft Program:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcog/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/UPWP-Draft.pdf>

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) summarizes transportation activities for NCTCOG's metropolitan planning area, which covers the 12-county region. The UPWP is divided into five major task areas:

- Administration and Management
- Transportation Data Development and Maintenance
- Short-Range Planning and Programming, and Air Quality and Transit Operations
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Special Studies and System Operations.

The UPWP for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 will focus on several planning initiatives, including an update to Mobility 2045, the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), automated vehicle technology, high-speed passenger technology, bicycle/pedestrian plans, corridor and transit studies, freight planning and an air quality conformity analysis, among others.

A draft of the work program is posted at www.nctcog.org/input for review and comment. The RTC will take action on the recommended FY2022 and FY2023 UPWP on July 8, 2021.

Project Proposals for AV2.2 and 2.3 presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/AV2-2-3-Project-Proposals.pdf>

In October 2018, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved the Automated Vehicle Program 2.0, which includes \$10 million for assisting local partners in hosting automated vehicle deployments (AV 2.2) and \$20 million for AV deployments that further regional priorities (AV 2.3).

In November 2020, the RTC approved the application process and selection criteria for the program and from December 2020 through March 2021, NCTCOG staff provided technical assistance to local partners considering applications.

The following projects are being recommended to receive funding:

- Cedar Valley College AV Service & Workforce Development
- Eastfield College AV Service & Workforce Development
- Paul Quinn College Food & Internet Delivery
- I 35W AV Truckport
- Richardson CAV Infrastructure
- DART Love Link AV Bus Service

The RTC will take action on the recommended projects in July 2021, and project implementation is expected to take place in Fiscal Year 2023.

Federal Certification Review of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process presentation:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/Federal-Certification.pdf>

Every four years the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) jointly review the metropolitan transportation planning process for regions with a population over 200,000.

The metropolitan transportation planning process decides how a substantial share of federal funding is spent nationwide, and NCTCOG must prioritize the regional needs and determine the best economical solutions. The process also lays the framework for the future transportation system. Products of the process include the following:

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Public Participation Plan (PPP)

The Federal Certification Review also includes gathering public input. Comments are taken into consideration while evaluating transportation planning completed for the region and will be included in a report summarizing discussions during the review.

The presentation and survey questions from the federal agencies are available online at www.nctcog.org/input. All public comments should be submitted directly to FHWA and FTA by July 15, 2021.

Proposed Modifications to the List of Funded Projects handout:

<https://www.nctcog.org/nctcg/media/Transportation/DocsMaps/Involve/InputMeetings/2021/06/TIP-Mods.pdf>

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.

The current modification cycle includes project updates and funding adjustments for transportation initiatives in Collin, Dallas, Hood, Johnson, Kaufman and Tarrant Counties. Additionally, financial adjustments related to public transportation services managed by Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), Trinity Metro, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), City of McKinney, City of Grand Prairie and City of Arlington are also included.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY WEBSITE, MAIL, EMAIL and SOCIAL MEDIA

No comments were submitted via website, mail, email or social media.