

**MOBILITY 2045 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION AGENDA**  
**NCTCOG Transportation Council Room**  
**616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington TX**  
**November 8, 2017**  
**2:00 p.m.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
2:00 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Sandy Wesch
<b>MOBILITY 2045</b>		
2:10 p.m.	Mobility 2045 Schedule and Proposed Projects	Kevin Feldt
2:20 p.m.	Environmental Policy Review	Sandy Wesch
2:35 p.m.	Air Quality in Mobility 2045	Lori Clark
2:45 p.m.	Natural Environment Screening in Mobility 2045	Kate Zielke
3:00 p.m.	Environmental Justice	Kate Zielke
<b>ADDITIONAL NCTCOG ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES</b>		
3:10 p.m.	Sustainable Planning in the Denton Greenbelt	Kate Zielke
3:15 p.m.	Quantifying the Benefits of Environmental Stewardship	Amanda Long-Rodriguez
3:25 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Program	Nathan Drozd
3:35 p.m.	Follow Up to Mitigation Assessment	Kate Zielke
3:45 p.m.	Environmental and Development Initiatives	Derica Peters

## **MOBILITY 2045 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Transportation**

*Planning and Environment Linkages, Environmental Policy Review*

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*Mobility 2045*

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*Air Quality in Mobility 2045*

Lori Clark | Program Manager | [lclark@nctcog.org](mailto:lclark@nctcog.org) | 817-695-9232

*Environmental Stewardship Program*

Nathan Drozd | Senior Transportation Planner | [ndrozd@nctcog.org](mailto:ndrozd@nctcog.org) | 817-704-5635

*Natural Environment Screening, Sustainable Planning in Denton Greenbelt, Mitigation Assessment, Environmental Justice*

Kate Zielke | Senior Transportation Planner | [kzielke@nctcog.org](mailto:kzielke@nctcog.org) | 817-608-2395

*Quantifying Benefits of Environmental Stewardship*

Amanda Long-Rodriguez | Transportation Planner | [along@nctcog.org](mailto:along@nctcog.org) | 817-608-2367

### **Environment and Development**

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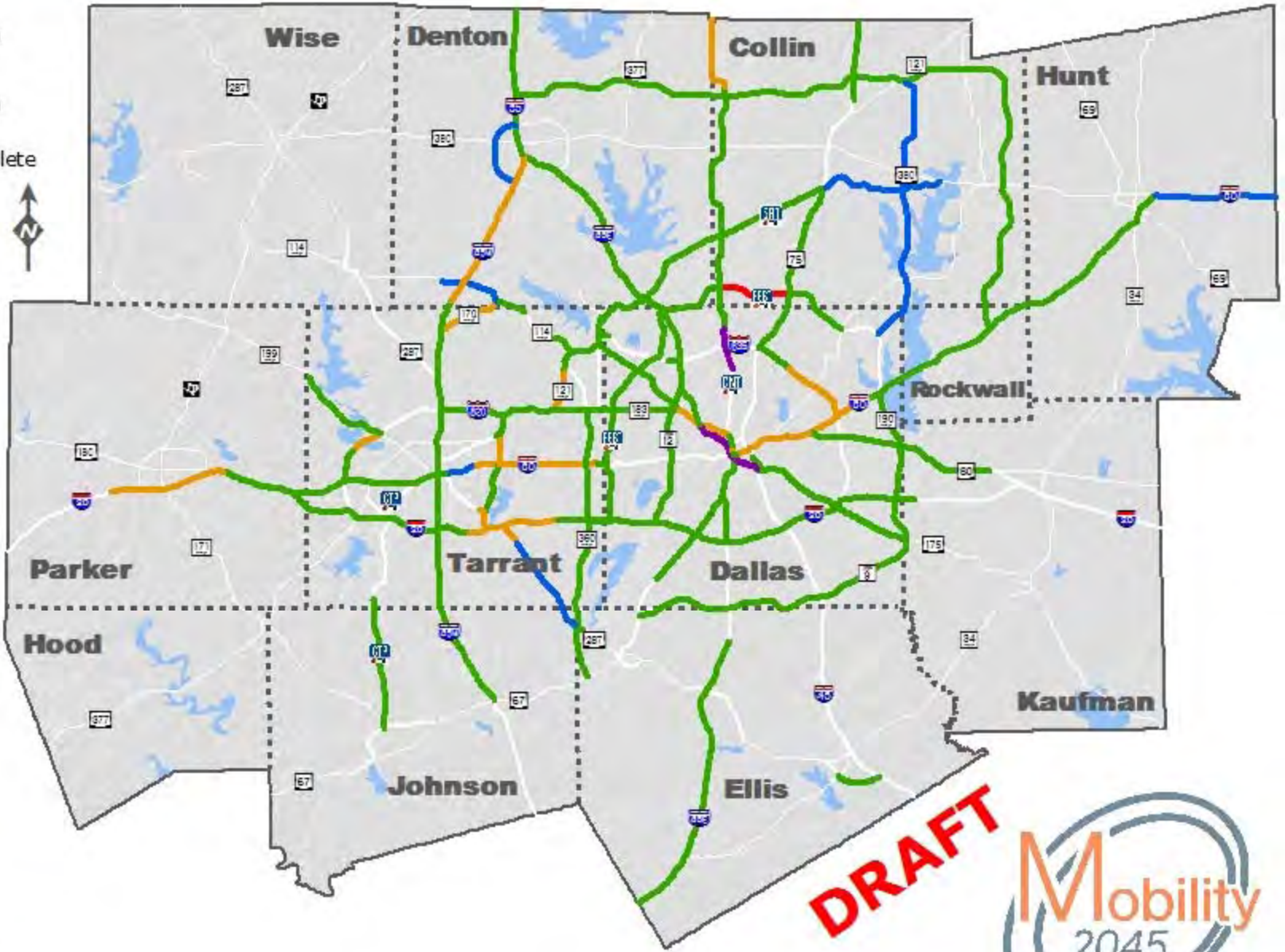
# Mobility 2045 Roadway Project Status

## Projects in Mobility 2045

- No Change from 2040
- Scope Change from 2040
- Add New Project

## Projects to be Removed from Mobility 2045

- Under Construction/Complete
- Removal- Local Decision



**DRAFT**



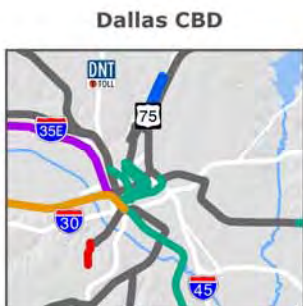
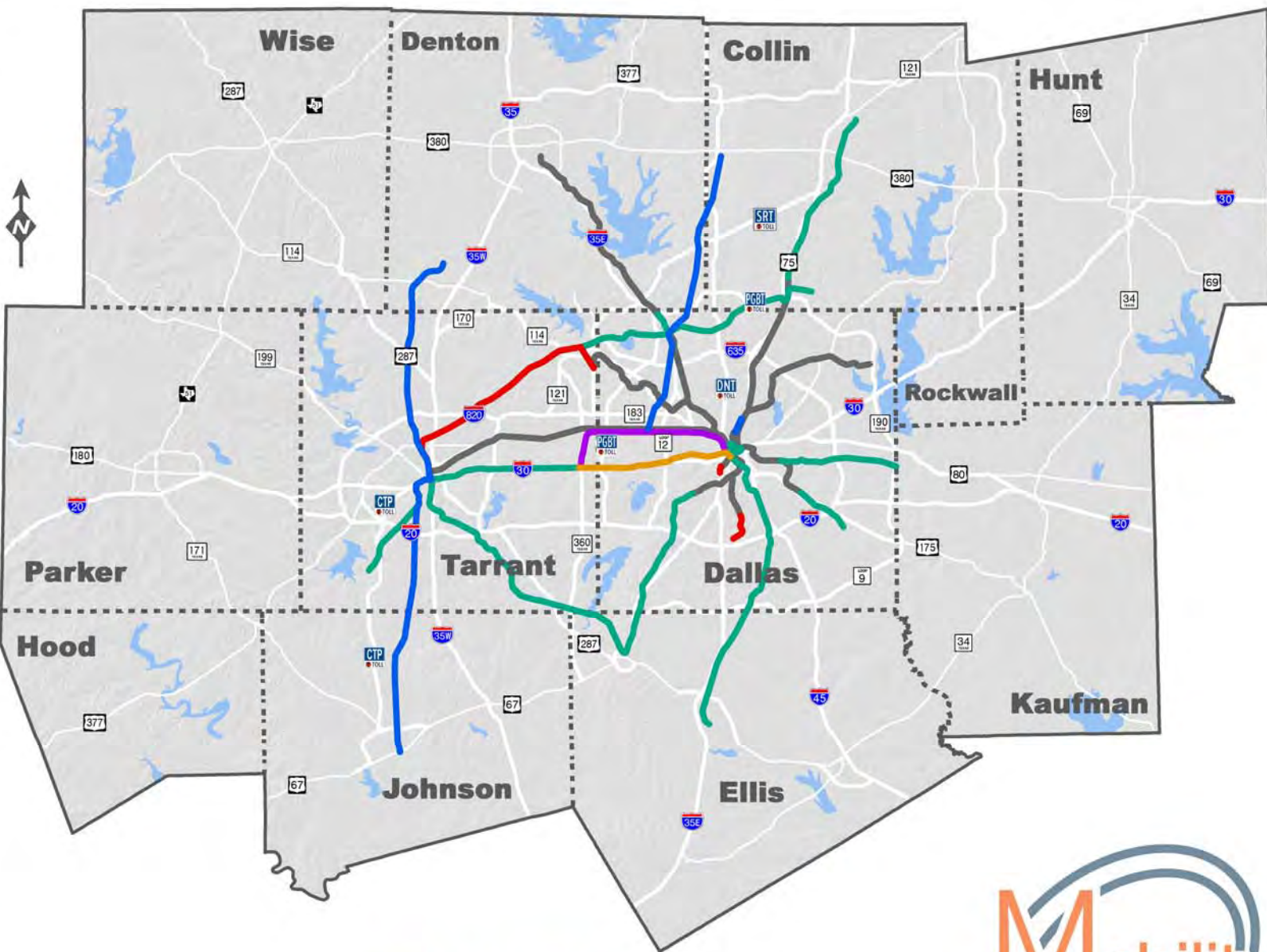
# Mobility 2045 Transit Project Status

## Projects in Mobility 2045

- No Change from 2040
- Alignment Change from 2040
- Add New Project (Under Evaluation)

## Projects to be Removed from Mobility 2045

- Under Construction/Complete
- Removal - Local Decision
- Existing Rail



**DRAFT**



Facility recommendations indicate transportation need. Corridor-specific alignment, design, and operational characteristics will be determined through ongoing project development.

### Exhibit C-3: NCTCOG Air Quality Programs and Policies

Program/Policy	Air Quality Emphasis Areas Addressed							Criteria Pollutants Addressed			
	High Emitting Vehicles/ Equipment	Low Speeds	Cold Starts	Hard Accelerations	Idling	VMT	Energy/ Fuel Use	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>AirCheckTexas (ACT) Drive a Clean Machine – Vehicle Repair and Replacement Assistance Program</b> General Public <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/air/act/">www.nctcog.org/trans/air/act/</a> Offers financial aid for vehicles not passing the emissions portion of the state inspection; supplemented with a marketing and advertising campaign.	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Air North Texas</b> General Public <a href="http://www.airnorthtexas.org">www.airnorthtexas.org</a> Air North Texas is a regional clean air partnership and campaign that encourages public participation and support of key elements in the State Implementation Plan and other air quality improvement strategies, as well as the reduction of energy use. Promotes simple things that people can do to help make a difference in the region's air quality.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Air Quality Funding Opportunities</b> General Public, Private & Public Sectors <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/aqfunding">www.nctcog.org/aqfunding</a> Offers funding assistance periodically and promotes use of incentives available from other agencies (e.g. Environmental Protection Agency).	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Clean Construction Specifications &amp; Equipment Program</b> Public Sector <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/construction">www.nctcog.org/construction</a> Encourages use of equipment with lower emissions by encouraging use of existing incentives and promoting emissions-related contract requirements.	✓				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓

Program/Policy	Air Quality Emphasis Areas Addressed							Criteria Pollutants Addressed			
	High Emitting Vehicles/ Equipment	Low Speeds	Cold Starts	Hard Accelerations	Idling	VMT	Energy/ Fuel Use	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<p><b>Clean Fleet Policy</b> Private &amp; Public Sectors RTC Resolution: See 'Clean Fleet Policy' Map in Appendix C. Outlines emissions, fuel saving, and partnership goals for local fleets to help reduce environmental impact and increase collaboration and best-practice sharing.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition</b> General Public, Private &amp; Public Sectors <a href="http://www.dfwcleancities.org">www.dfwcleancities.org</a> Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities is a locally-based, public/private partnership that seeks to advance energy security, protect environmental and public health, and stimulate economic development by promoting practices and decisions to reduce petroleum consumption and improve air quality, primarily in the transportation sector. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities was one of the first regions to be designation as one of the US Department of Energy's Clean Cities initiative in 1995. Additional clean vehicle projects (ex: EVNT, Engine Off North Texas) are promoted through this program.</p>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Do-It-Yourself Vehicle Repair Discount Program</b> Partners with local automotive parts and service companies to offer coupons and discounts to people that perform their own vehicle repair.</p>	✓							✓	✓	✓	
<p><b>Electric Vehicles North Texas (EVNT)</b> General Public, Private &amp; Public Sectors <a href="http://www.dfwcleancities.org/evnt">www.dfwcleancities.org/evnt</a> Encourages and supports the transition to electric vehicles in North Texas through industry partnerships, fleet education, and consumer outreach; is part of the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition.</p>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Program/Policy	Air Quality Emphasis Areas Addressed							Criteria Pollutants Addressed			
	High Emitting Vehicles/ Equipment	Low Speeds	Cold Starts	Hard Accelerations	Idling	VMT	Energy/ Fuel Use	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<p><b>Engine Off North Texas (Idling)</b> General Public, Private &amp; Public Fleets <a href="http://www.engineoffnorthtexas.org">www.engineoffnorthtexas.org</a></p> <p>RTC Resolution (Locally Enforced Idling Restrictions): See 'Locally Enforced Idling Restrictions' Map in Appendix C.</p> <p>Addresses vehicle idling through a comprehensive anti-idling campaign that includes grant funding elements, promotion of idling restrictions for heavy-duty vehicles, and education on the various benefits of idle reduction.</p>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Heavy Duty Diesel Inspection &amp; Maintenance Program</b> Private &amp; Public Fleets <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/air/hevp/SHED.asp">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/air/hevp/SHED.asp</a></p> <p>Establishes emissions testing program for this currently exempt class of vehicles.</p>	✓				✓		✓	✓			✓
<p><b>Nonprofit Vehicle Donation/Auction Partnership</b> Nonprofit Sector</p> <p>Partners with local nonprofit vehicle donation organizations and auction lots to ensure high-emitting vehicles are not returned to the road and reused in "as-is" condition.</p>	✓						✓	✓	✓		
<p><b>Regional Emissions Enforcement Program</b> Private &amp; Public Fleets <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/reep">www.nctcog.org/reep</a></p> <p>Identifies high-emitting vehicles with fictitious/counterfeit inspections and/or registrations.</p>	✓				✓		✓	✓			✓
<p><b>Regional Smoking Vehicle Program</b> General Public <a href="http://www.smokingvehicle.net">www.smokingvehicle.net</a></p> <p>Encourages drivers to voluntarily repair and maintain their vehicles through public awareness.</p>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Program/Policy	Air Quality Emphasis Areas Addressed							Criteria Pollutants Addressed			
	High Emitting Vehicles/ Equipment	Low Speeds	Cold Starts	Hard Accelerations	Idling	VMT	Energy/ Fuel Use	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<p><b>Saving Money and Reducing Truck Emissions (SMARTe)/Freight Efficiency Outreach Program</b> Private Fleets <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/smarte">www.nctcog.org/smarte</a></p> <p>Provides outreach and information to the trucking industry to improve awareness of strategies and technologies that help reduce fuel consumption and emissions while saving money on operating costs. This initiative incorporates elements of the Environmental Protection Agency SmartWay Transport Program, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition, idling restrictions, and the Clean Fleet Policy in a way that is specifically catered to the trucking industry specifically.</p>	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) Partnership</b> Private &amp; Public Fleets <a href="http://www.terpgrants.org">www.terpgrants.org</a></p> <p>Works to promote TERP to prospective applicants in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and offers free application assistance when the TCEQs accepting applications. In addition, NCTCOG partnered with TCEQ to administer TERP funds on a regional level.</p>	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Weigh-In-Motion Demonstration Pilot</b> Private Fleets</p> <p>Demonstrates measurable emissions reductions from heavy-duty diesel vehicles bypassing static weigh stations using technology.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



## Exhibit C-4: NCTCOG Programs with Air Quality Benefits

Program/Policy	Air Quality Emphasis Areas Addressed							Criteria Pollutants Addressed			
	High Emitting Vehicles/ Equipment	Low Speeds	Cold Starts	Hard Accelerations	Idling	VMT	Energy/ Fuel Use	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<p><b>Congestion Management Process</b> Public Sector <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/cmp/">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/cmp/</a></p> <p>Identifying and expanding alternate modes of transportation available within congestion corridors before adding single-occupancy vehicle capacity. Includes, but is not limited to, the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-Occupancy Vehicle/Managed Lanes</li> <li>• Intelligent Transportation Systems/Remote Sensing</li> <li>• Intersection Improvement Projects</li> <li>• Park-and-Ride Facilities</li> <li>• Parking Management/Way-Finding Signs</li> <li>• Traffic Signalization</li> </ul>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Employer Trip Reduction Program</b> Private and Public Sector Employers <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/cmp/tdm/ETR.asp">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/cmp/tdm/ETR.asp</a></p> <p>Educational program that encourages the use of alternative commute options such as rideshare programs (carpool and vanpool), transit, flexible work hours, telecommuting, bicycling, and walking.</p>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Freeway Incident Management Training</b> Public Sector <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/safety/FIM.asp">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/safety/FIM.asp</a></p> <p>Provides specific courses designed for first responders, managers, and executive level policymakers in order to initiate a common, coordinated response to traffic incidents that will build partnerships, enhance safety for emergency personnel, reduce upstream traffic accidents, improve the efficiency of the transportation system, and improve air quality.</p>		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Light-Emitting Diode Traffic Signal Replacement Program</b> Public Sector <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/cmp/led/">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/cmp/led/</a></p> <p>A goal-oriented regional plan to convert traffic signals to light-emitting diode in order to save energy and reduce ozone precursor pollutants emitted from electric power generator plants within the region.</p>							✓	✓		✓	✓

Program/Policy	Air Quality Emphasis Areas Addressed							Criteria Pollutants Addressed			
	High Emitting Vehicles/ Equipment	Low Speeds	Cold Starts	Hard Accelerations	Idling	VMT	Energy/ Fuel Use	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOC	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>
<p><b>NCTCOG Try Parking It Website</b>                      General Public, Private &amp; Public Sectors  <a href="https://www.tryparkingit.com/public/home.aspx">https://www.tryparkingit.com/public/home.aspx</a></p> <p>Ride-matching and commuter tracking Website that allows commuters to record information about alternative commute trips and to locate traditional carpool or vanpool matches. Offers buddy/mentor matches for transit, biking, and walking. Also includes Dallas-Fort Worth Connect-a-Ride and Regional Vanpool programs.</p>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Passenger Rail Transit</b></p> <p>Coordinates with local transit authorities to identify corridors suitable for regional passenger rail transit lines.</p>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Sustainable Development</b>                      Public Sector  <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/sustdev/</a></p> <p>Develop communities not dependent on vehicle travel through consideration of the interface between land use and transportation, planning for bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation, and transit-oriented development.</p>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p><b>Truck Lane Restriction Program</b>                      Public Sector (Municipalities)  <a href="http://www.nctcog.org/trans/goods/trucks/tlp.asp">http://www.nctcog.org/trans/goods/trucks/tlp.asp</a></p> <p>Improves mobility, safety, and air quality by identifying suitable transportation corridors for truck lane restrictions where trucks with three or more axles are prohibited from using the inside left lane, except when passing traffic. Works with local municipalities to implement enforcement ordinances.</p>		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Fair Treatment & Meaningful Involvement

*in Transportation Planning*



“SIMPLE JUSTICE REQUIRES THAT PUBLIC FUNDS, TO WHICH ALL TAXPAYERS OF ALL RACES CONTRIBUTE, NOT BE SPENT IN ANY FASHION WHICH ENCOURAGES, ENTRENCHES, SUBSIDIZES, OR RESULTS IN RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.”

*- John F. Kennedy, 1963*



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

## Title VI & Environmental Justice

### Equal Opportunity | *Assurance to Residents*

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) strives to ensure that its plans, policies, and programs equitably benefit or impact all groups – regardless of age, color, race, disability, sex, income level, national origin, or religion. NCTCOG encourages full and fair participation in the transportation decision-making process. NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development.

### Legal Guidance | *Laws & Regulations*

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in federally funded programs and activities. Additional laws, regulations, and statutes prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex, age, disability, or income level.

### Environmental Justice | *Addressing Impacts*

Executive Order 12898 directs agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse impacts of their plans, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. NCTCOG seeks to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on these populations.

### Overcoming Language Barriers | *Limited English Proficiency*

Executive Order 13166 requires all recipients of federal financial assistance to take reasonable steps to ensure individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English have meaningful access to programs, services, and information. NCTCOG translates key documents and provides translation services upon request for all public meetings.

## Filing a Complaint

If you believe you have experienced discrimination in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, you may file a written complaint with NCTCOG within 180 days of the alleged act of discrimination. Complaint forms and instructions can be found at [www.nctcog.org/ej](http://www.nctcog.org/ej). You may request a form be mailed to you by calling 817-695-9240.

Your complaint must include:

- Name and contact information
- The name and address of the entity you believe discriminated against you
- How, why, and when you believe you were discriminated against. Specific information and detailed accounts encouraged.
- Basis of complaint (i.e. race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, income level, or disability)

Your complaint must be signed and dated.

Submit your written complaint to:  
NCTCOG – Transportation  
Title VI Specialist  
PO Box 5888  
Arlington, TX 76005  
[titlevi@nctcog.org](mailto:titlevi@nctcog.org)  
[www.nctcog.org/ej](http://www.nctcog.org/ej)

# Tratamiento Equitativo & Participación Significativa *en la Planificación del Transporte*



“LA JUSTICIA SIMPLE REQUIERE QUE LOS FONDOS PÚBLICOS, A LOS QUE TODOS LOS CONTRIBUYENTES DE TODAS LAS RAZAS, APORTAN, NO SE GASTEN POR NINGÚN MOTIVO LO CUAL INCENTIVA, REAFIRMA, SUBVENCIONA O SE TRADUCE EN DISCRIMINACIÓN RACIAL.”

- John F. Kennedy, 1963



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

## Título VI y Justicia Ambiental

### Igualdad de Oportunidades | *Fiabilidad para Residentes*

El North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG, por sus siglas en inglés), se esfuerza en garantizar que sus planes, políticas, y programas beneficien o afecten en forma equitativa a todos los grupos, – independientemente de edad, color, raza, discapacidad, sexo, nivel de ingresos, nacionalidad, o religión. El NCTCOG fomenta la participación total y justa en el proceso de la toma de decisiones relativas al transporte. El NCTCOG es una asociación voluntaria de gobiernos regionales fundada en 1966 con el fin de asistir a los gobiernos locales en la planificación de necesidades comunes, cooperando para lograr beneficios recíprocos y coordinando para alcanzar un sólido desarrollo regional.

### Orientación Legal | *Leyes y Reglamentos*

El Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles, de 1964 prohíbe la discriminación basada en raza, color o nacionalidad en las actividades y los programas financiados con fondos federales. Leyes adicionales, reglamentos y estatutos prohíben la discriminación basada en religión, sexo, edad, incapacidad, o el nivel de ingresos.

### Justicia Ambiental | *Dirigiendo el Impacto*

El Decreto Ejecutivo N.º 12898 ordena las agencias en identificar y dirigir el impacto perjudicial y sumamente desproporcionado de los planes, políticas y actividades en las poblaciones minoritarias y de bajos ingresos. El NCTCOG procura evitar, minimizar, o mitigar el impacto en estas poblaciones.

### Superar las Barreras del Idioma | *Dominio Limitado de Inglés*

El Decreto Ejecutivo N.º 13166 requiere a todos los destinatarios con asistencia de fondos federales que tomen medidas razonables para garantizar a individuos cuyo idioma primario no es el inglés y que tienen una capacidad limitada para leer, hablar, escribir, o entender Inglés puedan acceder de manera significativa a los programas, servicios, e información. NCTCOG traduce los documentos fundamentales y con previa petición provee servicios de traducción para las reuniones públicas.

### Presentar una Queja

Si cree haber experimentado una discriminación en violación del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, podrá presentar una queja por escrito ante el NCTCOG dentro de los 180 días posteriores al supuesto acto de discriminación. Podrá encontrar las instrucciones y los formularios de quejas en [www.nctcog.org/ej](http://www.nctcog.org/ej). Podrá solicitar que se le envíe un formulario por correo llamando al 817-695-9240.

Su queja debe incluir:

- nombre e información de contacto;
- el nombre y domicilio de la entidad que usted cree que lo discriminó;
- cómo, por qué y cuándo usted cree que fue discriminado; información específica, y detalle de situación en cuestión.
- motivo de la queja (es decir, raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, edad, religión, nivel de ingresos o incapacidad)

Su queja debe estar firmada y fechada.

Envíe su queja por escrito a:  
NCTCOG – Transporte  
Especialista en Título VI  
PO Box 5888  
Arlington, TX 76005  
[titlevi@nctcog.org](mailto:titlevi@nctcog.org)  
[www.nctcog.org/ej](http://www.nctcog.org/ej)

# People, wildlife, and water all travel, **but what happens when their paths cross?**

A new highway is being planned to help residents commute between Denton and Collin counties. This highway will cross the Denton Greenbelt, a conservation area that:

- Allows wildlife to travel between Lake Ray Roberts and Lewisville Lake
- Protects the water quality of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River
- Provides trails for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and paddlers.

How can so many things occur in one place? Planners are identifying sustainability practices that can balance the social, economic, and environmental effects of the highway on Denton County and the Greenbelt. They will study several highway routes to find the best path to get people where they need to go, in the most financially responsible way, while disturbing people and nature as little as possible. They are also seeking feedback from people passionate about the Greenbelt and those who travel in Denton County.



# How can you be involved?

People can speak up about plans to balance the need for transportation with the need for conservation in the Greenbelt during stakeholder meetings with the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 5 at 1 p.m.** The meeting will take place at Rancho de la Roca in Aubrey.

If you can't make the meeting, you can email your comments to **transinfo@nctcog.org** or fill out a public comment form. Progress on the project will be posted at **www.nctcog.org/REF** under the heading "INVEST."

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Planners have met with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the US Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the new highway; they also will meet with representatives from local governments. This project is supported with a grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

# *Investing in* **Sustainability**

## **Transportation Planning**

Metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) conduct long-range transportation planning in urbanized areas with populations that exceed 50,000. In the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the MPO is composed of a policy board of local elected officials and the Transportation Department at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

MPOs coordinate with the public, local governments, and other transportation agencies to build a consensus on the region's transportation needs. NCTCOG develops a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which identifies roadway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects that will meet the region's needs and for which funding can be expected to be available. A short-range plan is then created that identifies projects that are immediate priorities. The Texas Department of Transportation includes those priority projects in its own short-range plan.

## **Regional Transportation Council**

The RTC sets transportation policy for NCTCOG. The 43-member board consists primarily of local elected officials.

## **Promoting Sustainability in the Denton Greenbelt**

Sustainability and environmental stewardship efforts such as the project being launched in the Denton Greenbelt are in step with the region's transportation planning goals. The Dallas-Fort Worth region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan addresses federally required goals for transportation planning that include environmental sustainability. The plan also addresses local goals, including promoting active lifestyles and preserving and enhancing the natural environment.

The transportation planning process requires input from the public and from stakeholders affected by transportation plans. The North Central Texas Council of Governments is engaging stakeholders from non-profit groups, natural resource agencies, and municipalities to integrate their feedback into plans for a roadway that will cross the Denton Greenbelt.

Plans for this possible roadway also will include best management practices for sustainability. These practices will be identified using an online tool developed by the Federal Highway Administration. The tool, called INVEST, provides a means for agencies that plan or build transportation projects to evaluate the sustainability of new projects across all phases, from planning to construction to maintenance.

Transportation partners will consider the sustainability best management practices as they engineer and construct the roadway. They will work to avoid and minimize impacts to the environment, will identify strategies to mitigate impacts that occur, and may consider context-sensitive solutions that preserve the aesthetic and environmental qualities of the Denton Greenbelt.



Photo: Getty Images

# Integrating Environmental Considerations into Transportation Planning

The natural environment has been a factor in planning at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) since 2011, when the agency developed its Regional Ecosystem Framework (REF). This mapping tool, developed in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and other organizations, functions as an early screening tool to identify ecosystem priorities at the scale of the subwatershed. The REF focuses on three ecosystem-related categories:

- Water considerations
- Ecosystem value
- Green infrastructure

The tool is based on the Federal Highway Administration's "Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects" and was developed with funding from that agency. An ecosystem approach calls for infrastructure and environmental agencies to work with each other and the public to integrate the agencies' plans and to identify environmental priority areas.

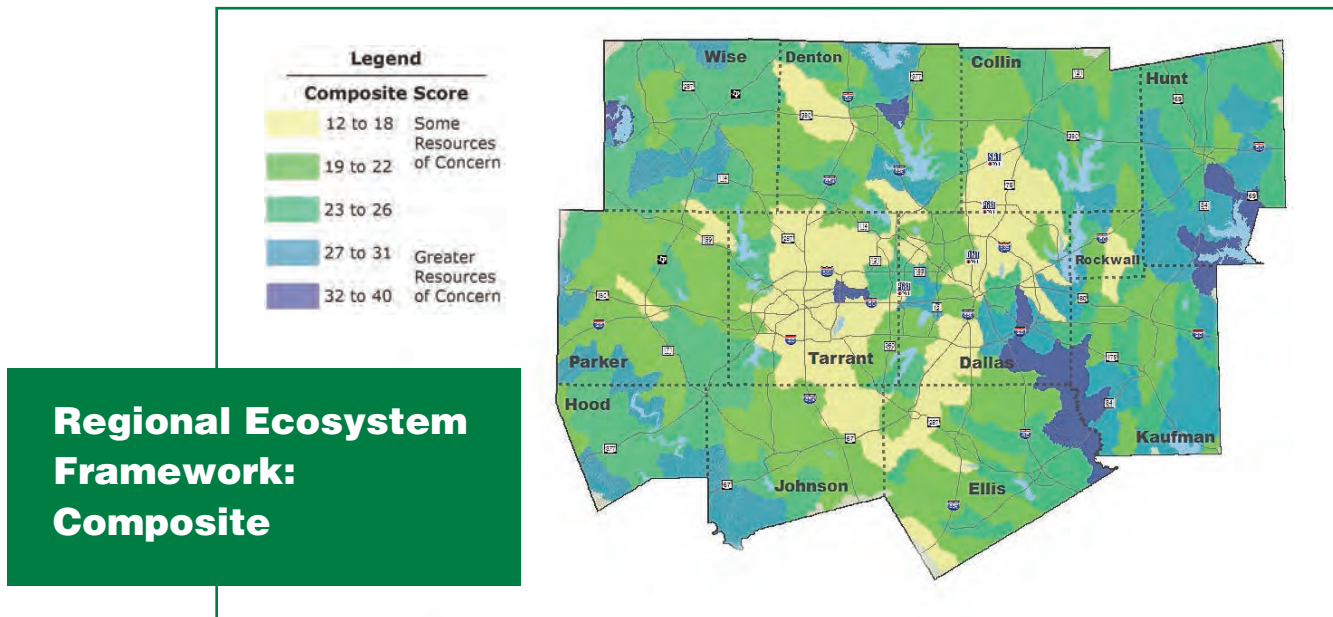
The REF was used to identify potential conservation, preservation, and mitigation sites in the planned Loop 9

corridor in southern Dallas County. The tool also was used to conduct a comprehensive environmental analysis of alternative locations for Loop 9.

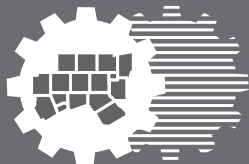
In addition, a REF website is publicly available and has been used by consultants to screen for potential environmental impacts. The website includes the Regional Ecosystem Framework and 40 additional layers of data related to the environment and historic properties.

Also, during the transportation planning process, NCTCOG consults with agencies that manage and regulate environmental resources. For example, in another past project, a stakeholder group of representatives from these agencies helped NCTCOG identify potential stream restoration sites, emphasizing sites where restoration would provide the greatest benefit to the environment. These sites could then be used to compensate for the impacts on streams created by future transportation projects.

For more information on these projects, please see [www.nctcog.org/REF](http://www.nctcog.org/REF).



## Regional Ecosystem Framework: Composite



### North Central Texas Council of Governments

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**MOBILITY 2045 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION PARTICIPATION SHEET:**

Name:	
Job Title:	Email:
Affiliation:	Phone:

*Please indicate the project(s) in which you are interested in participating or receiving more information:*

**MOBILITY 2045**

- Mobility 2045 Schedule and Proposed Projects**
- Environmental Policy Review**
- Air Quality In Mobility 2045**
  - Air Quality Communication Program
  - Air Quality Demonstration Program
  - Air Quality Enforcement Program
  - Air Quality Partnerships & Collaborations
  - Air Quality Regional Policies
  - Air Quality Technology Improvements
- Natural Environment Screening in Mobility 2045**
  - Feedback on Natural Environment Screening method
  - Feedback on minimization, mitigation strategies
  - Seeking partnerships to create continuity with transportation partners and overcome temporal disconnect between planning and construction
- Environmental Justice**
  - Technical support for partners
  - Environmental Justice Index

**ADDITIONAL NCTCOG ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**

- Sustainable Planning in the Denton Greenbelt**
  - Seeking transportation stakeholders
- Quantifying the Benefits of Environmental Stewardship**
  - Seeking Consultant Selection Committee members
  - Seeking Project Review Committee members
- Environmental Stewardship Program**
  - Education Campaign
    - Seeking transportation partners for mitigation banker webinar
- Follow Up to Mitigation Assessment**
- Environment & Development Initiatives**

**Additional Comments:**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS POLICIES

*Name:*

*Title and Affiliation:*

*Email:*

*Phone:*

*Please make edits or add comments to any of the proposed environmental policies for Mobility 2045:*

**ER3-001:** Promote livable communities by protecting, retaining, restoring/mitigating, or enhancing the region's built and natural environmental assets during planning and implementation of transportation programs and projects.

*Comments:*

**ER3-002:** Work cooperatively with regulatory and conservation partners to develop innovative approaches that meet their conservation priorities and facilitate the delivery of transportation projects.

*Comments:*

**ER3-003:** Encourage transportation programs and projects that provide appropriate access to the natural environment to support healthy lifestyles.

*Comments:*

**F3-002:** Incorporate sustainability and livability options during the project selection process. Include additional weighting or emphasis as appropriate and consistent with Regional Transportation Council policy objectives including, but not limited to, demand management, air quality, natural environment preservation, social equity, or consideration of transportation options and accessibility to other modes (such as freight, aviation, bicycle, and pedestrian).

*Comments:*

*Additional Policy Suggestions:*

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICIES

Name:

Title and Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Please make edits or add comments to any of the proposed environmental justice policies for Mobility 2045:

**EJ3-001:** Evaluate the benefits and burdens of transportation policies, programs, and plans to prevent disparate impacts and improve the decision-making process, resulting in a more equitable system.

Comments:

**EJ3-002:** Balance transportation investment across the region to provide equitable improvements.

Comments:

**PI3-001:** Meet federal and state requirements to ensure all individuals have full and fair access to provide input on the transportation decision-making process.

Comments:

**PI3-003:** Use strategic outreach and communication efforts to seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by the transportation planning process.

Comments:

**PI3-005:** Provide education to the public and encourage input and engagement from all residents on the transportation system and the transportation decision-making process.

Comments:

Additional Policy Suggestions: