

Interagency Transportation Report  
RTC / TxDOT / NTTA / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR  
October 2016

Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

Policy Bundle Workshop. The recently-adopted regional transportation plan, Mobility 2040, includes a “Policy Bundle” intended to encourage local agency support of regional transportation initiatives by offering an incentive in the form of Transportation Development Credits (TDC) that can be used for the local match on federally-funded projects. NCTCOG is beginning to work with local agencies to review their level of support for regional programs and priorities. A workshop on this program will be held prior to the November RTC meeting. It is anticipated that the City of Dallas will qualify for the program based on current support of regional priorities.

Access North Texas Update. NCTCOG staff is in the process of updating Access North Texas, an ongoing effort to coordinate public, human-services and community transportation in the 16-county region. This plan focuses on older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income individuals and transportation-disadvantaged individuals. Outreach meetings started in September in Hunt County and will continue through summer 2017. These meetings provide residents an opportunity to identify the transportation necessities in their counties and strategize how to meet the diverse transportation needs of all transit customers. The schedule for the Dallas County meeting has not been announced yet.

Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course. Accidents account for more than half of the delay experienced on the region’s highways. NCTCOG is offering a Traffic Incident Management training session for elected officials and local agency executives on Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 10 am to 12 noon in the NCTCOG Transportation Council Room (616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington TX). The course is designed to educate policymakers on the importance and benefits of a common, coordinated response to traffic incidents. Contact Barbara Walsh at 817-695-9245 to register.

BigX Events 2016. The NCTCOG Emergency Preparedness Department is sponsoring a 16-county regional training exercise from November 11-13, at more than 40 different venues and emergency operations centers. The goal is to help the region’s first responders, emergency managers, public health personnel, hospitals, and volunteer organizations better prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of natural and man-made emergencies and disasters. The RTC is arranging transportation for elected officials to observe events at selected venues in Dallas on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact Candice Forsyth at “cforsyth@nctcog.org” by October 31<sup>st</sup> to participate.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Public Hearing for I-35E/US 67 Project. TxDOT held its Public Hearing for the “Southern Gateway” project in September. They expect to receive environmental

clearance for the project in December of this year, begin construction in late 2017, and complete the project in 2021.

Project Update: I-30 and I-35E Bridges over the Trinity River. The “Horseshoe Project” began construction in October 2013 and is on schedule to be completed in the Summer of 2017. The second of the twin arches for the Margaret McDermott Bridge adjacent to the I-30 bridge lanes was completed in July. The arch supported sections of the bridge will accommodate the bicycle and pedestrian connections across the Trinity.

### North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

Project Update: President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT). The project to add a fourth lane on the PGBT between the Dallas North Tollway and Central Expressway, along the northern edge of Dallas, is almost complete. Final grading, main lane and ramp striping, and clean up are underway. Sections east and west of Dallas are still under construction.

Project Update: Dallas North Tollway (DNT). Work continues on the project to add a fourth lane on the DNT north of Belt Line and to resurface the roadway north of LBJ Freeway to the PGBT. Crews are currently installing conduit to move light poles from the median to the outside edge of pavement. Drainage construction is underway between Trinity Mills Road and Keller Springs Road. No construction takes place on the main lanes between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. on weekdays.

Board Reelects Officers / New Dallas County Board Member. In September, the NTTA Board reelected its current officers for another year. Kenneth Barr, the Tarrant County representative and former mayor of Fort Worth, will continue as the Chairman. Bill Moore, a Collin County representative, will be the Vice-Chairman. At their October meeting, Carl Sherman, the City Manager of Hutchins, was sworn in as a Board member representing Dallas County.

### Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Board to Consider Financial Plan on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Dallas Council unanimously approved a resolution on October 11<sup>th</sup> identifying its priority projects for DART’s 2017 Twenty-Year Financial Plan – construction of D2 as a subway through downtown, expedited implementation of expanded bus service targeted toward the needs of low income and transit-dependent riders, and construction of the Central Dallas Streetcar Link as well as further studies to expand the streetcar system. The resolution has been conveyed to the DART Board and they are scheduled to discuss and take action on the Financial Plan at their Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Grant for GoPass Smartphone Application. DART received \$1.2 million federal Advanced Technology Transportation Grant to integrate ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft into its GoPass ticketing app. The intent is to use technology to link public and private transportation services in a way that enhances DART’s services, particularly in non-walkable areas not well served by transit.

Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Announces Schedule Overhaul. DART is implementing schedule changes on the TRE beginning October 24<sup>th</sup> to address customer concerns. Highlights of the new schedule include:

- A 30-minute frequency between trains will be established during morning and evening rush hours; trains will operate hourly during other weekday hours;
- Friday and Saturday evening service will be extended an average of 1-2 hours to encourage travel for weekend activities;
- To accommodate early shift workers, Saturday morning departures will begin between 5 and 6 a.m., or an average of three hours prior to present service.

### Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

Monthly DRMC Meeting Cancelled. The DRMC Executive Committee did not meet in October.

TAoT Meets to Discuss Upcoming Legislative Session. Transportation Advocates of Texas (TAoT), a statewide transportation advocacy organization, met in Austin on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker was Senator Robert Nichols, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. Although the City of Dallas is not directly a member of the TAoT, it is represented on the Board through Drew Campbell, the Executive Director of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition. Their next meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)

Climate Protection Partnership with Dallas Love Field. Following DFW's Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) certification as the first Carbon Neutral Airport in North America, DFW's Environmental Affairs, met with Dallas Love Field to discuss the purpose and benefits of the program. Following the meeting, the City of Dallas Department of Aviation committed to participating in the ACA Program. DFW will support their efforts and exchange best practices, with the end goal of improving both regional and global air quality while reducing energy costs. DFW has reached out to the City of Fort Worth's Aviation Department to begin similar discussions.

DFW Passenger Growth Trends Since 2000. Since 2000, DFW growth has been slower than its competitor airports; however, in the last five years, DFW's compound annual growth rate has been second only to Seattle as increases in traffic have been driven by international travel. In FY2015, DFW welcomed over 63 million passengers.

### High-Speed Rail (HSR)

Citywide Public Meeting Scheduled on Dallas-to-Houston HSR. The City of Dallas and Texas Central Partners will host a HSR informational public meeting on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

RTC Updated on Dallas-to-Fort Worth HSR Efforts. The RTC was briefed on eight tasks that NCTCOG staff is coordinating on the DFW Core Express HSR project. The City of Irving has expressed concern about potential neighborhood impacts from an elevated HSR facility in the Trinity Railway Express corridor – NCTCOG staff will examine some alternative corridors that might have fewer impacts. In addition, NCTCOG is moving forward with three “Request for Proposals” for station area and high-speed rail alignment planning around each of the planned stations. City staff is coordinating with NCTCOG to ensure that the efforts of the City and COG are complementary.