

# Interagency Transportation Report RTC / TxDOT / NTTA / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR June 2017

## Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

Demographic Update for Mobility 2045. NCTCOG has initiated a process to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the region, and one of the first steps is to develop population and employment forecasts for the year 2045. NCTCOG has finalized control totals for the region and suballocated to each county. The draft forecasts have been distributed to local agencies for review and comment through June. The region's population is expected to grow from 7.5 million to 11.2 million by 2045. The NCTCOG Executive Board is scheduled to adopt the new demographics in August.

IH 635 East: Update on Use of Comprehensive Development Agreements (CDAs). The Texas Legislature must authorize TxDOT's use of CDAs to develop major highway projects with public-private partnerships (i.e., projects with a combination of general purpose lanes and tolled managed lanes). After a hearing on Friday, May 5th, the legislature killed a bill that would have allowed TxDOT to use a CDA to facilitate construction of I-635 East between Central Expressway and I-30 in Mesquite. Since there are indications that a federal infrastructure initiative could emphasize public-private partnerships, the RTC sent a letter asking the legislature to amend Senate Bill 312 authorizing TxDOT's functions to allow TxDOT the ability to participate in any federal transportation initiatives. Michael Morris, reiterated at the last RTC meeting that I-635 East continues to be the region's highest priority project.

## Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Best Value Proposer Selected for Southern Gateway Project. The Texas Transportation Commission selected Pegasus Link Constructors as the "Best Value Proposer" to design and construct the Southern Gateway project (I-35E and US 67) between downtown and IH 20. The next step will be to negotiate final terms of the design-build agreement with an anticipated contract execution date in July 2017. Construction will start in 2018 and is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2021.

TEXpress Lanes Open on IH 35E North of LBJ Freeway. TxDOT opened the new 18-mile TEXpress managed lanes on I-35E from I-635 in Dallas County to Swisher Road in Denton County on Monday, May 22nd. The facility features two concurrent lanes from I-635 to Valwood Parkway in Carrollton, and two reversible lanes from Valwood Parkway to the north side of Lewisville Lake. TEXpress provides drivers an option – they can choose to take the mainlanes at no cost or pay a toll to use the TEXpress lanes, which are designed to provide a reliable trip time by keeping traffic moving at 50 mph or faster. High occupancy vehicles (HOVs) can receive a fifty percent discount when using the TEXpress lanes during peak periods.

## North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

NTTA Seeks New Director of Government Affairs. Carrie Rogers Prysock, Director of Government Affairs, resigned from the NTTA to take a position as Assistant to the City Manager with the City of Dallas. She had served as the Director of Government Affairs since 2007, overseeing all local, state and federal outreach to elected officials and key stakeholders. Until the NTTA finds a replacement for Carrie, her responsibilities will be handled by Kimberly

Jackson, Senior Director of Government Affairs, and Arturo Ballesteros, Director of Legislative Affairs.

Update on DNT Work South of LBJ Freeway. The NTTA's contractor has completed temporary restriping on the DNT between LBJ and downtown, and has begun removing the median barrier at the northern end of the project. It is anticipated that it will take about a year to replace the center barrier with most of the work occurring at night.

Board Approves Expansion of TollTag Interoperability. On May 4th, the NTTA Board approved an interlocal agreement with Florida's Turnpike Enterprise which will allow North Texas drivers to use their TollTags in several southern states including Florida and Georgia. They also approved funding to modify and upgrade the Central States Hub that manages tolltag sharing in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In the next few years, it is anticipated that TollTags will be accepted for payment on tollroads across the country.

### Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Draft 2040 Transit System Plan. DART Board members received a copy of the Draft 2040 Transit System Plan on Friday, May 26th. The Board will discuss the draft plan at their June 6th Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, and is expected to approve distribution of the draft to member cities and the public at its June 27th Board meeting. Final approval is scheduled for late September. The Transit System Plan is updated about every five years.

Cotton Belt Meetings Begin. DART staff and consultants kicked off the project development process for the Cotton Belt with a series of meetings in North Dallas and other affected suburban cities. An "Area Focus Group" meeting was held on Tuesday, May 9th, at the DPD North Central Division Community Room on McCallum Blvd. About 25 residents and business representatives attended the meeting to begin a dialogue with DART on the project's design. The next week, on Monday, May 15th, DART held a North Dallas Community Meeting at Parkhill Junior High School. The community meeting used an open house format to display information about the project and allow attendees to interact one-on-one with DART staff and consultants.

Public Hearing Announced on Fare Structure Update. DART reviews and updates its fare structure every five years in accordance with its 20-year Financial Plan. On Tuesday, June 27th, DART will hold a public hearing to present a proposal to amend the DART fare structure. The proposal includes the introduction of "payment cards" that would be available at retail locations throughout the area. If approved, the changes would be phased in between November 2017 and August 2018.

Prior to the public hearing, DART will hold a series of 18 community meetings within their service area to review the proposals. The meetings within the City of Dallas are:

Monday, June 5, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. – Parkland Hatcher Station Health Center  
Thursday, June 8, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. – Fretz Recreation Center  
Thursday, June 8, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. – Dallas West Branch Library  
Monday, June 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. – Hampton-Illinois Branch Library  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. – Eastfield College - Pleasant Grove Campus  
Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. – Highland Hills Library  
Monday, June 26, 2017, at 12 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. – DART HQ Board Room

## Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

June Meeting Features Representative Phillips. The guest speaker at the June 2nd meeting was State Representative Larry Phillips (R - Sherman). Mr. Phillips was first elected to the House in 2003, and serves as the Chairman of the House Committee on Insurance, and as a member of the House Committee on Transportation.

## High-Speed Rail (HSR)

NCTCOG Works on Alignment Options for Dallas-Fort Worth Core Express HSR. In addition to the Texas Central Partners (TCP) high speed rail project between Dallas and Houston, TxDOT has been managing a project development process that would connect the TCP project to Arlington and Fort Worth. TxDOT's project, called the Dallas Core Express, had begun to focus on alignments using the Trinity Railway Express Corridor as the rail line leaves downtown Dallas and heads west toward Fort Worth. In response to concerns raised by the City of Irving, NCTCOG staff has undertaken a review of potential east-west alignments, including the Union Pacific RR corridor, for possible inclusion in the final environmental review document.