

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

Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

Federal Funding Available to Expand Public Transit Options. The RTC announced the availability of \$5.5 million for two federal programs – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities and Job Access/Reverse Commute Projects. The “Enhanced Mobility” Program provides specialized transportation for seniors or the disabled when public transportation is insufficient or unavailable. The “Job Access” Program provides funds to support projects that transport individuals with low incomes to/from employment activities. Pre-proposal workshops will be held on March 8th and 10th to explain eligibility requirements, application process, selection criteria and timeline. The deadline to submit a proposal is April 7th.

People Mover Workshop. NCTCOG hosted a People Mover System Workshop on June 27, 2014 to gauge interest in the use of automated people mover systems in the region and to identify potential activity centers that could be effectively served by the technology. At the time, the type of people mover envisioned would be like the Skylink system at DFW Airport. The Medical District area, Love Field, and the Midtown development areas were identified as potential locations in Dallas. Prior to their regular business meeting on February 9th, the RTC held a workshop to cast a vision for a new kind of “modern” people mover that could take advantage of advances in automated vehicle technology to design a system that would be less expensive to construct and operate, as well as provide more flexible operations. NCTCOG staff is working with the City of Dallas to issue a People Mover RFP to begin planning and preliminary engineering for the Midtown development area.

Preparation of 2018-19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is the federally-required work program for the transportation planning staff at NCTCOG. The document is adopted in full every two years and amended from time to time. The emphasis of the UPWP is on regional transportation and related air quality planning activities. A portion of the UPWP identifies tasks to assist local governments and transportation agencies with technical assistance for planning. NCTCOG staff has begun preparation of UPWP for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. They have asked area agencies to identify transportation planning assistance needs and submit them by March 24th.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Update on IH 635 LBJ East Public Hearing. TxDOT’s public hearing for the LBJ East project (from US 75 to IH 30), held on January 31st, showed strong public support for the proposed improvements, including the use of tolled managed lanes between US 75 and Royal/Miller. The Dallas City Council’s resolution of support for the project approved on February 8th, was delivered to the TxDOT Dallas District Office for inclusion in the official public hearing record.

Texas Freight Mobility Plan. In response to requirements in the federal FAST Act, TxDOT is updating their statewide freight plan which was originally adopted in January 2016. TxDOT staff and consultants are conducting workshops around the state to gather input from the freight industry, local governments and citizens. The DFW workshop was held on February 8th at the NCTCOG offices. One aspect of the update is to recommend additional highway segments to

be identified on the National Freight Network; this would make them eligible to receive federal funding for freight-related improvements. Virtually all the limited-access highways in the City of Dallas are already included on the National Freight Network. The updated plan must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration by December 4th.

North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

DNT Resurfacing and Center Barrier Replacement. The NTTA will begin an improvement project on the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) between Harvest Hill Road (near LBJ) and IH 35E in April. The two-year project will include replacing the tollway's center barrier and pavement. To minimize traffic impacts, the improvement work will be conducted during off peak hours at night and during some weekends. Some temporary lane and ramp closures may be needed. NTTA staff will be coordinating with affected Council members to help keep citizens informed.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

2040 Transit System Plan Briefing. The full DART Board was briefed February 14th on the status of the 2040 Transit System Plan. The latest work has included an evaluation of nine candidate corridors for new or extended rail transit service. DART staff identified two corridors for further study – a West Dallas line from downtown to Loop 12 and an LBJ/Inwood line stretching from Northwest Highway in Garland, west to the Park Central and Midtown areas before connecting to the Cotton Belt near the DNT. Since the Transit System Plan is updated every five years, DART staff is recommending that the agency focus on bus service plan enhancements, implementation of the D2 Subway, Cotton Belt, and Streetcar Central Link projects, and further study of the West Dallas and LBJ corridors. The Board is expected to consider approval of the 2040 Plan by late spring.

DART Begins Review of Fare Structure. The DART Board's Budget and Finance Committee was briefed on January 24th on a process to review and update its fare structure. DART reviews its fares approximately every five years. DART staff will develop recommendations and conduct an equity analysis for Board consideration. Public meetings will be scheduled in June, and Board approval is anticipated by August 2017. Fare increases are likely to be phased in over a 12-month period.

Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

Harvey Kronberg Featured Speaker. The February 3rd DRMC meeting featured Harvey Kronberg, publisher and editor of the Quorum Report (QR). The QR is a non-partisan newsletter focusing on Texas politics and government. It was founded in 1983 and is the oldest political newsletter in Texas. Mr. Kronberg has been the Quorum's publisher since 1989.

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW Airport)

Airport Board Elects New Officers. At their February 2nd meeting, Matrice Ellis-Kirk was sworn in as the newest City of Dallas appointee to the DFW Airport Board, replacing Curtis Ransom. Following the swearing-in, Mayors Mike Rawlings and Betsy Price nominated the slate of officers to include: Sam Coats for Board Chair, Bill Meadows for Vice Chair, and Regina Montoya for Secretary. All three were unanimously approved by the Board.

TEXRail Station Construction. The Airport Board approved a resolution on February 2nd authorizing the CEO to execute a contract providing for the construction of the TEXRail Station

at Terminal B. TEXRail is expected to be completed by late 2018 and will provide direct commuter rail service from downtown Fort Worth to DFW Airport.

DFW to Add Refrigeration Facilities to Serve Cargo Customers. Cargo and logistics customers will soon have better opportunities to ship perishable items through one of the world's premier international gateways. DFW Airport will install a cold chain facility that will be operated by AirLogistix USA. Expected to be operational this summer, the state-of-the-art transfer facility will give DFW the ability to precisely control warehousing temperatures for shipments of pharmaceuticals, flowers and fresh foods.

High-Speed Rail (HSR)

RTC Requests Federal Funding Support for High-Speed Rail. The RTC approved a letter to new USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao requesting \$2 billion from the USDOT and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to support construction of a high-speed rail line between Dallas and Fort Worth. This level of funding is the anticipated gap funding that the public sector would need to contribute to attract a private sector partner to construct, operate and maintain this HSR link.