

Interagency Transportation Report RTC / TxDOT / NTTA / DART / DRMC September 2015

Regional Transportation Council

Clean Fleet Call for Projects. The RTC approved a Clean Fleets North Texas 2015 Call for Projects. This call for projects will provide about \$2.5 million for public and private fleets in the 10-county ozone nonattainment area. Project submittals are due October 23rd, and must address three emphasis areas – high-emitting vehicles, idling and energy/fuel consumption. The City must adopt the RTC's updated Clean Fleet Policy in order to be eligible for funding; EBS will be briefing Council committees on the policy update in September.

Reconfirmed Support for I-635 East HOV Express Project. The conversion of the interim HOV lanes to managed toll lanes on I-635 east of US 75 is currently under construction. Since the state legislature did not provide enabling legislation to pursue a CDA to construct the permanent improvements because of objections to tolling, the RTC took action to reconfirm their support for the current project. The resolution of support also urged the early implementation of all noise walls in the corridor.

Assistance to the City of Dallas on Trinity Parkway Design Charrette Recommendations. The RTC was briefed on the NCTCOG's intent to use previously approved funds to help the City and NTTA evaluate recommendations from the Trinity Parkway Design Charrette. No action was required from the RTC.

Regional Transit Vehicle Loaner Program. The RTC approved a program that will loan out small transit vehicles that were originally purchased by NCTCOG for non-traditional transit providers. These are vehicles that have been replaced with newer vehicles, but still have some useful life. The agency receiving the vehicles takes over all operation and maintenance costs.

New Transportation Reporting Requirements to the Legislature. Texas House Bill 20 requires the Texas Transportation Commission to develop rules and implement performance-based planning and programming that will enable the executive and legislative branches of government to assess TxDOT progress toward its goals. The RTC is required to develop a 10-year plan for the use of funding allocated to the region, and to establish criteria for project recommendations.

Orientation for New RTC Members. An orientation for new RTC members has been scheduled for Friday, September 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Transportation Council Room at NCTCOG.

Live Streaming of RTC Meetings. Senate Bill 1237 requires the NCTCOG to record meetings of the RTC and make them available live via the internet. Although the RTC has recorded its meetings since 2012, the September 10th meeting will be the first meeting to be streamed live.

*Next RTC meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2015

Texas Department of Transportation

I-345 Bridge Rehabilitation. TxDOT is moving forward with plans to rehabilitate the I-345 Bridge between I-30 and Woodall Rogers, at the eastern edge of the CBD. A pre-bid meeting was held

on August 19th for interested contractors. The project has an estimated cost of \$28.6 million which is substantially less than the initial estimates, and is expected to take about 19 months to complete.

CityMAP (Dallas City Center Master Assessment Process). CityMap is a TxDOT-sponsored effort to examine the relationship of the urban core to highway system around and near the CBD. The goal is to develop strategies that reflect the community's vision for transportation, urban design, and economic development along these corridors. The process so far has focused primarily on data gathering which has included extensive interviews with individuals and organizations. The process will be actively integrated with other planning efforts for the core.

Southern Gateway. TxDOT held four community meetings in June and July for the Southern Gateway Managed Lanes project. They are continuing to reevaluate and modify the project schematic in response to concerns raised by the City of Dallas and the community. There will be additional opportunities for public involvement this winter, and a formal public hearing anticipated for the spring of 2016.

SM Wright. Construction contracts for Phase I of the SM Wright project were let in September 2014 – this phase adds the direct connect ramps between US 175 (CF Hawn) and I-45, and provides capacity improvements along I-45 to accommodate the additional traffic. Phase II will reconstruct SM Wright as a low speed, pedestrian friendly, landscaped arterial roadway. This phase will begin construction by 2018 after Phase I is completed.

Horseshoe Project. The four abutment pedestals for the Margaret McDermott Bridge across I-30 are complete. Crews will be installing the center span for the eastbound signature bridge arch later this month. The project is on track to be completed in early 2017.

LBJ Freeway - I-635 West. The LBJ Express project is more than 98% complete, and the eight general purpose highway lanes are now open to traffic.

North Texas Tollway Authority

Dallas North Tollway (LBJ Freeway to George Bush Turnpike). The NTTA will be moving lighting from the median to the outside, resurfacing the pavement with an asphalt overlay, and adding a continuous fourth lane in each direction from Belt Line, north to the Bush Turnpike. On August 6th, an NTTA Board committee approved a recommendation to move forward with advertising for construction and construction management services on the project. Capacity improvements are also planned for the section north of the Bush Turnpike in Plano.

President George Bush Turnpike (I-35E to SH 78). The 26-mile project will add a fourth lane in each direction. The first phase started construction in May 2015 between the Dallas North Tollway and US 75, and the westbound lane between Renner Road and US 75. The second phase is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2016. The project will be completed in 2019.

Sam Rayburn Tollway (Business 121 to US 75). The procurement process for environmental review and preliminary design is underway. The project will add a fourth lane in each direction, and is scheduled to begin in 2018 and be completed in 2022.

TrafficMate. The NTTA has launched a pilot program for a new phone app that provides real time, audible traffic condition alerts for all NTTA system roadways. The alerts are customized to notify the user of traffic conditions based on their location. The free "TrafficMate" app is currently available for both iPhone and android devices.

*Next NTTA Board Committees meetings: Thursday, September 3, 2015

Dallas Area Rapid Transit

DART 2040 Transit System Plan. DART is taking a phased approach to updating its System Plan. Phase 1 is underway and focuses on the bus network through a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) process. The COA combines a detailed analysis of every bus route, a market and travel pattern analysis, and a public outreach effort that will culminate in the adoption of a 10-year bus transit plan toward the end of 2015. Phase 2 will evaluate longer-term projects, such as commuter rail, light rail, streetcar and bus rapid transit, and will be completed in 2016.

Policy Regarding Fixed Route Service Beyond Service Area Boundary. The DART Board is contemplating an update to Policy III.07 that would allow DART to contract with non-member cities to provide transit services other than rail, and to encourage them to eventually seek membership in DART. The policy must be carefully crafted to be fair to member cities who have paid into DART for many years, while discouraging non-member cities from contracting for services from agencies outside our region, or from forming new transit agencies, which make it more difficult to provide coordinated services.

*Next DART Board meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition

Proposition 7 Resolution – Transportation Funding. At their August 7th meeting, the DRMC unanimously approved a resolution supporting passage of Proposition 7 in November. Proposition 7 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would increase state funding for transportation by an estimated \$3 billion per year through the use of general sales tax and motor vehicle sales tax revenues. If approved by the voters, the additional funds cannot be used for toll roads or transit.

*Next DRMC Executive Committee meeting: Friday, September 11, 2015
Speaker: Texas State Senator Bob Hall (District 2)