The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 1 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The following members or representatives were present: Ron Brown, Elba Garcia (representing Mike Cantrell), Sheri Capehart, Maribel Chavez, Gary Cumbie, Lee Dunlap, Rudy Durham, Andy Eads, Charles Emery, Gary Slagel (representing Mark Enoch), Salvador Espino, Gary Fickes, Robert Franke, Sandy Greyson, Bill Hale, Leonard Heathington (representing Roger Harmon), Kathleen Hicks, Vonciel Jones Hill, John Horn, Clay Jenkins, Ron Jensen, Jungus Jordan, Sheffie Kadane, Pete Kamp, Geralyn Kever, Linda Koop, Kimberly Lay, Stephen Lindsey, Matthew Marchant, Maher Maso, Bill McLendon, John Monaco, Mike Nowels, Mark Riley, Rick Stopfer, Oscar Trevino, William Velasco, Bernice Washington, Duncan Webb, and Kathryn Wilemon.


1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the November 10, 2011, RTC meeting were approved as submitted in Reference Item 1. Kathryn Wilemon (M); Clay Jenkins (S). The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda:** The following items were included on the Consent Agenda.

   2.1. **Clean School Bus Program 2012 Cal for Projects:** A motion was made to approve staff to open a 2012 Clean School Bus Program Call for Projects to seek additional applications in order to fully expend remaining grant funds as detailed in Reference Item 2.1.

   2.2. **Clean Construction Equipment Call for Projects:** A motion was made to approve staff funding recommendations under the Clean Construction Equipment Call for Projects as detailed in Reference Item 2.2.

   Rob Franke (M); Oscar Trevino (S). The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report:** Michael Morris recognized Commissioner Bill Meadows for his continued service on the Texas Transportation Commission and his partnership with the region. Commissioner Meadows thanked RTC for its partnership and regional efforts, and expressed his appreciation to Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) employees who make the partnership a success. Mr. Morris also recognized Bob Day and Rich Morgan for their service on RTC.

Mr. Morris provided an overview of the Director of Transportation report. At the most recent Clean Cities Conference, NCTCOG’s video was recognized for best audio and video mixing. A segment of the video was shown at the meeting and can be viewed in Electronic Item 3.1. Information regarding the Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Biodiesel Workshop was provided as Electronic Item 3.2 and air quality funding opportunities were provided in Reference Item 3.3. Reference Item 3.4 contained a copy of the Governor’s revised nonattainment designation for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and Electronic Item 3.5 contained an example of a publicly accessible plug-in electric vehicle charging station to be located at NCTCOG in the near future. Mr. Morris noted that NCTCOG is partnering with Fort Worth Independent School District 5th graders to help NCTCOG design the cover of Progress North Texas 2012. An art contest will be held and students are being asked to create artwork showing how they think people will travel around the region in 2035. The winner will have his/her artwork displayed on the cover of Progress North Texas 2012. The December 2012 public meeting flyer was provided as Electronic Item 3.6, recent correspondence was provided as Electronic Item 3.7, and recent new articles were provided as Electronic Item 3.8.

4. **Funding to Support US Army Corps of Engineers Section 408 Review:** Dan Lamers presented information regarding efforts to fund US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 408 reviews. A USACE Section 408 permit is required for all projects that may impact the integrity of flood control structures. As part of the permitting process, an independent review of the process must be completed. USACE is now allowed to accept funds from non-federal public entities to expedite Section 408 permits. Currently, a total of $3.55 million in Surface Transportation Program-Metropolitan Mobility (STP-MM) funding is available in the 408 review program for the Trinity Parkway and associated projects. Mr. Lamers noted that staff has learned that the Dallas Horseshoe project (IH 30 and IH 35E bridges crossing the Trinity River) will receive Proposition 12 funds for construction. Since the project will be moving quickly and will require 408 permitting, staff proposed that RTC move $3.55 million in STP-MM funds currently in the 408 review program to the Dallas Horseshoe Project. Regional Toll Revenue funding, currently on the IH 30 and IH 35E bridge project will then be moved to the Section 408 permitting program. Funding amounts will not be changed and TxDOT will provide the State match for the project. A motion was made to approve the exchange of $3.55 million in STP-MM funding with $3.55 million in RTR funding to expedite the Dallas Horseshoe project (IH 30 and IH 35E bridges crossing the Trinity River) Section 408 review. In addition, action includes approval for staff to administratively amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to add/change these projects. Total funding amounts for the Section 408 review program and the Dallas Horseshoe will remain unchanged. Linda Koop (M); Vonciel Jones Hill (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Executive Session:** The Regional Transportation Council went into Executive Session at the beginning of Agenda Item 5, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, to discuss 1) discuss the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospects to locate in the region under Section 551.087 of the Act, and 2) to consult with its attorney on legal matters
under Section 551.071 of the Act. All members of the public and non-essential staff were requested to leave the meeting room at 1:48 pm. The Metroplex Conference Room and first floor common areas were available to those wishing to remain until RTC reconvened in open session following Agenda Item 5. Consistent with the Open Meetings Act, a certified agenda was created as a record of the proceedings.

6. **Consideration of Items Discussed during Executive Session:** The RTC reconvened in open session at 3:19 pm. There was no discussion on this item.

7. **Follow Up to Transit Workshop:** Jungus Jordan noted that the transit workshop held prior to the meeting had been successful and that a workshop will be scheduled in February 2012 to discuss future legislative items.

8. **Cotton Belt Innovative Finance Initiative Report and Phase II:** Tom Shelton provided an update on Cotton Belt Innovative Finance Initiative (IFI) efforts. Staff has completed the Final Report of Phase I efforts for the Cotton Belt IFI. A copy of the final report will be available at [www.nctcog.org/ifi](http://www.nctcog.org/ifi) on Friday, December 9, 2011. Mr. Shelton noted that RTC action was not anticipated. Staff has been working with transit authority partners in determining what may be the scope for the Phase II effort. Phase II process scenarios include two different models: 1) public sector funded efforts, and 2) private sector funded efforts. The public sector effort will be a slower, less defined effort. The private sector effort would be more defined. The present consultant that was procured for Phase I efforts has shown initial interest to provide a private investment proposal to fund the Phase II effort. Staff expects to have additional details regarding this initiative in the next 30-60 days following the meeting. Rob Franke asked if a privately funded effort would still allow RTC to select how the project will proceed. Michael Morris noted that a privately funded effort would still allow the work plan to be managed by RTC.

9. **Super Bowl Executive Summary and Financial Close:** Michael Morris provided a report on the Super Bowl Executive Summary and financial close of transportation-related items from the recent Super Bowl. A copy of the Executive Summary was provided as Electronic Item 9.1. He encouraged members to read page 12 of the summary which addresses 12 things that could be improved for future events. In addition, Reference Item 9.2 includes a financial summary of transportation costs for the Super Bowl. On December 12, 2010, the NCTCOG Executive Board approved a budget for costs not to exceed $450,000. A total of $309,894 was actually used, with the remaining balance of RTC Local funds being returned.

10. **Observed Change in 2000-2010 Census Population Data:** Arash Mirzaei discussed the official population changes in the region between 2000 and 2010. He noted that Census 2010 data was available to the region and that staff was available to assist members interested in reviewing Census data. He discussed traffic count efforts in the region, along with results of the 2010 Census. During the review of traffic count data, staff noticed unexpected decreases in traffic counts. In addition, it was also determined that although the region as a whole has grown more than 23 percent, the growth among small areas within some counties has decreased. He highlighted the potential impacts of this inconsistent growth within the region, specifically related to roadway capacity. Additional details of results will be reviewed and brought before RTC in the future and a copy of the presentation was e-mailed to members.

11. **Legislative Update:** Amanda Wilson provided an update regarding legislative items. Since the November RTC meeting, an appropriations bill for the remainder of the fiscal year was
passed that included transportation. Funding levels for the highway portion of the bill have been reduced from last fiscal year by approximately $2 billion, leaving approximately $39 billion for highways and a similar amount for transit as the previous fiscal year. It does include funding for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery program but zeros out high speed rail funding. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over highways, did mark up and approve a two year surface transportation bill that they are calling MAP 21-Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century. All the details are out and staff is reviewing the language. It appears that there are a lot of changes to core funding and to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). One of the changes is an issue RTC took a position on that suggests that the minimum thresholds for an MPO be increased to 200,000. The Senate is still in need of $12 billion in funding for this bill, and staff has received information that the Finance Committee has determined some potential sources of funding such as moving various funds back into the highway trust fund and expanded oil exploration in Alaska and the outer continental shelf. The Finance Committee would need to take action on this and two other committees would need to finish sections before the full bill can be brought to the Senate floor. The House recently announced that it will not be acting on its surface transportation bill until late January or February 2011. As noted at previous meetings, transportation reauthorization expires on March 31, 2012, so this will be an important deadline of which to be aware. Updates will be provided to members at the January RTC meeting.

12. **Progress Reports:** RTC attendance was provided as Reference Item 12.1, the Local Motion was provided as Electronic Item 12.2, and the North Texas Transportation Connection was provided at the meeting as Reference Item 12.3.

13. **Other Business (Old or New):** There was no discussion on this item.

14. **Future Agenda Items:** There was no discussion on this item.

15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012, 1 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.