MINUTES
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
January 13, 2011

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) met on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at 1 pm in the Transportation Council Room of the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The following members or representatives were present: Ron Brown, Elba Garcia (representing Mike Cantrell), Sheri Capehart, Maribel Chavez, Gary Cumbie, Bob Day, Lee Dunlap, Rudy Durham, Andy Eads, Charles Emery, Mark Enoch, Salvador Espino, Gary Fickes, Robert Franke, Bill Hale, Leonard Heathington (representing Roger Harmon), Kathleen Hicks, John Horn, Joe Jaynes, Ron Jensen, Ron Jones, Voncie Jones Hill, Jungus Jordan, Pete Kamp, Geralyn Kever, Sheffie Kadane (representing Linda Koop), Mike Leyman, Matthew Marchant, Maher Maso, Bill McLendon, Pauline Medrano, Stan Pickett (representing John Monaco), Rich Morgan, John Murphy, Ron Natinsky, Mark Riley, Rick Stopfer, John Tatum, Oscar Trevino, Bernice Washington, Roy Brooks (representing Glen Whitley), and Kathryn Wilemon.


1. Minutes: The minutes of the December 9, 2010, RTC meeting were approved as submitted. John Murphy (M); Rick Stopfer (S). The motion passed unanimously.

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

2.1 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications and Resolution for Regional Toll Revenue Projects Modifications: A motion was made to approve revisions to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in Reference Item 2.1.1 and RTC Resolution R11-01 outlining desired Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) action on Regional Toll Revenue (RTR)-funded projects in Reference Item 2.1.3, distributed at the meeting. RTC Resolution on Recent Modifications to Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Toll Revenue Funded Projects (R11-01). The attachments provided in Reference Item 2.1.3 (handed out at the meeting) were revised since the mailing. Reference Item 2.1.4 contained updated information for project changes approved in Reference Item 2.1.1.
2.2. North Central Texas Clean Construction Equipment: 2011 Call for Projects: A motion was made to approve the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to administer the proposed North Central Texas Clean Construction Equipment: 2011 Call for Projects seeking applications from interested public and private sector fleets detailed in Reference Item 2.2.

2.3. Value Pricing Funding Opportunity: A motion was made to approve two potential proposals for submittal under the Federal Highway Administration Value Pricing Pilot Program.

Sheffie Kadane (M); Kathleen Hicks (S). The motion passed unanimously.

3. Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report: Michael Morris provided an overview of the Director of Transportation report. He presented guests from CSR in China and CEIC in Taiwan. He noted a potential partnership with TxDOT to move forward on three public-private partnerships to be discussed with Allen Clemson in the near future. In addition, he highlighted remembrance of Tom Vandergriff and Dan Petty, and their contributions to the region. Electronic Item 3.1 included information regarding air quality vehicle funding, and Electronic Item 3.2 provided the status of the nonattainment area reclassification. He also noted that the 2010 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard determination has been delayed until July 2011. In addition, he discussed revenue earmarks and noted that members would be updated regarding any impacts that may be determined. December 2010 public meeting minutes were provided at the meeting as Reference Item 3.5. Mr. Morris noted that NCTCOG is coordinating with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to conduct a major Household Travel Survey in the region. The result of this survey provides the basis for analysis of trip pattern and travel behavior in the region. In addition, he thanked TxDOT for providing the 2009 Saturation Counts for 19,000 locations in the NCTCOG area. Ron Natinsky requested that RTC members be notified by e-mail as information becomes available. Historic monthly data related to gas prices and several regional transportation performance measures is available at www.nctcog.org/trans/data/gasprices/. Mr. Morris also discussed National Environmental Policy Act reviews of SH 170 and IH 35W, noting that staff will work with NTTA and TxDOT for resolution. RTC may need to determine if funding to help NTTA resolve these environmental studies is a possibility. He noted that NCTCOG is continuing work to determine the cost to implement Web broadcasting and the coordination of truck routes related to the Barnet Shale. In addition, the Regional Coordination Committee is working with cities around the Joint Naval Air Station to integrate school districts into the planning process. Mr. Morris also discussed potential tour routes for the Union Pacific’s legendary steam locomotive and invited members to vote for a route by the January 17, 2011, deadline. He noted that the TxDOT report to the TTC by the TxDOT Restructure Council has been released, and that the Innovative Finance Initiative meeting on January 18, 2011, with city managers is being postponed due to conflict with the service for Dan Petty. Staff is following recent congressional action on appropriations and authorization and updates will be provided to members. Recent correspondence was provided as Electronic Item 3.3 and recent news articles were provided in Electronic Item 3.4.

4. Clean School Bus Program Call for Projects Recommendations and Next Steps: Carrie Reese presented staff recommendations for the North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program 2010 Call for Projects. Eligible applicants included schools, school districts, and school bus operators located in the 16-county NCTCOG service area with eligible projects achieving cost-effective reductions in nitrogen oxides (NOx). Funding includes
approximately $189,739 remaining from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) On-Road Heavy-Duty Diesel Grant Program, approximately $16,575 remaining from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program, and approximately $475,586 from the EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) 2009. Applications were received from 4 entities for 17 school buses totaling over $500,000. However, some applications were incomplete or included ineligible activities. Staff recommended funding for a total of approximately $179,316 in projects as detailed in Reference Item 4. In addition, staff recommended that a 2011 Call for Projects be opened to expend remaining funds. A motion was made to approve staff recommendations to fund approximately $179,316 in projects through the North Central Texas Clean School Bus Program 2010 Call for Projects in Reference Item 4 with funds to be expended in the following order: 1) EPA ARRA, 2) TCEQ SEP, and 3) EPA DERA (2009), and to permit staff to open a 2011 North Central Texas Clean School Bus Call for Projects. Roy Brooks (M); Kathryn Wilemon (S). The motion passed unanimously.

5. **SH 161 Regional Toll Revenue Funding and Strategic Partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation: Draft Project Listings:** Christie Jestis provided an overview of the SH 161 RTR Funding Initiative. Staff anticipated requesting final action at the meeting. However, funding issues regarding the SH 161 financial close extension and resolution of the LBJ funding balance have delayed the availability of funding for many projects. Staff requested that the RTC consider projects in a multi-phase approval process. Ms. Jestis noted RTC approval in December 2010 of immediate project changes. In addition, she discussed current staff recommendations to approve the SH 161 RTR county distribution in Reference Item 5.1, clarification of funding on the defederalization projects approved in December 2010 in Reference Item 5.4, cost savings in Reference Item 5.2, cost increases in Reference Item 5.3 (except for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Pass Program), remaining defederalizations and advancements to earlier fiscal years in Reference Item 5.4, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) operations project in Reference Item 5.5, and the DART HOV operations project in Reference Item 5.6. Remaining projects will be submitted for RTC approval in February or March 2011. Staff also recommended approval to make these changes to the TIP/(State Transportation Improvement Program) STIP administratively through the current TIP cycle. Discussion occurred regarding defederalization of projects and the impact to projects. Mark Riley requested the timeframe in which the western portion of the region would receive similar information. A motion was made to approve the SH 161 RTR county distribution contained in Reference Item 5.1, cost savings on existing projects in Reference Item 5.2, request for cost increases in Reference Item 5.3, defederalization and advancements in Reference Item 5.4, the DART HOV project highlighted in bold in Reference Item 5.5 and Reference Item 5.6. The motion included approval to make the changes administratively in the TIP/STIP. Ron Jensen (M); Kathleen Hicks (S). The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement in Mega Region:** Michael Morris presented information regarding potential partnership agreements with major metropolitan regions surrounding the Dallas-Fort Worth region. He noted the importance of initiating discussions with potential mega region partners specifically addressing high-speed and higher-speed rail and rail connections. Mr. Morris requested approval for staff to continue to work with major metropolitan regions to establish Memorandums of Understandings across multi-state areas in an effort to communicate and engage Departments of Transportation regarding integrated planning for the future. He reviewed anticipated future mega regions in the United States, the vision for high-speed rail in America, and potential rail considerations for Mobility 2035. In addition, he reviewed current mega region partnerships and potential future partnerships. Discussion occurred regarding the partnership agreements and Mr.
Morris noted that agreements may differ according to the needs of each region. A motion was made approving NCTCOG staff to continue efforts with major metropolitan regions to establish Memorandums of Understandings across multi-state areas regarding integrated planning for the future. Bernice Washington (M); Sheffie Kadane (S). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **SH 161 Update**: NCTCOG staff made no presentation. Bob Day, NTTA, noted that TxDOT and NTTA continued to discuss the TIFIA loan for SH 161 and that NTTA remained hopeful. RTC members requested that an e-mail be sent to members once SH 161 reaches financial close.

8. **TxDOT Fiber Sharing Agreement**: Natalie Bettger provided an overview on the progress to establish a regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) fiber network in partnership with TxDOT and other regional partners. In 1992, agencies within the region began to deploy ITS devices and fiber to communicate. A high-level design of the regional network was completed in 2006 and staff began to engage emergency operation centers regarding the possibility of sharing this resource. In 2008, the region began to make connections into the regional network between the cities and TxDOT. The region is currently working on making connections to agencies that have not already been connected. The fiber network will utilize existing public sector fiber links. Agencies will be asked to dedicate two strands of fiber to the regional system and the region will provide one connection per agency. This network would allow agencies to exchange data, video, and video conferencing with adjacent cities, transit agencies, and toll authorities in addition to TxDOT. Ms. Bettger outlined the various parts of the regional connection and each agency’s proposed responsibility. NCTCOG anticipates signing a regional network agreement with TxDOT to establish a single agreement for the region. TxDOT would then approve the connection diagrams for each agency as connections are made. NCTCOG would then develop partnerships with interested local entities to establish resource sharing abilities, as well as provide support and funding for the operation and maintenance of the system. It is anticipated that approximately $350,000 will be necessary to implement and maintain the network. RTC has programmed approximately $800,000 through previous call for projects which would require a 20 percent local match. Staff would like to work with entities to collect the local match as funds are needed to repair and maintain the network and will also work to identify other partner funding. Connections for Super Bowl related entities are expected in February 2011, with other agencies to begin connections in March 2011.

9. **Mobility 2035**: Dan Lamers discussed the development of Mobility 2035, focusing on infrastructure maintenance, management and operations, and growth/development/land-use strategies. Approximately $98.8 billion of revenue has been identified for Mobility 2035. This total is approximately $46 billion less than the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan. As the region moves forward, it will be important to be strategic in order to maintain and maximize the existing system through shared maintenance, system management, demand management, safety, sustainability, and land-use efforts. Staff continues to work with partner agencies to determine strategic infrastructure investments for rail and roadway recommendations for approval in March 2011. Any changes to recommendations, as well as air quality conformity results will be presented in February 2011 for discussion. Ron Natinsky recommended that members contact Dan Lamers with any questions or changes prior to the February 10, 2011, RTC meeting to avoid delays. Discussion occurred regarding high-speed rail opportunities in the IH 30 corridor and Hunt County, its reflection in the national plan, and the need to preserve the corridor for future investments. Michael Morris indicated that staff would review opportunities and discussed high-speed rail, passenger rail, and goods movement in the region. Mr. Lamers noted that the intent of
Mobility 2035 is to identify current opportunities, as well as preserve future opportunities, and that these types of discussions will be included in Mobility 2035 to ensure that the region is able to include opportunities that may arise.

10. **US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Agreement Update**: Dan Lamers discussed the RTC approved funding agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) allocating $500,000 to fund USACE positions to provide expedited review of 404 permits for regional transportation priority projects. Initial priorities of the program include the Trinity Parkway toll road, Trinity River Corridor Plan complementary projects, CDA projects, and regional transportation priority projects. To date, 27 projects have received permits and many have been withdrawn as a result of efforts to determine that permits were unnecessary. Partner agencies have expressed a high level of satisfaction with the program, and all performance measures have exceeded expectations for the second year. The current agreement with USACE is due to expire in October 2011. However, in meetings with the USACE it has been determined that the funding will likely expire in June 2011. Approximately 25 projects are expected to remain unpermitted if the program expires in June 2011. The USACE has received an extension for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 for Section 214 agreements to operate through the next six years. Mr. Lamers discussed RTC’s interest in extending the program for the life of the WRDA authorization. Staff will work over the next few months to identify a source of funds available to continue funding for USACE review of 404 permits and expects to request RTC approval in the upcoming 30-60 days.

11. **Progress Reports**: RTC attendance was provided as Reference Item 11.1, STTC attendance and minutes as Electronic Item 11.2, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee attendance was provided as Electronic Item 11.3, the Local Motion as Electronic Item 11.4, and the North Texas Transportation Connection as Reference Item 11.5.

12. **Other Business (Old or New)**: John Tatum requested that a handout regarding the Sustainability of Regional Transportation and Land Use be provided to members at the meeting and discussion occurred regarding the future of the region. A future agenda item will be developed discussing the constraint of transportation planning, funding, and investments and the impact to the sustainability of the region.

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

14. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2011, at 1 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

   The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.