AGENDA
Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, April 14, 2011
North Central Texas Council of Governments

1:00 pm  Full RTC Business Agenda

1:00 – 1:05  1. Approval of the March 10, 2011, Minutes
☑ Action  □ Possible Action  □ Information Minutes: 5
Presenter: Ron Natinsky, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the March 10, 2011, minutes contained in Reference Item 1 will be requested.
Background: N/A

1:05 – 1:05  2. Consent Agenda
☑ Action  □ Possible Action  □ Information Minutes: 0

2.1. 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications and Resolution for Regional Toll Revenue Projects Modifications
Presenter: Christie Jestis, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of revisions to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be requested, along with a resolution outlining desired Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) action on Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funded projects.
Background: Revisions to the 2011-2014 TIP are provided as Reference Item 2.1.1 for RTC consideration. Administrative amendments are provided for information in Reference Item 2.1.2. These modifications have been reviewed for consistency with the air quality conformity determination and financial constraint of the TIP. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) reviewed and recommended RTC approval of the revisions at its March 25, 2011, meeting. In addition, Reference Item 2.1.3 is an RTC resolution that transmits desired TTC action for RTR-funded projects.

2.2. FY2010-FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program Modifications
Presenter: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG
Item Summary: RTC approval of modifications to the FY2010 and FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be requested.
Background: The UPWP is required by federal and State transportation planning regulations and provides a summary of the transportation and transportation-related air quality planning tasks to be conducted by Metropolitan Planning Organization staff. The FY2010 and FY2011 UPWP identifies the activities to be carried out between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2011. Amendments to this document are being proposed to reflect new initiatives, project modifications and funding adjustments.

To access the agenda and linked reference/electronic items as one file, please use the following link:
The proposed amendments were presented to the public during the March 14-15, 2011, public meetings and are provided as Reference Item 2.2. STTC has recommended RTC approval.

1:05 – 1:20  3. Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report
☐ Action  ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 15
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

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1:20 – 1:30  4. Top Ten Items the Federal Government Can Do to Improve Efficient Transportation Delivery: White Papers
☑ Action ☐ Possible Action ☐ Information Minutes: 10
Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will present ten white papers, provided as Reference Item 4, on various topics that would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of transportation project delivery. These initiatives would require a change in federal legislations. Chair Micah has requested ideas for the upcoming national transportation legislation.

Background: Judge Whitley requested at the March 10, 2011, RTC meeting that staff develop a series of proposed improvements for RTC action and for communication to our National Transportation Association. Michael Morris will summarize these proposed strategic initiatives.
5. **Web Broadcasting**

- **Action**: ☑️
- **Possible Action**: ☐
- **Information**: ☐
- **Minutes**: 5

**Presenter**: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

**Item Summary**: Staff will request RTC action to consider a three-month pilot test for web broadcasting of RTC meetings. This request is different than the one presented at the last meeting.

**Background**: At the March 10, 2011, RTC meeting, staff provided a status report on the web broadcasting options for RTC meetings. At the meeting staff provided a handout of the options and informed RTC this item would be placed on the April 2011 agenda for discussion and action. Reference Item 5 provides a list of web broadcasting options and staff recommendations. Staff is recommending that RTC take action on a three-month pilot test to provide access to RTC meetings via the Internet for public view. This would not be done in real time. During the three-month pilot period, staff will monitor website hits to track utilization and present results to the RTC for feedback.

6. **Mobility 2035**

- **Action**: ☑️
- **Possible Action**: ☐
- **Information**: ☐
- **Minutes**: 5

**Presenter**: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

**Item Summary**: Staff will ask RTC to reaffirm its March 10, 2011, approval of Mobility 2035.

**Background**: On March 10, 2011, RTC adopted Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas. Due to the addition of two significant roadway projects in February 2011, staff determined that an extension to the public involvement process into April was prudent to allow extra time for public comment. The extended public involvement period concludes on April 13, 2011. At this point no significant input on recommendations has been received from the public.

7. **Legislative Update**

- **Action**: ☑️
- **Possible Action**: ☐
- **Information**: ☐
- **Minutes**: 15

**Presenter**: Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

**Item Summary**: Staff will present an update on important federal and State legislative initiatives. In addition, Councilmember Capehart has requested an update on pipeline legislation. There are two bills by Senator Wendy Davis that staff is currently tracking. SB 103 relates to the installation, maintenance, operation and relocation of pipeline facilities. SB 106 relates to the condemnation of municipal property for and regulation of pipeline operations. Both have been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources but have not been heard in Committee as of April 4, 2011.

In addition, two initiatives are gaining momentum. The bottom-up approach to add the three public-private partnerships is moving ahead very well. The RTC thanks the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition and the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition for their assistance in these endeavors. As anticipated, positive
revenue enhancements are advancing on the Senate side.

Background: Both the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress are currently in session and are expected to consider major pieces of transportation legislation.

1:55 – 2:00 8. Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Loan Approval for SH 161
☐ Action  ☐ Possible Action  ☑ Information Minutes:  5
Presenter: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG
Item Summary: TxDOT, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT), and NTTA have come to agreement on the terms for the $400 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for SH 161. NTTA expects financial close for SH 161 to occur at the end of April. RTC will be updated on the latest information.

Background: NTTA, TxDOT, and USDOT have been negotiating since the Summer of 2010 on the terms of a TIFIA loan for SH 161. It appears that all substantive issues have been resolved and NTTA is proceeding with the steps necessary to achieve financial close and make the up-front payment of $458 million, plus interest for SH 161 by the end of April. The TIFIA loan is necessary to ensure the financial feasibility of both SH 161 and the Southwest Parkway/Chisholm Trail projects. At its last meeting, RTC extended the timeframe for NTTA to make the up-front payment to May 13, 2011.

2:00 – 2:10 9. Resolution of Regional Toll Revenue Cash Flow
☐ Action  ☐ Possible Action  ☑ Information Minutes:  10
Presenter: Christie Jestis, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will brief the RTC on RTR cash flow questions and discuss a process to ensure clear understanding for all parties when the RTC borrows funds to expedite projects.

Background: Until NTTA and TxDOT repay the RTC for loans made on SH 161, the President George Bush Turnpike Eastern Extension, and Trinity Parkway projects, NCTCOG and TxDOT staff need flexibility to administratively adjust out-year funds of approved RTR projects in TxDOT minute orders. The Texas Transportation Commission uses these minute orders to authorize RTR funds for projects approved by the RTC. TxDOT staff may not allow the minute orders to show both the loaned projects and the projects that will spend the repaid funds once the loans are paid back at the same time. Therefore, staff may need a mechanism to communicate this position clearly. As loans are repaid, the out-year projects will need to encumber the repaid funds. This administrative policy position will assist NCTCOG staff in managing cash flow to ensure that projects are not stalled or delayed unnecessarily due to cash flow.
2:10 – 2:20 10. **High Speed Rail Application: Importance of Mega Region Partnerships**

- **Action:**
- **Possible Action:**
- **Information:**
- **Minutes:** 10

**Presenter:** Michael Morris, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff has made recent progress in the development of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with surrounding metropolitan areas developing partnerships in the coordination of passenger rail efforts. **Reference Item 10.1** is an MOU with the Austin-San Antonio area, represented by the Lone Star Rail District, recently approved by its Board for proposed ratification by the RTC. **Electronic Item 10.2** is a draft MOU with the Oklahoma City region under review and soon to be finalized for signature. At the request of RTC, TxDOT submitted two applications on April 4, 2011, in response to a USDOT announcement for funding requests to award the funds returned recently by the State of Florida. The applications are for 1) further tracking of improvements to the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) corridor for Higher Speed Rail operations (see correspondence in **Electronic Item 10.3**), and 2) planning and environmental for the Houston to DFW Higher Speed Rail Corridor. **Electronic Item 10.4** contains Houston area and DFW area support for this high speed rail application.

**Background:** The RTC has recently taken action instructing staff to pursue agreements with major metropolitan areas surrounding the Dallas–Fort Worth region in order to coordinate passenger rail investments that are integrated into the new Mobility 2035. At the time of this mail out, there is a proposed signing ceremony for RTC members and representatives from the Austin/San Antonio region on April 18 in the Capitol region. There will be an opportunity to have a contingent of the RTC represent our region at the ceremony.

2:20 – 2:30 11. **US Department of Transportation Regulatory Review Comments**

- **Action:**
- **Possible Action:**
- **Information:**
- **Minutes:** 10

**Presenter:** Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** The RTC will be briefed on comments to the USDOT on its regulatory review process.

**Background:** The USDOT is in the process of conducting a review of existing regulations to evaluate their continued validity and effectiveness. In accordance with Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review," USDOT issued a notice and request for comments. Specifically, USDOT is seeking comments on development of a plan, with a defined schedule, to review existing regulations and specific candidate regulations to be evaluated. **Reference Item 11** contains staff comments provided to the USDOT.

2:30 – 2:40 12. **US Army Corps of Engineers Agreement for 404 Permitting**

- **Action:**
- **Possible Action:**
- **Information:**
- **Minutes:** 10

**Presenter:** Dan Lamers, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff will provide an update on the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Memorandum of Agreement and the extension of this
successful pilot program. Current funding for this program will be exhausted in June 2011. Due to the program's success, staff is pursuing funding strategies with partner agencies to extend this agreement and continue to expedite 404 permits for regional transportation projects.

Background: In March 2008, the RTC approved up to $500,000 to fund USACE positions to provide expedited review of 404 permits associated with regional transportation priority projects. In October 2008, NCTCOG and the USACE signed a Memorandum of Agreement under authority of Section 214 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA) that will expire in October 2011.

2:40 – 2:50 13. Super Bowl Update

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 10

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a report on a few transportation-related items regarding the recent Super Bowl.

Background: NCTCOG helped to develop the bidding documents for the recent Super Bowl. In addition, NCTCOG staff volunteered in assisting with the transportation coordination for the recent event. As chair of the Transportation Action Team, Michael Morris will highlight results of this recent effort.

14. Progress Reports

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information

Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided as Reference Item 14.

- RTC Attendance (Reference Item 14.1)
- STTC Attendance and Minutes (Electronic Item 14.2)
- Local Motion (Electronic Item 14.3)
- North Texas Transportation Connection (Reference Item 14.4)

15. Other Business (Old or New): This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

16. Future Agenda Items: This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of future interest before the Council.

17. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 1 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.