Meetings

June 1, 8:30 am
TRTC Meeting
Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center
1001 Jones St.

June 2, 1 pm
Regional Transportation Council
NCTCOG Transportation Council Room
616 Six Flags Drive

June 3, 11 am
DRMC Meeting
North Texas Tollway Authority
5900 W. Plano Parkway
Plano, TX 75093

June 14, 10:30 am
Public Meeting
Tarrant County College Opportunity Center
5901 Fitzhugh Ave.
Fort Worth TX 76119

June 14, 6:30 pm
Public Meeting
Duncanville Library
201 James Collins Blvd.

June 15, 6:30 pm
Public Meeting
Christopher A. Parr Library
6200 Windhaven Parkway
Plano, TX 75093

June 22, 9:30 am
35W Coalition Quarterly Meeting
Speedway Club
Texas Motor Speedway
3545 Lone Star Circle
Fort Worth, Texas 76177

June 24, 1:30 pm
Surface Transportation Technical Committee
NCTCOG Transportation Council Room

Texas receives $15M for high speed rail

A proposed high speed rail line from the Dallas-Fort Worth area to Houston will receive $15 million for preliminary engineering and environmental studies, the US Department of Transportation announced last month. The grant was made possible by Florida’s rejection of $2 billion in high-speed rail funding originally awarded to the state for a line between Tampa and Orlando.

Trains could eventually transport passengers between D-FW and Houston at speeds of up to 150 mph. This funding will help Texas continue to enhance its rail networks.

The region has also benefited recently, including $34 million awarded for congestion relief and safety improvements at Fort Worth’s Tower 55, one of the nation’s busiest at-grade rail intersections. A $5.6 million planning grant will help move along high speed rail between Oklahoma City and South Texas.

Texas also received $4 million in high speed stimulus funds to aid signal-timing for vehicles and pedestrians at several at-grade crossings along Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer, and approximately $7 million from the 2009 appropriations bill was awarded for double-tracking a portion of the Trinity Rail Express (TRE) passenger rail line in Fort Worth.

Texas’ application for the latest round of high speed rail funding was among nearly 100 requests from 24 states, the District of Columbia and Amtrak requesting a total of about $10 billion dollars. TxDOT originally requested approximately $43 million for two projects — the Dallas-Fort Worth-to-Houston corridor and safety improvements on the TRE corridor between Dallas’ Union Station and the T&P Station in Fort Worth.

For more information about Local Motion topics, contact Brian Wilson at 817-704-2511 or bwilson@nctcog.org. Visit www.nctcog.org/trans for more information on the department.
Southwest Parkway rebranded as Chisholm Trail Parkway

The toll road that will run from Fort Worth to Cleburne has a new, shorter name. Southwest Parkway/Chisholm Trail Parkway is now simply Chisholm Trail Parkway. Governor Rick Perry signed a bill last month that extends the name of the Johnson County portion of the planned road to the entire 27.6-mile segment. The Johnson County stretch of the road has been known as Chisholm Trail Parkway for several years.

The North Texas Tollway Authority, which will build the road seen as an alternative to the highly congested Interstate Highway 35W, is expected to change the name this month. Chisholm Trail Parkway could open by early 2014 after being planned for decades. NTTA has agreed to build Chisholm Trail and finish State Highway 161 in Dallas County.

On the Web: www.ntta.org

AirCheckTexas celebrates replacement of 25,000th vehicle

The AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program replaced its 25,000th high-polluting vehicle in May, showing it continues to play an important role in the region’s effort to improve air quality. The program offers vouchers to drivers meeting the income criteria whose vehicles meet requirements such as failing the emissions portion of the state inspection. The vouchers are used to buy newer vehicles or repair the existing ones.

The newer-car vouchers are worth up to $3,000 ($3,500 for hybrids); the repair voucher will pay costs up to $600. Since 2002, the program has led to more than $364 million in vehicle sales in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The nine-county Dallas-Fort Worth area is in nonattainment for ozone pollution and relies on AirCheckTexas and other programs to help it meet the federal government’s ozone standard.

To see if you qualify, visit www.nctcog.org/airchecktexas.
Green Line highlighted in Mobility Matters

The latest issue of Mobility Matters features an article on Dallas Area Rapid Transit’s new Green Line, which offers rail service between Carrollton and Pleasant Grove. Find out what completion of the line means for the overall passenger rail vision of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Green Line will connect with the Denton County Transportation Authority’s A-train in Carrollton when it opens later this month.

The spring issue of Mobility Matters also includes a discussion of the Super Bowl XLV transportation plan. And the issue is truly multimodal, as it also offers articles about the Dallas Bike Plan and aviation outreach materials recently published by the NCTCOG Transportation Department.

On the Web: www.nctcog.org/mobilitymatters

UTA students create clean-air PSAs

Air North Texas has several new public service announcement videos, thanks to students from the University of Texas at Arlington who developed the PSAs from start to finish.

Five videos, including one in Spanish, offer clean-air tips and promote the Air North Texas campaign. For more information, contact Whitney Vandiver at wvandiver@nctcog.org.

Remember to help recognize Clean Air Action Day on July 7 by doing one extra thing to benefit air quality between 7 am and 7 pm. Examples of ways you can help are available at www.airnorthtexas.org, where you can also view the PSAs.
Funds available for clean construction

Time is running out for entities interested in funding from NCTCOG for projects that reduce emissions from diesel construction machinery. The deadline to apply for the North Central Texas Clean Construction Equipment 2011 Call for Projects is 5 pm June 3.

Applicants may request up to 25 percent funding for equipment replacements, 75 percent for engine repowers and 100 percent for verified retrofits or engine upgrades. Private- and public-sector entities may apply for this funding aimed at reducing emissions from non-road construction equipment. Visit www.nctcog.org/aqfunding or contact Roxann Nayar at 817-608-2378 or rnayar@nctcog.org.

Schools awarded funds for cleaner buses

The Regional Transportation Council in May approved funding to one school and four school districts seeking cleaner bus fleets. Bishop Lynch High School and Castleberry, Chico, Ennis, and Lipan Independent School Districts will receive a total of $391,856 for the replacement of 12 high-emitting school buses. The five buses purchased by Chico ISD will be powered by propane. Projects will be completed by early 2012.

The funding is a result of the latest round of the Clean School Bus Call for Projects. NCTCOG would like to thank these participants for their commitment to reducing emissions and protecting children’s health. For more information, visit www.nctcog.org/CleanSchoolBus or contact Whitney Buehrle at 817-608-2328 or wbuehrle@nctcog.org.

Prepared in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation and the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the opinions, findings and conclusions presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration or the Texas Department of Transportation.