Monthly RTC Update
A brief summary of May RTC actions.

Southwest Parkway
Southwest Parkway Rebranded Chisholm Trail Parkway
The toll road that will run from Fort Worth to Cleburne has a new, shorter name.

AirCheckTexas
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.

Cotton Belt
Cotton Belt Funding Proposal Shows Promise
The effort to bring passenger rail service to the 62-mile Cotton Belt corridor could soon move to its next phase.

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Requests for Proposals
NCTCOG Seeks Proposals, Issues Calls for Projects.

Events
June and July RTC Meetings
The RTC meeting is June 2, 2011, at 1 pm.

Sign up to receive e-mails about upcoming Regional Transportation Council public meetings, publications and information.
Monthly RTC Update

May RTC Action Summary

- Approved the deferral of the concession portion of the up-front payment for State Highway 161 to permit staff to negotiate with TxDOT on the declaration of these funds as local funds to be eligible for the Pass-Through Finance Program.

- Approved an innovative financing strategy to fund the Interstate Highway 30 high-occupancy vehicle/managed lane project and FM 1171 project. The innovative financing strategy was developed to secure these funds as local funds to fulfill program requirements.

- Approved additional funds to complete the existing US Army Corps of Engineers memorandum of agreement with NCTCOG to expedite permit approvals for regional transportation projects. The pilot program expires in October but current funding will be exhausted in June.

All meeting information can be found at www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc/previous.asp.

Southwest Parkway

Southwest Parkway Rebranded 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.

Chisholm Trail 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.

For additional information, visit www.ntta.org.

AirCheckTexas

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 qualifying drivers whose household incomes and vehicles meet requirements, such as failing the emissions portion of the state inspection, vouchers that can be used to buy new 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.
Cotton Belt Funding Proposal Shows Promise

The effort to bring passenger rail service to the 62-mile Cotton Belt corridor could soon move to its next phase. For several months, the North Central Texas Council of Governments has analyzed potential financing options, and a preliminary report indicates there are enough public- and private-sector options to make rail service viable along the route, which stretches from southwest Fort Worth to Plano and Richardson.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, or The T, asked NCTCOG to identify financing options that could fund service to the corridor. Historically, North Texas passenger rail service has been funded with sales taxes, but with cities in the region at or near the state-mandated sales tax cap, alternatives must be pursued in many cities that have voiced a desire for rail service. The region's transit agencies must review the findings before the report is delivered to the RTC.

Air North Texas

UT Arlington Students Create Air North Texas 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. There are five videos, including one in Spanish, that offer clean-air tips and promote the Air North Texas campaign. The PSAs can be viewed on the Air North Texas website, www.airnorthtexas.org.

For more information, contact Whitney Vandiver at wvandiver@nctcog.org.

Requests for Proposals

NCTCOG Seeks Proposals, Issues Calls for Projects

The North Central Texas Council of Government’s Transportation Department periodically seeks written proposals from consultants for conducting studies and reviews, implementing programs, collecting and analyzing data, developing software, or creating plans. Notices of these requests for proposals will be posted on the NCTCOG website as they become available. In addition, NCTCOG periodically issues calls for projects in which cities, counties and other entities may apply for funding under various grant programs.

For additional information, visit www.nctcog.org/trans/admin/rgp/.

Events

June and July RTC Meetings

The RTC meeting is June 2, 2011, at 1 pm. The July RTC meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2011, at 1 pm. Agenda material will be posted one week before the meeting at www.nctcog.org/trans/committees/rtc.