AGENDA

Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, August 11, 2011
Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas
221 East Las Colinas Boulevard, Irving, TX, 75039
Mandalay Ballroom

2:45 pm  Legislator Recognition Ceremony (Invitation Enclosed)
3:00 pm  Full RTC Business Agenda

3:00 – 3:05  1. Approval of July 14, 2011, Minutes
☑ Action  ☐ Possible Action  ☐ Information Minutes:  5
Presenter: Jungus Jordan, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the July 14, 2011, minutes contained in Reference Item 1 will be requested.
Background: N/A

3:05 – 3:05  2. Consent Agenda
☑ Action  ☐ Possible Action  ☐ Information Minutes:  0

2.1. Federal Functional Classification System Amendments
Presenter: Dan Lamers, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Staff will request Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of a series of amendments to the currently approved Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS).
Background: Staff is currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on a set of proposed FFCS amendments that are located in multiple counties within both the Dallas and Fort Worth TxDOT Districts. While inclusion in the FFCS is based on a roadway’s purpose and functioning capabilities, it is also often used to determine eligibility for federal funding. Amendments to the FFCS occur as the function of a roadway changes, or as roadways need to be added due to construction, new developments, and shifts in demographic trends. The proposed modifications in the Fort Worth District are necessary to accommodate projects previously selected for funding by RTC and include facilities in North Richland Hills in the Snider Street area, the proposed SH 170 western extension, and in Haltom City in the area of the proposed backage road system associated with the North Tarrant Express Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA). The proposed modifications in the Dallas District are necessary to accommodate the District’s 2012 sealcoat resurfacing program. RTC was briefed on the proposed modifications at its July meeting and STTC has recommended favorable action by the RTC for these amendments. Reference Item 2.1 contains a listing and maps of the proposed modifications.

To access the agenda and linked reference/electronic items as one file, please use the following link:
3:05 – 3:20  3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

- **Action**
- **Possible Action**
- **Information**

**Minutes:** 15

**Presenter:** Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Standard RTC Policy Regarding the Mail Out (Reference Item 3.1)
2. Meeting in Houston Regarding High Speed Rail, August 8, 2011
3. Diesel Idle Reduction Program (Electronic Item 3.2)
4. Air Quality Funding Initiatives (Electronic Item 3.3)
5. 2011 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 3.4)
6. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Events (Electronic Item 3.5)
7. Texas Attorney General Lawsuit Against AirCheckTexas Dealer (Ken Kirkpatrick) (Electronic Item 3.6)
8. Quarterly Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) Status Report on Awarded Funds: Homework for RTC Members (Reference Item 3.7)
9. Regional Vehicle-for-Hire Program
10. Mobility Plan Fact Sheet (Handout)
11. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 3.8)
12. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 3.9)
13. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)

3:20 – 3:30  4. **Continue to Pursue Land Use/Transportation Interface**

- **Action**
- **Possible Action**
- **Information**

**Minutes:** 10

**Presenters:** Karla Weaver and Michael Morris, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** RTC approval to pursue transportation/land use type projects as part of the national US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant will be requested. Specific entities within the region may be adjusted based on local interest.

**Background:** In May 2010, RTC approved projects to be submitted for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Six projects were proposed including: Reverse the Trend: School-Inner City Housing Integration, Regional Silo Busting and Coordination of Investment Strategies and Effective Infrastructure Investments, Efficient Housing and Transportation Investments: Transit Oriented Development/Mixed-Use Job/Housing Balance, Landbanking Program Design for Mixed-Use, Regional Capacity Building: Land Use-Demographic-Transportation Modeling Scenarios, and Coordination of Affordable Housing and Transit Options for Special Needs Populations. Staff is asking for RTC approval to resubmit for this competitive process. Reference Item 4 refines the projects that were developed previously for this submittal.

3:30 – 3:40  5. **Federal Legislative Update**

- **Action**
- **Possible Action**
- **Information**

**Minutes:** 10

**Presenter:** Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff will present a draft update of the RTC Principles for the Federal Surface Transportation Authorization for RTC approval. The original principles were approved in February 2010 and several issues have come up since that time that the RTC may wish to address. Reference Item 5 shows the previous position...
with additions noted by underlined text. Please note the item on Positive Train Control that was approved by the RTC in July 2011 is shown as an approved part of the authorization principles.

Background: Committees in both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate are expected to release draft transportation authorization bills in the fall. The bills are expected to reduce funding for transportation, consolidate programs, and focus on preservation.

3:40 – 3:50  6. **Dallas Streetcar Project Approval of Additional Funding and Status Report on Environmental Clearance**

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Presenter: Tom Shelton, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Significant achievement has recently been accomplished with environmental clearance received from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), setting a new precedent for the region in expedited schedule completion. In addition, the Dallas-Oak Cliff Streetcar project recently received an additional $3 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding to further improve the quality of service. Staff will brief the RTC on the success of the project’s partnership, details of these recent major achievements, and the project’s next steps.

Background: The Dallas-Oak Cliff Streetcar Project is the recipient of $23 million in TIGER grant funding and $15.8 million in RTR funds as previously approved by RTC. Through a partnership of FTA, the City of Dallas, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), and NCTCOG, the project will introduce a 1.6 mile streetcar starter segment from Dallas Union Station to Methodist Hospital in North Oak Cliff. A press release on this initiative is included in Electronic Item 3.9.

3:50 – 4:00  7. **Regional Outer Loop**

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Presenter: Jeff Neal, NCTCOG

Item Summary: Staff will provide a briefing on the draft recommendations and conclusions of the Regional Outer Loop Corridor Feasibility Study.

Background: Since the summer of 2007, staff has been studying the need and feasibility for a 240-mile-long Regional Outer Loop around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area, and has identified potential corridor alternatives for evaluation. The study was developed in coordination with TxDOT, and was conducted with valuable input and interaction from elected officials, local government staff, transportation partners, resource agencies, and the public. The draft recommendations and findings discussed in this briefing will be incorporated into a Final Report and Executive Summary to be completed later this year. Electronic Item 7 summarizes the findings of this study.
8. **Eligibility of Regional Toll Revenue in the Western Subregion**
   - **Action**: 
   - **Possible Action**: 
   - **Information**: Minutes: 10
   - **Presenter**: Ken Kirkpatrick, NCTCOG
   - **Item Summary**: The RTC will be briefed on the use of RTR funds in the western subregion as authorized by Senate Bill 19.
   - **Background**: Under Texas Transportation Code Chapter 228, payments from the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) for SH 121 and SH 161 could only be spent in the TxDOT district in which the project was located. Historically, this has been the legal impediment to spending RTR funds in the western subregion. However, during this past Legislative Session, Senate Bill 19 was passed, which authorized RTR funds to be spent in the “region” in which the project is located. This now permits RTR funds to be spent in both the eastern and western subregions. In the future, RTC will be asked to swap RTR funds for other transportation funds as a way to expedite projects throughout the region.

9. **Mobility 2035, 2011-2014 TIP, and Air Quality Conformity: The Most Important Letter We Can Receive**
   - **Action**: 
   - **Possible Action**: 
   - **Information**: Minutes: 5
   - **Presenter**: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG
   - **Item Summary**: Transportation conformity determination for Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas and changes to the 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program – 2011 Amendment has been received.
   - **Background**: On March 10, 2011, a local conformity determination was granted by the Regional Transportation Council for Mobility 2035 and the 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This action allowed staff to initiate a formal interagency consultation process with our State and federal partners, anticipating a US Department of Transportation (USDOT) conformity determination by June 12, 2011. On July 14, 2011, USDOT granted a favorable conformity determination for Mobility 2035 and the 2011-2014 TIP. This determination letter confirms that transportation projects and programs in Mobility 2035 and TIP are consistent with air quality goals and can move forward towards implementation. The USDOT conformity letter is provided as Electronic Item 9. More information regarding transportation conformity may be found on the following webpage: www.nctcog.org/conformity.

10. **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery III Funding Opportunity**
    - **Action**: 
    - **Possible Action**: 
    - **Information**: Minutes: 10
    - **Presenter**: Christie Jestis, NCTCOG
    - **Item Summary**: Staff will brief the Council on the third round of the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program, TIGER III, recently announced by USDOT.
    - **Background**: In July 2011, USDOT announced the TIGER III Discretionary Grants Program for capital projects. Reference Item 10.1 contains a brief overview of the TIGER III program, as well as a
timeline for the application submittal process. Electronic Item 10.2 is a copy of the federal register announcement for the TIGER III Discretionary Grant program. Staff has been working with regional partners to develop a strategic list of projects to be submitted for the upcoming TIGER III Discretionary Grants Program application. The resulting project list will be brought to the RTC next month for consideration.

11. **Progress Reports**
   - Action  
   - Possible Action  
   - Information  

   Item Summary: Progress Reports are provided as Reference Item 11.

   - RTC Attendance ([Reference Item 11.1](#))
   - STTC Attendance and Minutes ([Electronic Item 11.2](#))
   - Local Motion ([Electronic Item 11.3](#))
   - North Texas Transportation Connection ([Reference Item 11.4](#))

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

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

14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Council is scheduled for *Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.*