AGENDA
Regional Transportation Council
Thursday, September 8, 2011
North Central Texas Council of Governments

11:00 am  Multimodal/Intermodal/High Speed Rail/Freight Subcommittee
1:00 pm   Full RTC Business Agenda

1:00 – 1:05  1. Approval of August 11, 2011, Minutes
☑ Action □ Possible Action □ Information Minutes:  5
Presenter: Jungus Jordan, RTC Chair
Item Summary: Approval of the August 11, 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. Clean Construction Equipment Call for Projects Funding Recommendations
Presenter: Carrie Reese, NCTCOG
Item Summary: Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approval of staff funding recommendations under the Clean Construction Equipment Call for Projects (CFP) will be requested.
Background: The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) reopened the Clean Construction Equipment 2011 CFP on July 13, 2011. Applications are being collected and scored on a monthly basis until funds are exhausted. Staff will provide a summary of requests received, staff evaluations, and funding recommendations. More information is available at www.nctcog.org/construction. Details are provided in Reference Item 2.1. Staff will be available to provide additional information or answer any questions.

2.2. Close Out of Environmental Protection Agency Recovery Act Projects
Presenter: Carrie Reese, NCTCOG
Item Summary: RTC approval of staff recommendations to close out Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects will be requested.
Background: NCTCOG received funding from EPA through the ARRA National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program for an On-road Heavy-Duty Diesel Replacement and Repower project ($2,188,195) and a SmartWaySM Technology Upgrade project ($1,550,157). As the projects near a completion deadline of September 30, 2011, staff is requesting approval to prioritize unused revenues towards NCTCOG administration costs. Any remaining funds will be awarded to project partners as they become available.

To access the agenda and linked reference/electronic items as one file, please use the following link:
Unused revenues have currently been identified only within the SmartWaySM Technology Upgrade project (approximately $44,466), which is proposed to be split between administrative and subgrantee project costs. Staff also requests authorization to implement this close-out process as needed to finalize both EPA ARRA projects in accordance with funding agency requirements. Details are provided in Reference Item 2.2. Staff will be available to provide additional information or answer any questions.

1:05 – 1:20  3. **Orientation to Agenda/Director of Transportation Report**

- Action  [ ] Possible Action  [ ] Information  Minutes:  15
- Presenter:  Michael Morris, NCTCOG

1. Recognition of Joe Jaynes, Collin County Commissioner and Former RTC Member
2. Review of Earlier Multimodal/Intermodal/High Speed Rail Freight Subcommittee Meeting-Chair Rob Franke
3. Comments from RTC Members Regarding the RTC Mail Out Policy (Attached and Presented at the August RTC Meeting) (Reference Item 3.1)
4. AirCheckTexas Operational Plans for FY2012 (Electronic Item 3.2)
5. Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Advancing the Choice Event (Electronic Item 3.3)
6. 2011 Ozone Season Update (Electronic Item 3.4)
7. Diesel Idling Reduction Program (Electronic Item 3.5)
8. Air Quality Funding Update (Electronic Item 3.6)
9. FY2013-FY2016 Transportation Improvement Program Development Schedule
10. August Public Meeting Minutes (Electronic Item 3.7)
11. Public Meeting Flyer (Electronic Item 3.8)
12. United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 404 Agreement (Electronic Item 3.9)
13. Cotton Belt Innovative Finance Initiative Update
14. 2011 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference (Electronic Item 3.10)
15. Recent Correspondence (Electronic Item 3.11)
16. Recent News Articles (Electronic Item 3.12)
17. Transportation Partners Progress Reports (Handout)

1:20 – 1:30  4. **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery III**

- Action  [ ] Possible Action  [ ] Information  Minutes:  10
- Presenter:  Christie Jestis, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff will seek RTC approval on projects that will be submitted for funding through the third round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER III) Discretionary Grant Program recently announced by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT).

**Background:** In July 2011, US DOT announced the TIGER III Discretionary Grant Program for capital projects. Electronic Item 4.1 is a copy of the federal register announcement. Staff has been working with regional partners to develop a strategic list of projects to be submitted for the upcoming TIGER III Discretionary Grant.
Program application. **Reference Item 4.2** contains an overview of the TIGER III process, as well as the potential projects to be submitted on behalf of RTC.

**1:30 – 1:45  5. Proposition 12 Funding Partnership: Advancing Project Construction**

**Action**  ☒  **Possible Action**  ☐  **Information**  ☐  **Minutes:**  15

**Presenter:** Christie Jestis, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff will update RTC on the latest developments regarding Proposition 12 funds being awarded in the region. A list of projects proposed for Proposition 12 funding will also be presented.

**Background:** Staff has been working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to secure the region’s share of Proposition 12 funds authorized by the Legislature. In June 2011, staff presented a draft list of projects to propose to TxDOT and the Legislature. Since that time, NCTCOG, TxDOT, and local agencies have coordinated extensively to finalize the project listing. **Reference Item 5** contains a finalized list of projects proposed for funding using Proposition 12 funds.

**1:45 – 1:55  6. Designation of the 2010 Urbanized Boundary**

**Action**  ☒  **Possible Action**  ☐  **Information**  ☐  **Minutes:**  10

**Presenter:** Dan Kessler, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff will present the status of the 2010 Urbanized Area soon to be designated by the US Census Bureau with a recommendation for RTC action.

**Background:** In conjunction with the decennial census the US Census Bureau sets Urbanized Areas (UZA) across the United States, which in turn are used by both Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in determining funding allocations to each area for various highway and transit programs. In November 2010, RTC provided comments to the Census Bureau regarding the proposed criteria for designating the 2010 UZA, including support for combining the multiple urbanized areas of Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth, Denton-Lewisville, and McKinney into a single urbanized area. Despite early indications from the Census Bureau that they were in support of this approach, the Census Bureau has now published in the August 24, 2011, Federal Register, final criteria stating that they for the first time are no longer considering the combining of areas. The Surface Transportation Technical Committee recommended that staff develop correspondence to be transmitted on behalf of RTC to the US Census Bureau and the North Texas Congressional delegation restating the region’s long-standing concerns regarding the criteria being used to determine urbanization and further opposition to the Census Bureau’s latest decision to not combine areas. **Reference Item 6** contains draft correspondence to the US Census Bureau and the North Texas Congressional delegation.
1:55 – 2:00  7. **Legislative Update**

- **Action**: □
- **Possible Action**: ☑
- **Information**: Minutes: 5
- **Presenter**: Amanda Wilson, NCTCOG

**Item Summary**: RTC will hear an update on federal legislative initiatives. Congress is expected to consider extensions of The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bills this month, as they expire in September. The federal gas tax and FY2012 appropriations are also expected to be debated.

**Background**: The United States Congress has recently returned from its August recess and is expected to consider major pieces of transportation legislation in September.

2:00 – 2:10  8. **Texas Department of Transportation/North Central Texas Council of Governments Survey Schedule**

- **Action**: □
- **Possible Action**: ☑
- **Information**: Minutes: 10
- **Presenter**: Arash Mirzaei, NCTCOG

**Item Summary**: As part of the regional travel data collection program to maintain and enhance our analytical capabilities, NCTCOG and TxDOT will start two major surveys in the region in October 2011. The first survey is a workplace trip survey that involves sampling about 1,000 business establishments and interviewing employees and visitors of those locations. As part of this survey, a few special generator locations (e.g., shopping malls) are also being studied. The second survey is a commercial trip survey with the goal of creating trip patterns of the commercial trips in the region by vehicle type.

**Background**: In coordination with TxDOT, regional data collection responsibilities were divided between the two agencies to use the available funds efficiently and effectively. NCTCOG is responsible for creating the household trip as part of the regional data collection. With this arrangement, TxDOT has significantly more funding for the commercial side of travel data. The funding for these surveys is provided by TxDOT for approximately $1.6 million as part of the State data collection plan. NCTCOG and TXDOT collectively developed the methodology and sampling plan of the surveys. TxDOT administrates the surveys and NCTCOG puts the final product together for use in the regional model.

2:10 – 2:20  9. **Local Initiative Project/Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program East-West Swap**

- **Action**: □
- **Possible Action**: ☑
- **Information**: Minutes: 10
- **Presenter**: Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

**Item Summary**: Staff is coordinating with Tarrant and Dallas Counties in the transfer of up to $1.1 million Local Initiative Project (LIP) funding in exchange for the equivalent in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding, respectively.

**Background**: LIP funding is used by Dallas County to operate its nationally recognized Emissions Enforcement Program. This program
contributes to the reduction of State inspection stations performing improper inspections in addition to minimizing the number of fictitious/counterfeit State inspection certificates issued. Tarrant County has an agreement with the State to implement a similar emissions enforcement program, but it is delayed due to future funding uncertainties. During this past 82nd Texas Legislature, LIP funding for nonattainment counties was reduced by 87.5 percent for FY2012 and FY2013. In an effort to maintain emissions enforcement activities in Dallas County over the next two years, staff is proposing to transfer available LIP funds from Tarrant County to Dallas County in exchange for the equivalent amount of CMAQ funds.

2:20 – 2:30 10. **Clean Air Action Day-7.7.7.7.**

☐ Action  ☐ Possible Action  ☑ Information  Minutes: 10

**Presenter:** Mindy Mize, NCTCOG

**Item Summary:** Staff will present on the results of Air North Texas’s Second Annual Clean Air Action Day, which was held on July 7.

**Background:** Air North Texas is a regional air quality awareness initiative administered by NCTCOG with the support of regional partners. The effort seeks to generate a regionally consistent branding campaign that will promote air quality public education and support key elements in the State Implementation Plan and other air quality initiatives. During Air North Texas Clean Air Action Day, North Texans are asked to commit to clean air actions between 7 am and 7 pm and share their experience with the community via www.airnorthtexas.org/7777.asp. Participants can select the commitments as well as upload videos and photos with stories on their Clean Air Action Day activities. The hope is that not only will North Texans see how easy clean air actions are to do but want to continue every day of the year, especially on Air Pollution Watch and Warning Days. Detailed information on the results of Clean Air Action Day are provided as Electronic Item 10.

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)
- North Texas Transportation Connection (Reference Item 11.3)
- Local Motion (Handout)

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, October 13, 2011, at 1:00 pm, at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.**