

Interagency Transportation Report RTC / TxDOT / NTTA / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR April 2018

Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

RTC Legislative and Bylaws Committees. Rob Franke, the RTC Chair, announced the Legislative and Bylaws Committees would begin meeting. Fort Worth Council member Jungus Jordan will Chair the Legislative Committee with Denton County Commissioner Andy Eads as the Vice-Chair. This committee will function as a Committee-of-the Whole – where all RTC members are invited to participate. Collin County Commissioner Duncan Webb will Chair the Bylaws Committee with Mansfield Mayor, David Cook, serving as the Vice Chair. Lee Kleinman will represent Dallas on the Bylaws Committee.

IH 635 LBJ East Update. The RTC devoted most of its April meeting to the LBJ East project and how to best work with the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) to move the project forward. The TTC has delayed the project by not approving a design-build procurement because of objections by state-level elected officials to the inclusion of toll managed lanes as a component of the project. The project, as proposed with the toll managed lanes, is consistent with RTC planning policies, has received environmental clearance, and enjoys strong community support.

NCTCOG staff presented information on various design options for the project, including funding sources and an assessment of legal, policy and cost risks associated with each option. The RTC members verbally reaffirmed their commitment to the use of toll managed lanes in the project, but delayed action on a resolution of support to the TTC so that the resolution could be fine-tuned based on continued discussions with state officials and TxDOT staff.

RTC Chair Rob Franke called a special meeting of the RTC for Thursday, April 19th, at 1:00 p.m. to consider the updated resolution. The goal is to find sufficient common ground with the TTC so that they will proceed with approval of the design-build procurement for the project.

Traffic Incident Management Executive Level Course. Traffic incidents account for about 2/3rds of the congestion experienced on the region's highway system, so effective incident management is a key strategy for reducing congestion-related delay. The NCTCOG has announced the next executive-level Incident Management Workshop for May 3rd, 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the NCTCOG Transportation Council Room. This course is geared toward policy-makers and managers including Council members, City Managers, and Police/Fire chiefs. Register by calling 817-695-9245 or emailing bwalsh@nctcog.org.

Regional Traffic Signal Retiming and Minor Improvement Projects Approved. The RTC approved funding for signal retiming and minor intersection improvements. The City of Dallas submitted 13 corridors for the Retiming Program and received a NCTCOG recommendation to fund five of the corridors encompassing 91 signals. The City also submitted radar vehicle detection upgrades under the Minor Improvement Program and were recommended for \$860,000 covering 20 intersections.

Funding Approved for Safety, Innovative Construction, and Emergency Projects. This funding relates to projects that address a safety issue, involve an innovative construction element, or address an emergency situation. Funding was approved for two projects/programs that would be of particular interest for Dallas:

- Reconstruction of Wycliff at Turtle Creek and related drainage improvements to eliminate a flooding issue that claimed the life of an SMU officer in 2016 – the street is in Highland Park (\$9.5 million).
- Regional safety program to address safety issues such as wrong way driving, intersections with accident problems – will involve 50/50 funding match with local agencies (\$30 million). The City of Dallas will be eligible to apply for these funds.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

TxDOT Dallas District Priority Projects Update. Kelly Selman, TxDOT Dallas District Engineer, prepared a briefing for the DRMC on their thirty highest priority projects. He noted that the total construction cost for these projects is approximately \$24 billion dollars, but the Dallas District has only been allocated \$8.0 billion over the next 10-year period. The key projects that are primarily within the City of Dallas include:

- I-635 LBJ East from Central Expressway to I-30 (Cost: \$1.8 billion)
- I-30 Canyon on the southside of downtown (Cost: \$300 million)
- I-30 Corridor from downtown to Lake Ray Hubbard (Cost: \$990 million)
- I-35E Lower Stemmons from SH 183 to Oak Lawn (\$900 million)

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Schedule for Board Discussion on Cotton Belt Elements. The Board’s Committee-of-the-Whole will be discussing various elements of the Cotton Belt project over the next few meetings to work toward final approval of the DART Service Plan amendment for the project. Station issues will be discussed on April 24th, grade separations on May 8th, and alignment deviations on May 22nd. They will review a draft of the amendment resolution on June 5th, with final approval set for June 26th.

DART “Say Something” App Offers Security Enhancement. The DART “Say Something” smart phone app offers transit riders a quick and discreet method to report concerns directly to the DART Police. Users can use the “Report an Incident” button to send photos, six second video, text descriptions, and locations of suspicious people or activities; or they can use the “Call Police” button to be connected directly to the DART police. The system is designed to send text descriptions before photos so that the police can get information as quickly as possible.

Utilization of DART Parking Facilities. The Board was briefed on the capacity and usage of parking lots at light rail and TRE stations, and bus park and ride locations. The average peak usage is about 38 percent with the end-of-line stations in Plano (Parker Road) and Rowlett experiencing the highest demand, although the Lake Highlands station with only 68 spaces is typically full. Many of DART’s lots could accommodate transit-oriented development without creating a parking problem.

Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

The DRMC Executive Committee met on April 6th. Angela Paxton, Republican candidate for State Senate, was the guest speaker, and Kelly Selman, TxDOT Dallas District Engineer, provided an expanded report on priority projects in the Dallas District (see TxDOT section).

New DRMC officers were elected: Steve Mitchell, Richardson Council member, will serve as Chair; Duncan Webb, Collin County Commissioner is the Vice Chair; Curtistene McCowan, Mayor of Desoto is the Treasurer; and Dallas Council member Adam McGough will serve as Secretary.

DFW International Airport (DFW)

DFW Approves Terminal E Satellite Improvements. The DFW Airport Board approved an agreement with American Airlines to expand and upgrade the Terminal E Satellite Facility. Terminal E Satellite will be expanded from nine to fifteen gates designed for regional jet usage and will feature gate areas with more seating equipped with power for electronic devices and enhanced wayfinding signage. The project will also address needs for new conveyance systems such as elevators and moving sidewalks used by customers to access the satellite from the Main Terminal E Concourse. The work is expected to begin this year and be completed by the summer of 2019. Once complete, the Terminal E Satellite will be home to American Airlines regional flights.

Board Receives Update on State of Airport Infrastructure. As the “Terminal Renewal and Improvement Program” comes to a close, DFW will turn its capital improvement focus to the non-terminal portions of the airport, including airside and landside projects. DFW Airport will begin a 10-year structural rehabilitation program which will include renovating and upgrading more than 133 landside bridges, 1,288 lane-miles of roadways and 2.5 million linear feet of water, sanitary, and stormwater lines. Additionally, the airport will rehabilitate its seven runways and twelve airfield bridges. Beginning in May, the airport will begin work on runway 17C/35C, DFW’s most used arrival runway. The year-long project will take a little more than a year to complete. Residents in nearby cities will notice a change in flight frequency, so DFW is proactively reaching out to impacted communities before work begins.

High Speed Rail (HSR)

NCTCOG to Take a More Active Leadership Role in HSR Project Development. The RTC has given approval for NCTCOG staff to continue development of the high-speed rail concept that is currently in the regional mobility plan. They specifically asked that NCTCOG be the lead agency on two high-speed rail studies:

- DFW Core Express (Dallas to Fort Worth): NCTCOG will take over the lead from TxDOT and restart the environmental review process for this segment. The RTC had previously approved \$5 million for this effort.
- Central Texas Passenger Rail (DFW to Austin to San Antonio to Laredo): NCTCOG will lead a joint effort with Texas MPOs in the corridor. The RTC approved \$300,000 to be matched with \$200,000 by the other MPOs to conduct a conceptual study that builds on the previous work by TxDOT.