

# Interagency Transportation Report RTC / TxDOT / NTTA / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR September 2016

## Regional Transportation Council (RTC)

Mobility 2040 Plan Gets Final Approval. The last step in the process of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the DFW region is a determination by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that the Plan meets all of the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Without this finding, major transportation projects identified in the Plan cannot move forward. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, the RTC received notice from FHWA that the Mobility 2040 Plan was approved. The next update of the regional transportation plan must be developed and approved in four years -- by September 2020.

NCTCOG Begins Development of 10-Year Project Priorities. At their September public meetings, the NCTCOG staff briefed the public on a proposed process to develop a prioritized list of projects for implementation over the next ten years. This process is mandated by HB 20 which was passed in the last legislative session. Projects will be identified from the recently adopted 2040 Mobility Plan according to a set of performance measures. The Regional Transportation Council will receive monthly updates on the process which is expected to be completed by December.

## Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Commission Approves Unified Transportation Program (UTP). On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) approved funding allocations for the next ten years in the UTP. The passage of Proposition 1 in 2014 and Proposition 7 in 2015, as well as a new federal transportation bill in late 2015, have resulted in an additional \$38 billion in new funding on a statewide basis. Depending on the funding category, responsibility for project selection could be the responsibility of the RTC at the regional level, the local TxDOT District, or the TTC.

Public Hearing for I-635 LBJ East Project. TxDOT will soon be announcing a November date for a public hearing on the updated environmental review for the LBJ East project. The project development work has included a traffic and revenue study to estimate the level of toll revenue that could be expected from the planned managed lanes between Central Expressway and Royal/Miller.

## North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA)

New TollTag Marketing Campaign. The NTTA is constantly working to increase the percentage of its customers who use TollTags. Currently, about 79% of toll system drivers have TollTags. The NTTA will soon announce a common sense campaign called "Get There Smarter" that emphasizes the convenience and cost savings associated with using a TollTag instead of being a ZipCash customer.

Using TollTags on Tollroads Outside of DFW. The tollroad industry has established interoperability standards that will ultimately allow TollTag users from Dallas to use their TollTags for travel anywhere in the United States. At this time, the NTTA has agreements within Texas and with Oklahoma that allow for this shared use. Expansion to Kansas and other nearby states is planned for the near term.

### Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Congratulations! Gary Thomas, President/Executive Director of DART, has been named Outstanding Public Transportation Manager of the Year by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Mr. Thomas was honored at an awards ceremony and luncheon in Los Angeles on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Vote on 2017 Financial Plan Delayed. In addition to an annual budget, the DART Board approves a Twenty-Year Financial Plan each September. The Financial Plan is a long-term projection of revenues and expenses that validates the affordability of system expansion and operations. In response to Dallas City Council concerns about how the Plan addresses the alignment of the second LRT line through downtown, commuter rail in the Cotton Belt corridor, streetcar expansion and the need for expanded bus service, DART has agreed to delay action on the Financial Plan from September 26<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ride DART to the State Fair of Texas! The State Fair is DART's biggest and most challenging special event of the year. Beginning Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, DART will make the following changes to better serve State Fair riders:

- Extra Green Line trains between Victory and Lawnview stations from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends; all trips will feature 3-car trains;
- Orange Line extended to Parker Road on all trips, weekdays and weekends;
- Added Green and Blue line service after 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays;
- Extra buses on Routes 60 and 409 Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.
- Trinity Railway Express (TRE) will operate on all four Sundays during the fair.

### Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC)

September DRMC Meeting. State Representative Cindy Burkett was the featured speaker at the September 9<sup>th</sup> DRMC meeting. Ms. Burkett represents House District 113 which includes parts of Balch Springs, Combine, Dallas, Garland, Mesquite, Rowlett, Seagoville, and Sunnyvale. She wants there to be less reliance on tolls to build transportation, but also wants to see projects get done and supports the selective use of tolls, such as on the I-635 LBJ East Project.

Agenda Set for Crossroads Conference. The North Dallas Chamber of Commerce organizes an annual one-day "Transportation Crossroads" Conference. This year's meeting will be held on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hilton Anatole Hotel. Mr. Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, will be the keynote speaker. Sessions

will include panel discussions on HB 20 regarding project selection, and the impact of innovation and technology on transportation.

### Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)

Business Diversity Programs Contribute \$1.2 Billion to Local Economy. DFW Airport announced that \$1.2 billion is contributed to the North Texas economy by engaging disadvantaged, small, minority and women-owned businesses (D/S/M/WBE), according to a study conducted by The Perryman Group. The Airport released the results of the economic impact of its business diversity programs which also accounts for 7500 jobs and \$366 million in associated payroll at the annual Champions of Diversity award ceremony at the Grand Hyatt DFW.

DFW Airport Board Welcomes Mayor Karen Hunt. At the September 2016 Board Meeting, the DFW Airport Board welcomed Mayor Karen Hunt of Coppell to the Board. Mayor Hunt will serve as the non-voting Host City Representative, replacing Mayor Linda Martin of Euless. This seat rotates on a yearly basis between DFW's four Host Cities: Coppell, Irving, Grapevine, and Euless. The term of the Host City representative begins September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, and ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### High-Speed Rail (HSR)

Texas Central Schedules Public Meeting in Dallas. Texas Central Partners, the private company developing the high speed rail project between Dallas and Houston, is holding a series of seven meetings across Dallas during September and October. The meetings are intended to provide Dallas residents an opportunity to meet with company leadership, engineers and environmental experts to learn more about the project and what it means for the future of Texas. Meeting dates and locations can be found at: <http://www.texascentral.com/2016/09/08/dallas-public-meetings>. Information presented at the meetings is also available on the website.