

AGENDA

Regional Transportation Council Legislative Workshop Thursday, November 12, 2020 11:30 am

1. Introductions

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: NCTCOG staff will provide the committee with an overview of the agenda and the workshop's purpose.

2. Communication and Partnerships During the Legislative Session: Non-Legislative Focus

☐ Action ☐ Possible Action ☒ Information

Presenter: Michael Morris, NCTCOG

Item Summary: RTC members received information last month on current practices related to the implementation of provisions in the Texas Transportation Code and formula funding allocations. Communication with the Texas Legislature, partnerships with the Texas Transportation Commission and State, and program enhancements with TxDOT headquarters will be discussed as strategies to be used when discussing interpretation of current statutes.

3. Review Draft Legislative Topics for the 87th Texas Legislature

☐ Action ☒ Possible Action ☐ Information

Presenter: Rebekah Hernandez, NCTCOG

Item Summary: RTC members will be provided with an overview of draft topics to include in the 2021 RTC State Legislative Program for the 87th Texas Legislature. Members submitted comments on the 2021 draft Legislative Program prior to the workshop. The updated draft RTC Legislative Program is included as [Electronic Item 3](#).

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

**DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

Adequately Fund Transportation and Utilize Tools

- Ensure fair-share allocation of funds to metropolitan regions
- Identify additional revenue for all modes of transportation
- Support full appropriation of funding initiatives, including Proposition 1 and Proposition 7, previously approved by the Legislature

Expand Transportation Options in Mega-Metropolitan Regions

- Allow for the ability to utilize tolling, managed lanes, debt financing and public-private partnerships for roadway and transit projects through a MPO and local decision-making process
- Authorize the use of a Comprehensive Development Agreement for specific needed projects
- Plan, fund, and support the implementation of all modes of transportation, including transit
- Retain eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors including high speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail, roadways, and trails
- Support legislation using a balanced liability insurance program that would allow North Texas transit agencies to operate on additional rail corridors as part of the regional transportation system

Pursue Innovation, Technology, and Safety

- Utilize innovation in high-speed transportation, transit, autonomous vehicles, and freight
- Support the collaboration between local governments, the military, the State, and FAA to advance regulations for compatible land use and the safe operations of unmanned aircraft vehicles
- Plan for shared mobility solutions; enable transportation data sharing and accessibility with appropriate privacy protection
- Increase safety, including but not limited to texting while driving, speed limits, driving under the influence, bicycle, and pedestrian safety

Improve Air Quality

- Protect the TERP Trust fund and revenue balance to ensure funds are used for TERP purposes; modernize the program and ensure flexibility to accommodate innovative approaches to improving air quality and reducing emissions, including purchase of heavy-duty zero emission vehicles such as hydrogen fuel cell and battery electric vehicles and associated infrastructure.
- Modernize and increase flexibility in the Local Initiative Projects (LIP) through a limited program focused on transportation and air quality improvements; appropriate LIRAP's residual balance of previously collected funds back to counties
- Support system reliability, congestion relief, and encourage trip reduction strategies, while maintaining lifestyle choices
- Support legislation that improves air quality

PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RTC AND TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

November 12, 2020

Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation



SENATOR NICHOLS – JULY 22, 2016

LETTER TO TXDOT

“I encourage the Commission to use a fair share methodology using distribution formulas created over a decade ago.”

“Some communities have chosen to leverage local transportation dollars by developing toll projects, while other have chose to live with more congestion. It would be perceived as penalizing some and rewarding others if the distribution is not made on a systematic distribution that has been used and accepted in the past.”

NEW APPROACH #1 (PILOT)

Reduce Cost Through Shared Resources

One Staff  3 Boards

Two Staff  3 Boards (0.5¢ Authorities)

NEW APPROACH #2

Create State Interest in Regional Rail

- ▶ Increase Coordination with Class 1 Railroads
- ▶ Capture State Interest in Economic Development
- ▶ Add Revenue From Top Line (like TxDOT Ferry System)
- ▶ Return Revenue to DART Cities
- ▶ Dedicated Revenue Stream for Regional Rail (State of Maryland Model)

NEW APPROACH #3

ENTICE APPROACH #2

WITH APPROACH #1

CANDIDATE ELEMENTS OF PARTNERSHIP:

1. Formula Allocation Produces More Revenue and Has Legislative Protections
2. RTC Willingness to Program STBG Funds on the State System for Mobility, Safety And Job Creation Benefits
3. Create Project Delivery Team for New Federal Infrastructure Program
4. Create New Economic Development Program for Corporate Relocations: New Governor Abbott Program
5. Review "No Toll Environment" Considering Funding Crisis of Prop 1: Bring Back TxDOT Tolls and Apply New Tolling Policies
6. Develop New Passenger Rail/Freight Logistics Program

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS FOR THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

November 12, 2020

Rebekah Hernandez
Communications Supervisor



DRAFT RTC LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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Pursue Innovation, Technology, and Safety

Improve Air Quality

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Allow for the ability to utilize tolling, managed lanes, debt financing and public-private partnerships for roadway and transit projects through a MPO and local decision-making process

Authorize the use of a CDA for specific needed projects

Plan, fund, and support the implementation of all modes of transportation, including transit

Retain eminent domain authority to allow planning and development of new and/or expanded transportation corridors including high-speed rail, commuter rail, freight rail, roadways, and trails

Support legislation using a balanced liability insurance program that would allow North Texas transit agencies to operate on additional rail corridors as part of the regional transportation system

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REQUESTED ACTION

Request RTC to Approve:

The RTC Legislative Program for the 87th Texas Legislature

Proposed Partnership between the RTC and the Texas
Transportation Commission

Transmit RTC Legislative Program to Texas Legislature