

INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

RTC / TxDOT / DART / Dallas County/ NTTA / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR



DFW HIGH SPEED TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS STUDY OPEN HOUSES

The North Central Texas Council of Governments will be hosting **four in-person open houses** to showcase the progress for the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study. The family-friendly events will highlight the findings from the Phase 1 Screenings and showcase the technology modes being studied in Phase 2.

Open House Dates/Locations

Tuesday, October 12th – 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie

Free Parking at Gate 1 - Follow signs to East Grandstand Will Call

Tuesday, October 19th – 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Southside Preservation Hall

1519 Lipscomb Street, Fort Worth

Tuesday, October 26th – 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Mercy Street

3801 Holystone Street, Dallas

Saturday, October 30th – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Globe Life Field in Arlington

Free Parking at Lot A

For questions regarding the upcoming open house events please contact: Email: DFW_HST@nctcog.org Website: www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs Phone: 817-695-9240

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW TIFs FOR COUNTIES

NCTCOG staff briefed the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) on a State Constitutional amendment on the upcoming November 2, 2021 ballot.

This amendment will allow counties to engage in Tax Increment Financing through Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZ) to create revenue to finance the development or redevelopment of a transportation or infrastructure project in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county. Cities already have this authority.

The amendment restricts counties to using a maximum of 65% of tax increment to secure county issued bonds for transportation improvements.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Reminder: The August 2022 RTC meeting will be held on August 18, 2022 at the Irving Convention Center during the annual City of Irving Transportation Summit. The August RTC meeting has traditionally been held as part of this Summit but has not happened in the last two years due to Covid-19 concerns.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

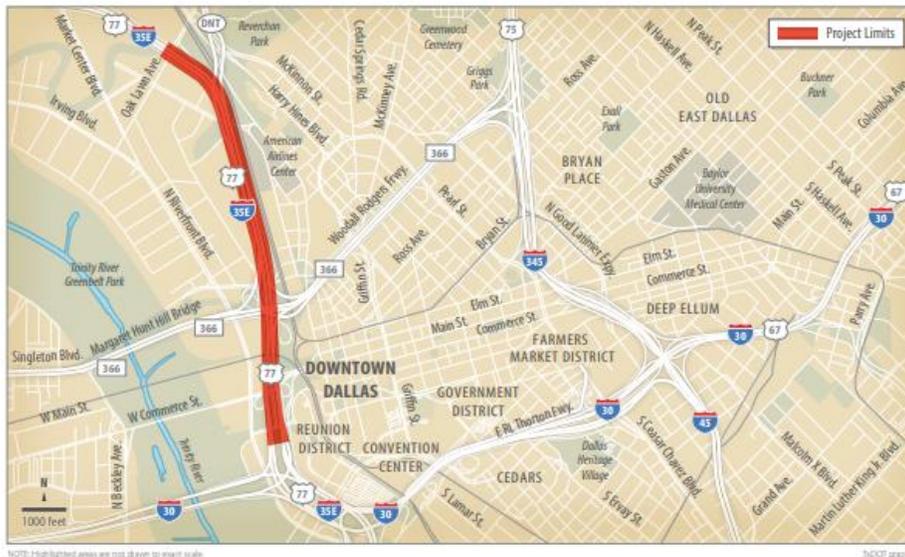
The **next RTC meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2021** at 1:00 PM via teleconference, unless otherwise notified.



LOWEST STEMMONS PROJECT

Project Nearing Completion

After three years of construction, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) \$83.5 million **Lowest Stemmons project is nearing completion.**



Starting Monday October 11th there will be multiple nightly lane and ramp closures along the corridor to finish up some of the smaller items on the project. Closures started on Monday and are scheduled

from 9 PM to 5 AM each day through Friday.

The project added ramps connecting IH 35E to the Dallas North Tollway and Woodall Rodgers Freeway to eliminate difficult lane changes and to alleviate congestion on the frontage roads in the Lowest Stemmons corridor.

The Lowest Stemmons project aims to provide operational improvements to the congested I-35E corridor in the heart of downtown Dallas through the construction of collector-distributor roads, direct connectors, and reconstructed ramps and bridge structures. The project stems from TxDOT's Texas Clear Lanes effort to relieve congestion in major metropolitan areas across the state.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

TxDOT is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, October 25, 2021 at the American Airlines Center and has reached out to the Mayor and City Councilmembers and staff with additional details.



NEW BOARD OFFICERS

At their October 12th meeting, the DART Board of Directors **elected Michelle Wong Krause to serve as the Board Chair** for a two-year term. Ms. Wong was appointed by the City of Dallas City Council in 2014 and recently served as the Vice Chair for the DART Board.

Gary Slagel was elected as Vice Chair. He represents the cities of Richardson and University Park, and the towns of Addison and Highland Park.

Dallas representative **Rodney Schlosser was elected to serve as Secretary.**

Farmers Branch Mayor Robert Dye was elected as Assistant Secretary. He is the representative for Plano and Farmers Branch,

D2 EASTERN END ALIGNMENT BRIEFING

At the October 12th DART Board meeting, an update on the D2 project was provided, focusing on the status of the evaluation of the eastern end alignment.

Agency staff and stakeholders have consensus on alignment 3-7a, which **will be reviewed during the October 18, 2021 Dallas City Council Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.** The proposed consensus alignment will necessitate further steps for an updated environmental clearance and associated activities.

The full presentation can be viewed [here](#).

BUS NETWORK REDESIGN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DART staff is developing a number of different approaches to share information about the redesign of the bus network with riders and residents of member cities. **City staff from the Department of Transportation, Communications, Outreach, and Marketing, and Mayor & City Council Office are working with DART to implement several events and outreach tools in the coming weeks.**

Highlights of the changed network are:

- **GoLink service will be increased substantially** and become a bigger part of the system. This on-demand service allows riders to schedule a trip in a vehicle rather than waiting at a bus stop. The vehicle picks up the customer and takes them anywhere in the designated zone or to a connection point, typically a light-rail station.
- **All local routes will run seven days a week** from, at minimum 5:00 AM to midnight, with some routes having even longer service hours.
- **In some cases, bus routes are farther apart from one another**, especially those that were bunched together.

For more detailed information about the bus network, including interactive maps, please see the DARTzoom website at: <https://www.dartzoom.org/>

Network changes are expected to go into effect January 24, 2022.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next DART Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 26, 2021** at the DART Headquarters Building, 1401 Pacific Avenue in Dallas.



THE FIRST PHASE OF THE TRINITY FOREST SPINE TRAIL IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

On September 30, 2021, the City of Dallas and the Circuit Trail Conservancy held a **groundbreaking for the first phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail.**

This project, a partnership between the City of Dallas, Dallas County, and the Circuit Trail Conservancy will construct an approximately nine-mile trail from just south of White Rock Lake to the AT&T Trail in southern Dallas.

This initial phase will complete a connection from the Santa Fe Trail to the intersection of Valleydale and Samuell Blvd., a distance of just over one mile.

This trail, once all phases are complete, will create improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to White Rock Lake, The Trinity Forest Audubon Center, the Great Trinity Forest, a DART light rail station, and to the adjacent neighborhoods. This project would not have been possible without Dallas County's contribution over \$5 million in Major Capital Improvement Program funds for this and subsequent phases.



BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 15TH

The NTTA Board of Directors held their regular meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2021.

BOARD OFFICERS

At their September meeting, the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) Board of Directors unanimously re-elected John Mahalik, Denton County's representative, and Jane Willard, Collin County's representative, to the positions of chairman and vice chairwoman, respectively.

Other Board positions: Lorelei Griffith, Board Secretary, Karen Madison-Ponds, Assistant Board Secretary; Horatio Porter, Board Treasurer; and, Cynthia Demers, Assistant Treasurer.

Other Actions

The Board approved recommendations by the Customer Service, Projects and Operations Committee to:

- Advertise for construction services for Sam Rayburn Tollway creek erosion mitigation and for engineering services for Dallas North Tollway retaining wall rehabilitation
- Approve a contract for construction services for Sam Rayburn Tollway mainlane and frontage road sign replacement
- Approve an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety for police services.

The Board approved a recommendation from the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee for a contract for depository services

The Board received briefings on the Consolidated Monthly Performance Report and the Executive Director's report on contracts, supplements, and change orders less than \$300,000 that were executed in August.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 10:00** am at the NTA headquarters in Plano.



Federal Infrastructure Bill

During the October 1, 2021 DRMC meeting, staff from the North Central Texas Council of Governments provided an overview and update on the status of the federal infrastructure bill.

DART Bus Network Redesign

DART's CEO, Nadine Lee, was unable to attend the October meeting. However, representatives from DART discussed the upcoming changes to the bus network and their efforts to push out messaging to riders.

UPCOMING MEETING

The November DRMC meeting will be held virtually and is scheduled for **Friday, November 5, 2021** at 11:00 AM.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff presented a strong financial report as of Aug. 31, 2021. The results reflect better than budgeted passenger performance, with the Airport welcoming 50 million passengers, 2.4 million above budget. As a result, revenues are also better than budget, especially in parking and rental car revenues. DFW’s expenditures for the fiscal year are about \$22 million lower than budgeted.

Key Performance Indicator Scorecard

Eleven months ending August 31, 2021 – Unaudited

Key Performance Indicator	Year-To-Date				Actuals vs. Budget Increase/(Decrease)	Results Status Bar	FY 2021 Annual Budget
	FY 2020 Actuals	FY 2021 Actuals	FY 2021 Budget				
Application of Federal Relief Proceeds	\$138.9	\$103.2	\$123.7	(\$20.5)	(16.6%)	■	\$142.5
Total Expenditure Budget	\$863.5	\$846.7	\$868.7	(\$22.0)	(2.5%)	■	\$977.5
Total Passengers (Ms)	44.0	50.0	47.6	2.4	5.0%	■	53.1
Total Landed Weights (Bs)	33.6	36.3	38.1	(1.8)	(4.8%)	■	42.0

Results Status Bar

■ Improved/Constant
 ■ Worse



BOARD APPROVES ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS RELIEF

The Airport Board approved a resolution to temporarily suspend the minimum annual guarantee for concession leases in Terminal D from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. This six-month break is a continuation of measures DFW has taken to help concessionaires remain open through the pandemic and subsequent reduction in passengers. This move is another step DFW is taking to help its concessions partners.

The welcoming of Turkish Airlines is a strong indicator that international traffic is increasing and DFW anticipates more international services resuming in Terminal D.

TRE CENTREPORT BUS SERVICES EXTENDED

The Airport Board approved an interlocal agreement between DART, NCTCOG, and Trinity Metro to continue Trinity Rail Express (TRE) bus service between the CentrePort Station and DFW Airport's South Parking Lot.

This agreement was the result of a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to the NCTCOG in which DFW Airport would operate bus service. However, Trinity Metro is able to provide the service at a lower cost and meet certain FTA requirements, thus, the agreement specifies Trinity Metro as the sub-recipient of the grant, and that Trinity Metro, DART, NCTCOG, and DFW Airport will equally pay any costs not reimbursed by the FTA grant.

The agreement is extended for an additional three years, and Trinity Metro plans to purchase electric vehicles by fiscal year 2025.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be **Thursday, November 4, 2021**. For more information, including agendas and actions, please visit www.dfwairport.com/board.



**TEXAS
CENTRAL**



On Wednesday, October 13th, the Dallas Morning News published an article about the real estate development around the high speed rail station in the Cedars neighborhood.

Here is a link to the article: [Developers plan bullet train rail station south of downtown Dallas \(dallasnews.com\)](https://www.dallasnews.com/business/development/2020/10/13/developers-plan-bullet-train-rail-station-south-of-downtown-dallas/)