

INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2020

RTC / TxDOT / NCTCOG / DART / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR



HYPERLOOP CERTIFICATION FACILITY

On Monday, February 3rd, **Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services**, and other City staff met with Virgin Hyperloop (VHL) staff at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) offices.

Mr. Mendoza presented general information about the City's economy, workforce, and other relevant topics. He also presented additional information about the two alignments the City included for consideration in the VHL RFP response. Very generally, the first alignment starts at the former Naval Air Station, goes south along Patriots Parkway to I-20, east to U.S Highway 67, then north along U.S Highway 67 to the Executive Airport. The second alignment starts at Executive Airport, goes south along U.S. Highway 67 to I-20 and east to I-45.

VHL staff was in North Texas to receive additional information and review sites identified by the NCTCOG in their response to the RFP issued by VHL in November 2019. This RFP is seeking sites for the VHL development and operations certification track, a welcome center, a pod final assembly center, operations and safety training center, and production development test center.

A Phase II detailed proposal is due to VHL on February 28, 2020 and NCTCOG staff is leading the response for the region.

AUTO OCCUPANCY VERIFICATION

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

DFW area TEXpress Lanes offer discounts for high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs).

NCTCOG staff has been working on a better way to manage HOV enforcement for TEXpress Lanes. Current enforcement requires TEXpress HOV users to pre-declare every trip online. If users register online but do not actually qualify as HOV, enforcement requires officers



to notice and pull the driver over to issue a citation. This is unsafe and ineffective and has resulted in lax enforcement and compliance.

The new system “GoCarma” went live at the end of January. This technology requires each person in the car to download the “GoCarma” app to their smartphone and for the driver to place a small Bluetooth device in their car. The GoCarma app will automatically verify the car’s HOV status and apply the toll discount.

More information and FAQs can be found at www.gocarma.com.

UPCOMING RTC MEETINGS

February RTC Meeting Rescheduled

- **The February RTC meeting has been rescheduled** to February 27th at 10:00 AM.

Date	Time	Location
February 27, 2020 (February Meeting – Rescheduled)	10:00 AM (New Time)	North Central Texas Council of Governments
March 12, 2020	1:00 PM	North Central Texas Council of Governments



TXDOT 2021 UTP DEVELOPMENT

The Texas Transportation Commission is beginning the 2021 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) development process. **The UTP is TxDOT's 10-year plan to guide transportation project development.** It is developed annually and is approved by the Texas Transportation Commission prior to Aug. 31st each year.

Specifically, the UTP is a listing of projects and programs that are planned to be constructed and/or developed within the first ten years of the 24-year Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan; and, it is a critical tool in guiding transportation project development within the long-term planning context.

At the January 30, 2020 Texas Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission established the funding levels for each category of funding in the 2021 UTP. **Unfortunately, the funding predictions show a \$3.5 billion reduction in funding from the 2020 to the 2021 UTP.** This is a result of lower motor vehicle sales tax projections from the second part of Proposition 7, that was just scheduled to take effect, as well as the Proposition 12 debt service that was supposed to be taken out of General

Revenue, but was switched to the Highway Fund in the 2017 session and has remained that way.

The Commission has chosen to take the \$3.5 billion reduction from Categories 2 and 4, which greatly impacts the Metro areas. Over \$2.2 billion of the \$3.5 billion necessary reductions were taken out of those two categories, both of which are formula funded. DFW has fared well in the funding the region has received from Category 12 (Commission Discretionary) funding in the past; and, a continued positive working relationship with the Commission is critical to getting metroplex projects funded.

TxDOT AWARDS CONTRACT FOR SM WRIGHT PHASE II

Phase II of the SM Wright project was awarded to a contractor in December.



This phase of the project will **rebuild the existing freeway on the current US 175 from south of Budd Street to I-45 (5.5 miles) and make it a six-lane divided arterial.**

It is anticipated **work will begin this Spring** with anticipated **completion in late 2023.**

The contractor is Johnson Bros. Corp, a Southland Company; and, the cost is \$78.7 million.

TxDOT WINTER WEATHER PREPARATIONS

You probably know that TxDOT uses chemicals during ice and snow events, but here's a little more information on how it works.

Before an ice/snow event they place liquid based anti-icers to help prevent ice formation.

During an ice/snow event, they use various salt-based granular de-icers to help melt ice that has already formed on the road.

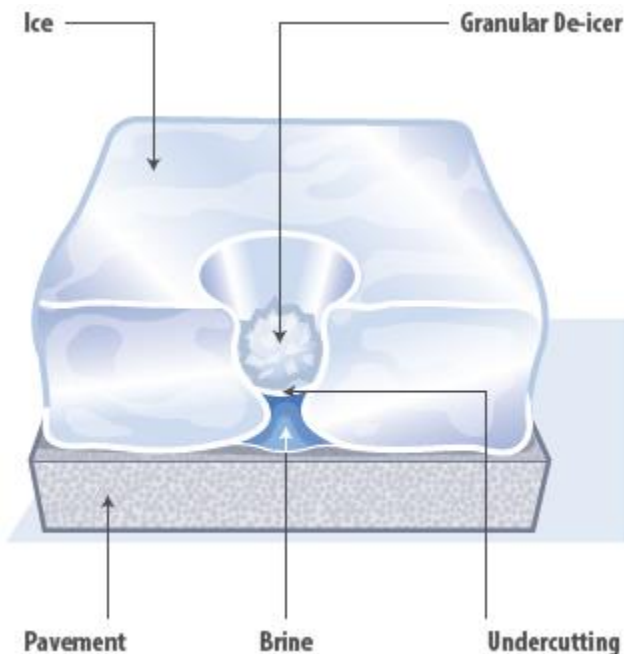


Liquid Salt (used before event)



Granular De-Icer (used during event)

How do the chemicals work?



Granular de-icers (like salt) lower the freezing point of water from 32 °F to about 15 °F (depending on how much you use).

When salt contacts the ice – melting begins immediately and spreads out from that point, creating a salt/water mix (brine) that continues melting the ice, undercutting the bond between the ice and the road.



NEW INTERACTIVE DIGITAL KIOSKS

DART has begun installation of more than 300 interactive digital kiosks across their service network.

DART launched the first kiosks at JB Jackson Jr. Transit Center (North of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, between Trunk Avenue and J.B. Jackson, Jr. Boulevard) in late January.

DART's interactive kiosks will allow residents and visitors to discover:

- Real-time transit information to enhance the overall travel experience
- Free, fast and reliable Wi-Fi at DART stations coming this summer
- Enhanced safety with additional cameras and fast connections to DART Police
- Easy access to social services
- Translation in nine different languages
- Interactive guides to find things to do, places to go and deals along the way
- Localized and customized deals from area merchants and partners



DART TO INSTALL "BETWEEN CAR BARRIERS" AT DART PLATFORMS

DART will soon begin installing candlestick-type barriers on all 64 light rail station platforms to prevent injuries from occurring between vehicles.



The new barriers alert visually impaired riders that the space between the cars is not a door opening, thereby deterring them from entering the area and causing injury.

All barriers are expected to be installed by the end of July.

DART TO HOLD MEETINGS ON PLANNED JUNE ROUTE CHANGES

DART has scheduled **two meetings to receive public comments on bus service enhancements proposed for implementation in June**. The planned changes represent another step in the creation of a new bus network for DART which has been working to get customers to their destination quicker and easier with more direct routes.

Both meetings are at DART Headquarters at 1401 Pacific Avenue:

1. **Monday, February 24th at noon** - a "pre-public hearing" community meeting
2. **Tuesday, February 25th at 6:30 p.m.** – a public hearing



The NTTA Board of Directors held a retreat at the Rough Creek Lodge in Glen Rose Texas on February 7th and 8th. Their normal February board meeting has been canceled.

The next NTTA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the North Texas Tollway Authority headquarters at 5900 West Plano Parkway, Plano, Texas 75093.



DRMC MEETING

At February's DRMC meeting, Jesse Ancira, Senior Legislative Advisor for the Texas Municipal League, provided information about the 2020 Legislative session. Mr. Ancira discussed interim studies on issues related to sales taxes for on-line transactions and the changing landscape of influences on legislatures in Austin.

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 13, 2020 at 11:00 AM**. Meetings are held at the North Texas Tollway Authority headquarters at 5900 West Plano Parkway, Plano, Texas 75093.

2019 Airport of the Year



DFW BOARD OFFICERS

The Dallas Fort Worth International Airport Board elected new officers during its February 2020 meeting.

Dallas representative **Matrice Ellis-Kirk will serve as Chair**. The election comes at the end of term for Fort Worth representative William Meadows, who has served as chair since 2018. The board also elected Fort Worth representative **Henry Borbolla to serve as Vice Chair**, and newly sworn-in member from Dallas **Gloria Tarpley to serve as the Secretary of the Board**. The terms for the new leadership are one year and began immediately after the election. It is customary for leadership members to serve two terms.

DFW Airport's Board is comprised of 12 members, seven appointed by the City of Dallas and four appointed by the City of Fort Worth. The mayors of each city are automatically appointed to a seat on the Board. The twelfth seat is a non-voting seat and rotates between DFW's four host cities – Euless, Irving, Grapevine and Coppell.

The 2020 Board of Directors is listed below:

- Matrice Ellis-Kirk, Chair
- Henry Borbolla III, Vice Chair
- Gloria M. Tarpley, Secretary
- Mayor Eric Johnson, Dallas
- Mayor Betsy Price, Fort Worth
- Vernon Evans, Fort Worth
- Benjamin Leal, Dallas
- Raj Narayanan, Dallas
- William Meadows, Fort Worth
- Mario Quintanilla, Dallas
- Eddie Reeves, Dallas
- Mayor Linda Martin, Euless



**TEXAS
CENTRAL**

TRAIN LAYOUT

Below is a layout of the train and seat configurations for the Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail. Note there are **no middle seats**.

The train cars are configured in 2x2 (two seats, an aisle, and two more seats) and 2x1 (two seats, and aisle, and one more seat) designs with almost **a foot more legroom than most coach airline seats**.

