

INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021

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



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (RTC) MEMBER ORIENTATION

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff is leading a Regional Transportation Council member orientation on **December 9, 2021**.

BLUE-GREEN-GREY FUNDING

The Golden SEEDS Foundation applied for an RTC Blue-Green-Grey call for projects for beautification efforts in the Bottom neighborhood. RTC approved a \$74,910 grant to the Foundation for work in the neighborhood.

RTC's Blue-Green-Grey funding initiative promotes the planning and construction of green or sustainable infrastructure in the region and advances small projects with innovative outcomes that can be replicated regionally.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION BUILD BACK BETTER GRANT APPLICATION

The RTC endorsed project applications submitted as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding opportunities through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC).

The EDA was allocated \$3 billion in supplemental funding as part of ARPA. The intent of the EDA program is to assist communities in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery and building local economies resilient to future economic shocks. In July 2021, the EDA announced it would make the funding appropriation available through a series of six innovative challenges organized as discretionary grant opportunities.

One of the regional projects submitted for consideration is the **North Texas Information Technology Workforce Collaborative**. This program will develop workforce in the technology and tech-enabled industries focused on bringing under-served populations into that workforce. The lead entity for this application is Southern Methodist University (SMU); City of Dallas staff worked closely with SMU on this effort.

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 December 9, 2021** at 1:00 PM via teleconference, unless otherwise notified.



LOWEST STEMMONS PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING

On October 25th, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), federal, state and local officials, including several City of Dallas Councilmembers, celebrated the completion of the Interstate 35E (I-35E) Lowest Stemmons project with an official ribbon cutting ceremony.

The \$83 million improvement project on I-35E between I-30 and Oak Lawn Avenue is the first completed project of TxDOT's Texas Clear Lanes initiative in the Dallas District which reduces traffic congestion and improves safety in Texas' large metropolitan areas.

The project scope including construction of new collector-distributor lanes parallel to I-35E gives travelers a safer and easier path to and from Woodall Rodgers Freeway and the Dallas North Tollway. The dedicated lanes are improving safety by eliminating the previous merging and weaving movements, a change that will keep traffic flowing on the main lanes and on the new connector ramps.



The project also features seven new bridge spans constructed adjacent to the north and southbound I-35E main lanes and capacity improvements on frontage roads.

OAK LAWN AVENUE WORK FINISHING UP IN NOVEMBER

TxDOT is in the final stages of repaving and restriping Oak Lawn Avenue from I-35E to near Harry Hines Blvd. Major work will be completed by the end of November.



DART GO PASS UPDATE

The August 2021 Interagency Transportation Report included information about DART's Discounted GoPass Tap Card program.

While discussing the program, it was noted that the only option for signing up for the program was via the DART website. Because the population the program is intended to assist often has limited internet access, Committee members directed City staff to ask DART to modify their processes to include an option for direct customer service support for individuals to register for the discounted pass.

On October 21st, DART President and Chief Executive Officer Nadine Lee sent a response to Chairman Narvaez stating that **DART set up a dedicated phone line (972-482-6491) for customers to call and speak directly to a DART representative** to assist in the registration process for the discount card. DART has modified the Discount GoPass Tap Card website and community event fliers to include the new phone number.

Additionally, **customers are now able to receive in-person registration assistance** from a DART representative by visiting the DARTmart Store, located at the DART headquarters building at 1401 Pacific Avenue (Akard Street entrance). Store hours are 7:30AM to 5:30PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next DART Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021** at the DART Headquarters Building, 1401 Pacific Avenue in Dallas.



BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 20TH

The NTTA Board of Directors held their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

BOARD ACTIONS

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

- Advertise for 2022 fleet vehicles and frontage road sign replacement on President George Bush Turnpike from SH 183 to IH 20.
- Approve vendor selection for the following services: design engineering services for Dallas North Tollway 4A mainlane extensions from US 380 to FM 428; general engineering consultant; advertising agency of record; and video management/video analytics software for the safety operations center.
- Approve a contract for engineering design services for wrong-way-driving prevention systems.
- Approve the sale of surplus property at 35 Riverside to the City of Dallas.
- Acknowledge receipt of the 2021 Annual General Engineering Consultant Inspection Report.

The Board approved a recommendation from the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee to approve the FY2022 Internal Audit work plan and the FY 2022 Preliminary NTTA System Budget second review and approval.

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 executed in September.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:00 am** at the NTTA headquarters in Plano.



TEXAS COMPTROLLER BIENNIAL REVENUE ESTIMATES

At the November 5, 2021 meeting the DRMC discussed the Texas Comptroller's biennial 2022-2023 revenue estimates.

There were concerns the pandemic would reduce revenues; however, the Comptroller's numbers project a total of \$135.32 billion for 2022-2023, up 15.1 percent from the 2020-2021 biennium.

Importantly for transportation funding, the following **transfers to the State Highway Fund (SHF) are projected:**

- Oil and Gas Severance taxes:
 - FY 2022 - \$1.46 billion
 - FY 2023 - \$2.43 billion
- 2015 Constitutional amendment requiring **transfers from annual state sales tax** revenue exceeding \$28 billion:
 - FY 2022 - \$2.5 billion
 - FY 2023 - \$2.5 billion
- 2015 Constitutional amendment requiring **transfers from motor vehicle sales tax** revenue exceeding \$5 billion:
 - FY 2022 - \$297 million
 - FY 2023 - \$338 million

UPCOMING MEETING

The November DRMC meeting will be held virtually and is scheduled for **Friday, December 3, 2021** at 11:00 AM.

2019 Airport of the Year



DFW AIRPORT STRATEGIC PLAN

The Airport's latest strategic plan is now available online: [DFW Airport 2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#).

The updated plan incorporates DFW's approach to achieving defined Key Results through supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion; sustainability; innovation; and digital strategies. This plan will guide the Airport through the recovery from the pandemic and the many uncertainties the aviation industry faces.

2021 – THE POINTS GUY READERS' CHOICE AWARD

DFW Airport was recently named The Points Guy Readers' Choice for the Top Large Airport in the Country. DFW was one of 30 airports considered for the award based on total passenger enplanements in 2019.

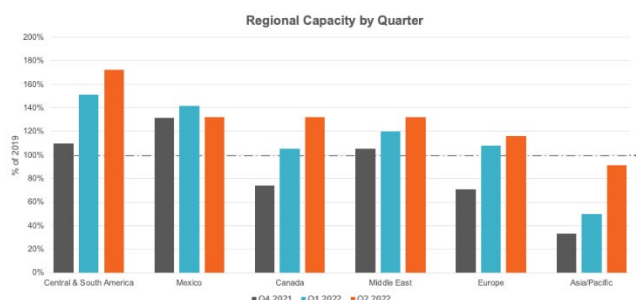
The Points Guy website publishes hands-on advice to help readers maximize their travel experiences. Readers touted DFW's nearly 200 domestic and 70 international destinations, 24-hour Skylink, and numerous lounges for pushing the Airport to the top of the List.

The Points Guy **also recognized Dallas Love Field as Top Medium-Size Airport**. This is great news for North Texas travelers as they have two of the world's best airports at their disposal.

AIR SERVICE UPDATE

The DFW Airport Board received an update on the Airport's current air service strategy. Like most airports, DFW experienced a drop in passengers and traffic during the height of the pandemic. As travel restrictions continue to ease, the Airport is experiencing an increase in traffic and anticipates it will reach 2019 levels by Fiscal Year 2023. Though domestic traffic has been leading the increase, international travel is expected to grow with many airlines anticipating a busy summer to Europe, Central and South America, and Mexico. The below chart depicts the Airport's expectations for international travel for the next year. All areas are expected to recover or exceed 2019 levels, except for the Asia/Pacific region.

International service is expected to return to 2019 levels in 2022 in all regions except Asia/Pacific



Source: dfo.mi published schedules Q1 2019 – Q2 2022 as of Oct 26, 2021
 14 Notes: All figures compared to respective 2019 quarter

DFW

UPCOMING MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be **Thursday, December 2, 2021**. For more information, including agendas and actions, please visit www.dfwairport.com/board.



**TEXAS
CENTRAL**

Infrastructure Bill

While President Biden's infrastructure legislation does not include a specific mention nor a specific allocation for the Texas High Speed rail project, the inclusion of funding for intercity high speed rail in the bill allows for further discussions to take place between the Japanese and United States governments to determine a mutually beneficial path forward for the project's permanent financing.