Worth Metropolitan Area since 1974.Governments and the Regional Transportation Council – together serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Organization (MPO) for the region. It's not just about user of the transportation system problems. In order to do our jobs our citizens and address urban our region. People need efficient, affordable, and safe mobility today. The MPO focuses on implementing plans, policies, and programs that meet the needs of today and tomorrow: Incremental transportation improvements can make a big difference to the user and a region, we need to emphasize these short term solutions. Our Traffic Signal Audit Program is designed to improve traffic flow on regional arterials by providing low-cost capital improvements such as traffic signal re-timing, upgrades, or adding turn lanes.

Another program designed to address urban growth is the Sustainable Development Initiative which supports land use and transportation practices that promote integration of land uses, rail mobility, and encourage local commitment to transit oriented development. The Dallas-Fort Worth Partners In Mobility, a coalition of regional business and civic leaders, including NCTCOG, will be making an annual presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) on March 28, 2002, in Austin. This will mark the delegations 8th annual presentation to update the TTC on the region’s prioritized transportation needs. This year’s presentation will focus on the programs that address transportation user needs and the integration of State and Federal programs. And finally, in early April, the MPO will undergo a joint federal certification review conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The review will certify that the MPO is following the federal regulations required to secure and administer federal dollars. In early April, 2002, this review will consist of federal officials conducting an audit of documentation pertaining to the planning process, a site visit, two public meetings, and the preparation of a report on the certification. As we prepare for this review, we ask that you participate by attending the public meetings and sharing comments regarding MPO’s actions. The federal officials will be interested in hearing from elected officials and local citizens who are familiar with the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation planning process, effectiveness, opportunities for public input, and other issues or concerns. We strongly encourage interested parties to attend and participate in the opportunity to be heard. For further information on the public meetings, please use the contact information below or visit our public involvement web page at: www.nctcoq.txdot.tx.us/trans_public_meetings/index.html.

In the future, these traffic-monitoring systems can be interfaced with vehicle tracking devices on transit vehicles to provide efficient travel for transit riders. Scheduling and route planning tools will be readily available through public kiosks and personal computers at home and work. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area has invested approximately $125 million in ITS to date, covering about 350 commuters miles. Benefits from ITS include a reduction in recurrent and non-recurrent traffic congestion, fuel savings, air pollution reductions, safer streets and highways, and system maintenance cost reductions.

Spring 2002
Mobility Matters
Quarterly Newsletter of the North Central Texas Council of Governments’ Regional Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area since 1974.

Transportation News for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area

Welcome
As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area, we are required to undergo a federal “certification review” every three years. This is a joint certification review conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) intended to certify that the MPO is following federal regulations and therefore legally qualified to receive and administer federal dollars. In early April 2002, this review will consist of federal officials conducting an audit of documentation pertaining to the planning process, a site visit, two public meetings, and the preparation of a report on the certification. As we prepare for this review, we ask that you participate by attending the public meetings and sharing comments regarding MPO’s actions. The federal officials will be interested in hearing from elected officials and local citizens who are familiar with the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation planning process, effectiveness, opportunities for public input, and other issues or concerns. We strongly encourage interested parties to attend and participate in the opportunity to be heard. For further information on the public meetings, please use the contact information below or visit our public involvement web page at: www.nctcoq.txdot.tx.us/trans_public_meetings/index.html.

In the future, these traffic-monitoring systems can be interfaced with vehicle tracking devices on transit vehicles to provide efficient travel for transit riders. Scheduling and route planning tools will be readily available through public kiosks and personal computers at home and work. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area has invested approximately $125 million in ITS to date, covering about 350 commuters miles. Benefits from ITS include a reduction in recurrent and non-recurrent traffic congestion, fuel savings, air pollution reductions, safer streets and highways, and system maintenance cost reductions.

A Message from Michael Morris
Transportation Director

The 21st century demands that those of us in the transportation field adopt a customer service philosophy that will best serve our citizens and address urban problems. In order to do our jobs well, we must understand that the user of the transportation system like all of us are concerned about the needs of the region. It’s not just about the transportation system, it’s about the reliability of the transportation system to meet the expectations of five million persons everyday.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area, we must strive to respond to the demands of our region by recognizing the quality of life issues that are crucial to a successful transportation system: goods movement, optimal land use, safety, mobility options, and clean air. Our partnerships with other agencies, transportation providers, policy makers, and citizens must always be based on the desire to serve the mobility needs of the families, businesses, and communities within our region. People need efficient, affordable, and safe mobility today.

The MPO focuses on implementing plans, policies, and programs that meet the needs of today and tomorrow: Incremental transportation improvements can make a big difference to the user and a region, we need to emphasize these short term solutions. Our Traffic Signal Audit Program is designed to improve traffic flow on regional arterials by providing low-cost capital improvements such as traffic signal re-timing, upgrades, or adding turn lanes.

Mobility options such as the commuter rail line, Trinity Railway Express, are an example of the types of services the region demands. Rail and bus are attractive mobility options and the MPO will host a Regional Transit Summit in March 2002 to provide information to the traveling public to reflect travel conditions. These signs provide timely travel information, including: roadway and traffic conditions ahead, alternative routes available, and scheduled activities (such as construction) for the roadway.

In the future, these traffic-monitoring systems can be interfaced with vehicle tracking devices on transit vehicles to provide efficient travel for transit riders. Scheduling and route planning tools will be readily available through public kiosks and personal computers at home and work. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area has invested approximately $125 million in ITS to date, covering about 350 commuters miles. Benefits from ITS include a reduction in recurrent and non-recurrent traffic congestion, fuel savings, air pollution reductions, safer streets and highways, and system maintenance cost reductions. NCTCOG is holding its annual presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) on March 28, 2002, in Austin. This will mark the delegations 8th annual presentation to update the TTC on the region’s prioritized transportation needs. This year’s presentation will focus on the programs that address transportation user needs and the integration of State and Federal programs. And finally, in early April, the MPO will undergo a joint federal certification review conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The review will certify that the MPO is following the federal regulations required to receive and administer federal dollars.

As we prepare for these upcoming events, continue our work to implement the transportation and air quality efforts that make a real difference in the lives of our citizens, we remember that in the 21st century... Mobility Matters.

Visit us on the Web: www.nctcoq.txdot.tx.us

Regional Transportation Council
John Murphy, Chairman
Mayor Pro Tem • City of Richardson
B. Glen Whitley, Vice Chairman
Commissioner • Tarrant County
Jack Hitchcock, Secretary
Commissioner • Collin County
Ron Brown
Commissioner • Ellis County
Mark Burroughs
Commissioner • City of Denton
Jim Caster
Commissioner • Denton County
Manuel Chavez
District Engineer
TxDOT, Fort Worth District
Wendy Davis
Commissioner • City of Fort Worth
Harry Englehart
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Grand Prairie
Lori Fineman
Commissioner • City of Dallas
Sandy Grayson
Commissioner • City of Dallas
Roger Harmon
County Judge • Johnson County
Betsy Haskin
Commissioner • City of Fort Worth
John Heiman, Jr.
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
City of Mesquite
Jerry Hebert
Executive Director
North Texas Toll Authority
Lowell Hyatt
Commissioner • City of Garland
Lee Jackson
County Judge • Dallas County
Linda Koop
Board Member
Dallas Area Rapid Transit
Ken Lambert
County Judge • Hall County
Kenneth Mayfield
Commissioner • Dallas County
Joy Nelson
District Engineer
TxDOT, Dallas District
Mike Nowals
Commissioner • City of Laredo
Dave Roggen
Chair
Fort Worth Transportation Authority
Pat Remington
Commissioner • City of Arlington
Charles Scorna
Mayor • North Richland Hills
Chuck Sticos
Commissioner • City of Fort Worth
Gindy Smithhey
Mayor Pro Tem • City of Duncannon
Robert Sirmont
Citizen Representative
City of Dallas
Mark Stiskas
Mayor • City of Carrollton
Steve Terrill
Mayor • City of Allen
Maxine Thornton-Reese
Commissioner • City of Dallas
Cari Tyson
Commissioner • City of Euless
Mark VanDervernavery
Commissioner • Tarrant County
Mark Wright
Mayor • City of Kennedale
Regional Transportation Council

Member Profile

Sandy Greyon
Dallas City Council

Regional Transportation Council Member Sandy Greyon takes the focus of this edition of Mobility Matters. A member of the Council since 1996, Ms. Greyon exhibits an admirable dedication to regional transportation issues. As a City of Dallas Commissioner, Ms. Greyon joins five other Dallas representatives on the Regional Transportation Council.

“The culture of the Regional Transportation Council encourages communication within the region. I’m always impressed with the level of cooperation exhibited within the RTC.”

A member of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board from 1993-1996, Ms. Greyon joined that board at a time when transit did not garner the public support that it does now. A native of Chicago, Ms. Greyon was intrigued with the idea of developing transit service on the Dallas area. “I knew what a good transit system could be like; I grew up with one in Chicago.” While she was a member of the Board, DART built 20 miles of light rail, 10 miles of commuter rail, HOV lanes on three major expressways, and expanded its bus service. Ms. Greyon takes pride in her many accomplishments to date. In Dallas, she is most especially her work to improve transportation. As Vice-Chair of the National League of Cities (NLC) Transportation Infrastructure and Service Steering Committee, Ms. Greyon works with other officials across the country from the across the country to recommend transportation policy to NLC. As part of this effort, Ms. Greyon chaired a task force that recommended updated NLC language/policy on the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) for congressional hearings on reauthorization of the bill. Ms. Greyon also Co-Chair the Finance Committee of Transportation Excellence for the 21st Century (TEX-21), a statewide transportation coalition instrumental in getting the “Vine Yard” message out regarding the state constitutional amendment, Proposition 15. “I am very pleased to have been a founding member of this organization and work to support improved transportation funding in Texas.”

Ms. Greyon has broadly been selected to serve on the national Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Sandy Greyon’s list of accomplishments is extensive and impressive, but she is quick to point out the mission behind her efforts: “People need to have a voice in what affects our communities. Public input should be encouraged early enough to make a difference in transportation planning.”

NCTCOG Regional Transportation Council Hosts Regional Transit Summit

On March 21, 2002, the North Central Texas Council of Governments’ Regional Transportation Council is sponsoring the region’s first transit summit. The Summit will provide a forum for local policy makers to address the implementation of public transportation from a regional perspective. Rail and bus transit are attractive mobility options for the region and policy officials recognize the need to address implementation of these options in an open and informative discussion.

Policy makers will be provided information on the transportation challenges facing North Texas and the costs and benefits associated with the implementation of public transportation. The Summit format allows for breakout sessions that will encourage dialogue among representative policy officials regarding the viability, reliability, and funding options for public transportation implementation.

“We hope to provide a forum for policy officials to exchange ideas and information, and look at options for implementing additional public transportation service in North Texas,” Barbara Male, NCTCOG Principal Transportation Planner stated. “This summit will suggest that the region should shift some of the focus from ‘what’ we should do to ‘how’ we should do it.”

For further information on the Regional Transit Summit, please contact Barbara Maley, NCTCOG at 817-695-9278.