

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Minutes — June 25, 2026

Transportation Council Room | 616 Six Flags Drive | Arlington, Texas

The NCTCOG Executive Board meeting was conducted as a videoconference meeting that was live broadcast at <https://nctcog.swagit.com/live>. The presiding officer, President Justice, was present at the physical location, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas, which was open to the public during all open portions of the meeting.

President Justice called the regular meeting of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board to order at 10:00 am on June 25, 2026. Todd Little took attendance and determined that a quorum was physically present.

Members of the Board Present:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jennifer Justice | 10. Jon McKenzie |
| 2. Brandon J. Huckabee | 11. Bobbie Mitchell (V) |
| 3. T.J. Gilmore (V) | 12. Jesse Moreno |
| 4. Victoria Johnson (V) | 13. Tim O'Hare |
| 5. Christopher Boedeker (V) | 14. Mattie Parker |
| 6. Michael Evans | 15. Jim Ross |
| 7. Chris Hill (V) | 16. Burt Thakur |
| 8. Gary Hulsey | 17. Ross Weaver |
| 9. Clay Jenkins | 18. Mitch Little |

Members of the Board Absent:

Members of the Staff Present:

Todd Little, Monte Mercer, Doni Green, Michael Morris, Maribel Martinez, Phedra Redifer, Randy Richardson, Jerri Watson, Ken Kirkpatrick, James Powell, Michael Bort, Tom McLain, Toni Stehling, Shala Geer-Smith, Caroline Vandergriff, Jon Blackman, Carmen Morones, Emily Dryden, Dan Kessler

Visitors Present:

Glen Whitley, John Polster, Rick Bailey, Rob Barthen, Jeff Whitfield

REGULAR SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

President Justice opened the meeting for public comment and asked if there was anyone present wishing to speak. Former Judge, Glen Whitley, spoke regarding items on the agenda.

AWARD PRESENTATION:

Item 1 Presentation of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award and Consideration of Statement of Support

The Executive Board received a presentation regarding Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) recognition for NCTCOG and its employees. NCTCOG employee Lt. Chris Nelson, a Senior Planner and member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve, nominated the agency for its support of employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR representatives presented Patriot Awards to Kevin Kokes, Transportation Program Manager, and Carmen Morones, Chief Human Resources Officer, and presented the Above and Beyond Award to NCTCOG. The Board also considered participation in ESGR's Statement of Support Program, which affirms an employer's commitment to supporting employees who serve in the military. Following the presentation, the Executive Board recognized Lt. Nelson and all NCTCOG employees who serve or have served in the United States Armed Forces and authorized the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute the ESGR Statement of Support on behalf of NCTCOG.

Upon a Motion by Judge Boedeker (seconded by Mayor Hulsey), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the execution of the ESGR Statement of Support as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Items 2 - 10 were posted on the agenda as Consent Items.

- Item 2 Approval of Minutes**
- Item 3 Resolution Authorizing TXShare Contracts for Night Vision Systems**
- Item 4 Resolution Authorizing Contracts to Provide Dementia-Capable Services**
- Item 5 Resolution Endorsing Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Application to the Federal Railroad Administration**
This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Judge Huckabee.
- Item 6 Resolution Authorizing TXShare Contracts for AI-Enabled Robotic Solutions for Public Sector Operations**
- Item 7 Resolution Amending Authorization of FY2026 Purchases of Computer Hardware, Software, and Information Technology Contract Services for the Agency**
- Item 8 Resolution Authorizing Contract with WSP USA Inc. to Provide Services Supporting the McKinney Passenger Rail Corridor Study**
This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Judge Huckabee.
- Item 9 Resolution Approving Modifications to the FY2026 and FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program for Regional Transportation Planning**
This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Judge Huckabee.
- Item 10 Appointments to the North Central Texas Economic Development District Board (NCTEDD)**

Upon a motion by Judge Huckabee, (seconded by Judge O'Hare), the Board approved Consent Agenda Items 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10 by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Consent Agenda Items 5, 8, and 9 were addressed separately following a motion by Mayor Ross (seconded by Judge Jenkins). These items were removed from the Consent Agenda by Judge Huckabee for the purpose of abstaining from the vote. The motion passed unanimously among the remaining members present.

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION:

Item 11 Resolution Authorizing a Contract with PaymentWorks, Inc. for a Vendor Management System

Randy Richardson, Director of Administration, requested Executive Board authorization to enter into a contract with PaymentWorks, Inc. for a Vendor Management System (VMS) to improve NCTCOG's vendor onboarding, data management, and payment security processes. Staff reported that current vendor management procedures are manual and time-intensive and that increasing fraud risks have highlighted the need for stronger controls. Following market research and consultation with a peer municipal user, PaymentWorks was identified as the best solution. The cloud-based platform automates vendor onboarding and maintenance, provides identity and banking verification, compliance screening, audit trails, continuous monitoring, and fraud indemnification of up to \$2 million per transaction. Staff noted that the system will improve efficiency, strengthen internal controls, reduce fraud and payment risks, and enhance the security and transparency of the vendor lifecycle. PaymentWorks is available through Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) Cooperative Contract No. DIR-CPO-5687. The contract with PaymentWorks, Inc. is for a term of up to five years in an amount not to exceed \$197,000.

Exhibit: 2026-06-11-AA

Upon a Motion by Judge Jenkins (seconded by Councilmember Justice), and unanimous vote of all members present, the Board approved the resolution as presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Item 12 Status Report on Regional Transportation Council Officers for the 2026-2027 Term

Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, provided a status report on the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) Officers for the 2026-2027 term. The following officers were elected at its June 11, 2026, meeting: Stephen Mason, Mayor of the City of Cedar Hill, as Chair; Jill Jester, Councilmember for the City of Denton, as Vice Chair; and Manny Ramirez, Tarrant County Commissioner, as Secretary. The RTC is composed primarily of local elected officials and serves as the regional forum for cooperative transportation decision-making.

This was an informational item and did not require a vote.

Item 13 Status Report on Agency Administration Transparency Enhancements Efforts

Randy Richardson, Director of Administration, provided a status report on agency transparency initiatives intended to increase the accessibility and transparency of NCTCOG operations for member governments and the public. He highlighted two key efforts currently underway: standardizing procurement information presented to the Executive Board and pursuing the Texas Comptroller's Transparency Star for Open Government and Compliance award. Following a review of procurement-related agenda practices used by twelve local governmental entities, Administration established six standard elements to be included in applicable purchasing agenda items: the solicitation publication date, solicitation closing date, number of responsive bids received, scoring committee makeup, evaluation criteria summary, and recommended awardee(s). Mr. Richardson also reported that Administration is collaborating with the Executive Director's Office to align NCTCOG processes with the requirements of the Transparency Star program, including improving access to meeting materials and videos, ensuring proper records retention, enhancing document accessibility, providing clear organizational structure information, and maintaining consistent transparency reporting practices. Staff are currently reviewing website content and organization to ensure required information is easily accessible and will continue to provide updates on the status of the application effort.

This was an informational item and did not require a vote.

Item 14 Status Report on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement

Ken Kirkpatrick, General Counsel, provided a status report on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Agreement (MPO Agreement), which defines the roles and responsibilities of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), NCTCOG, and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) in carrying out federally required metropolitan planning functions for the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that the current

agreement, executed in 2018, has been extended by TxDOT through September 30, 2027. He noted that TxDOT transmitted a draft replacement agreement to NCTCOG on May 13, 2026, but subsequently advised on May 27, 2026, that the document was undergoing additional review and was not yet ready for execution. While no formal updates have been provided by TxDOT, staff understand there is no immediate need to execute a new agreement and that the issue will be revisited later in the year. Mr. Kirkpatrick also reported that the Executive Board previously approved communication to the RTC affirming NCTCOG's intent to remain the Fiscal Agent for MPO functions and that, on June 11, 2026, the RTC adopted a resolution approving the proposed agreement and requesting execution by TxDOT and NCTCOG. RTC Chair Bailey subsequently executed the draft agreement. He explained that the primary substantive change in the proposed agreement is the designation of the RTC as the metropolitan planning organization and NCTCOG as the Fiscal Agent, representing a significant departure from the current agreement under which NCTCOG has served as the designated MPO since 1974 with the RTC acting as the policy-making body. The current 2018 agreement remains in effect until a new agreement is approved and executed by all parties.

This was an informational item and did not require a vote.

Mayor Gilmore entered the meeting in person.

Item 15 Executive Director's Report

Mr. Little provided his Director's Report announcing the 2026-2027 Committee Appointments for the Board members.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Item 16 Attendance and Calendar

The Board was provided with a Calendar of meeting and a record of Attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President Justice called the Executive Session to order at 10:49 am, pursuant to the following sections of the Open Meetings Act (Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code):

- Section 551.071 to consult with its attorney to seek advice on pending litigation, or a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551: *County of Denton, Texas v. Victoria Johnson, In Her Official Capacity, et al.*
- Section 551.071 to consult with its attorney to seek advice on pending litigation, or a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551: MPO Agreement and fiscal agent status
- Section 551.074(a)(2) to hear a complaint or charge against officer or employee in executive session unless officer or employee requests a public hearing: Executive Director

No action was taken in Executive Session.

President Justice adjourned the Executive Session at 11:45 am.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:

President Justice reconvened the regular session at 11:49 am.

Item 17 Possible Action Resulting from Executive Session

Judge Jenkins (seconded by Mayor Parker) made a motion to authorize and instruct the President to sign the tri-party agreement as presented and signed by the RTC; provide to NCTCOG external counsel to hold until all lawsuits against NCTCOG involving this matter be dismissed; ensure the current prohibition against the

termination of Michael Morris be continued through a Rule 11 agreement between the parties to be included in the settlement of all claims; these actions occur as quickly as possible; and the President name a negotiating committee to draft an operating agreement with the RTC as the MPO, NCTCOG as the Fiscal Agent, contingent upon TxDOT signing the tri-party agreement.

Following discussion, Mayor Parker (seconded by Mayor Ross) made a motion to amend to authorize outside counsel and the President to enter into settlement negotiations, including up to and including signing the tri-party agreement and dismissal of all pending lawsuits concerning the matter; develop an operating agreement to be brought back to the Executive Board for approval; and that any staff decision with respect to Michael Morris be off the table. Judge Jenkins initially accepted the proposed amendment, but after discussion the question was called on the motion to amend. The motion to amend passed.

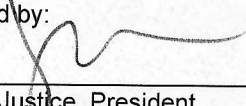
Immediately thereafter, Judge O'Hare (seconded by Judge Boedeker) made a motion to amend to authorize external counsel and the President to enter into settlement negotiations and bring back a proposal for the Executive Board to consider. This motion to amend failed to pass.

Subsequent discussion resulted in a directive to staff to bring back any proposed settlement to the Board for approval, which President Justice committed to.

The motion as amended by Mayor Parker passed. Judge Huckabee abstained from voting.

President Justice adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.

Approved by:



Jennifer Justice, President
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Councilmember, City of Richardson

Checked by:



Todd Little, Executive Director
North Central Texas Council of Governments