

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A LEGISLATIVE POSITION ON RAIL NORTH TEXAS;
A PRIMARY RAIL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM WITH SUPPLEMENTAL ROADWAY
IMPROVEMENTS
(Updated R08-11)**

WHEREAS, the North Central Texas Council of Governments is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area by the Governor of Texas in accordance with federal law; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Council, comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body associated with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and has been and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Council has advocated for additional transportation funding and flexibility for over 10 years, with a special focus on identifying additional funding to construct and operate a seamless regional rail system for the past 5 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Rail North Texas effort has been a bottom-up process to include local elected officials, business leaders, the public, and State legislators and has resulted in a specific legislative proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

- Section 1.** The Regional Transportation Council supports seeking legislative authority to create a Transportation Funding Area (TFA) for the purpose of levying taxes or fees in order to generate revenue to fund rail and supplemental roadway improvements.
- Section 2.** The Regional Transportation Council continues to support the principles contained in the three transportation authorities' "Joint Recommendation for Regional Rail in North Central Texas." This rail initiative will be constructed by existing transportation providers.
- Section 3.** The Regional Transportation Council does not support the creation of any new transportation authorities or transportation providers within the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

Section 4. The Regional Transportation Council supports implementation of Rail North Texas in the Dallas-Fort Worth region consistent with:

- The "Policy Summary" in Attachment 1,
- The "Questions and Answers About Rail North Texas" in Attachment 2,
- What the Rail North Texas initiative is not as contained in Attachment 3,
- The "Project Selection, Funding, and Implementation Process" in Attachment 4, and
- The specific proposal outlined in Attachment 5.

Section 5. The Regional Transportation Council wishes to implement a TFA for the sole purpose of implementing rail and supplemental roadway improvements.

Section 6. This resolution will be transmitted to local governments, partner organizations, and other interested parties with a request to support transportation as the region's highest legislative priority for the 81st Texas Legislature and a request to endorse this resolution. In addition, each entity is requested to transmit its position of support on these primary legislative proposals to the legislative delegation and NCTCOG.

Section 7. This resolution will be transmitted to the Texas legislative delegation.

Section 8. The NCTCOG Transportation Director is authorized to communicate these positions on behalf of the Regional Transportation Council.

Section 9. This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

Linda Koop, Chair
Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Dallas

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area on December 11, 2008.

Ron Natinsky, Secretary
Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Dallas

POLICY SUMMARY

- Primary rail with supplemental roadway
 - Built by existing transportation authorities and transportation providers
 - Limited Transportation Funding Area (TFA)
 - Largely passenger rail
 - Funding only, non-construction
 - No fourth authority
 - No bonding authority needed
 - Coordination of regional projects
 - County elections determined by local elected officials and citizen vote
 - Legislators: no sales tax, create menu
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POLICY SUMMARY

- **Equity:** creates revenue districts for service areas, money stays in county generated
- **Accountability** rests with TFA and counties
 - includes public hearing requirements
 - RTC Transportation Implementers Subcommittee
- **Probably:** one uniform rate for 12 counties and supplemental county revenues
- **Some revenues expire**
- **Decisions on projects and taxes/fees made by local elected officials**
- **Counties can opt out**
- **Transportation providers issue bonds**
- **Projects fixed with voter approval – no reallocation**