



Central Texas Council of Governments  
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## Central Texas Transportation Grants, Resources, and Updates Newsletter

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### Federal and State Legislative Updates

#### FHWA Issues Final Retro-Reflectivity Pavement Rule

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently issued a final rule aimed at improving safety for all road users by ensuring pavement markings are more visible in dark or low light conditions. Under the final rule, the agency said the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) would provide a new “minimum standard” for pavement marking “retro-reflectivity” that goes into effect on Sep.6, 2022. FHWA said retro-reflective material reflects light more effectively back to the observer, making pavement markings that include them brighter and more easily seen in dark conditions. The rule is also expected to help reduce crashes by enhancing the ability of advanced driver assistance and autonomous vehicle technologies to identify pavement markings more readily.

For more information, [click here!](#)

#### Transportation Reinvestment Zones

The demand for transportation infrastructure has far outpaced the resources of federal, state and local governments. In response to this, the Texas Legislature established innovative methods of developing and financing transportation projects. One such tool local entities use to advance transportation projects is a transportation reinvestment zone (TRZ), created as a 2011 amendment to the Texas Transportation Code. To form a TRZ, a local governing body designates a zone in which it will promote a transportation project. Once the zone is created, a base year is established, and the incremental increase in property tax revenue collected inside the zone is used to finance a project in the zone. Eligible entities for creating a TRZ include cities, counties and port authorities. The proposed zone must be deemed underdeveloped, promote public safety, facilitate the improvement, development or redevelopment of property, facilitate the movement of traffic, and enhance the local entity’s ability to sponsor transportation projects.

For more information, [click here!](#)

### Central Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group (CTRTAG) Updates

#### CTRTAG Board Meeting

The last CTRTAG meeting was held on Thursday, Aug.11th, 9:30-11:00 AM as a hybrid meeting, with the in person meeting held at CTCOG Offices. At this meeting a presentation was given by Driving Hope of Texas, a local private transportation provider that was formed in 2019 to provide non-emergency medical transportation for rural medical patients, particularly for cancer and kidney disease patients. Driving Hope works with the Area Agency on Aging in seven counties, including Mills, Hamilton, Coryell, Bell, and Milam. CTCOG’s application for FY 23 TxDOT Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) funding was discussed, along with new projects from the HOP, such as their new Silver Line flex route in Killeen for seniors, and their 5310 program in Nolanville connecting seniors and disabled people to medical care, groceries, and social activities.

As part of the coordination of resources and efforts for the implementation of the 2022-26 RCTP, staff has created a new Central Texas Transportation Facebook page to post resources and updates on implementation of the RCTP. Like and follow the page [here!](#)

### Funding Opportunities and Resources

#### Local Infrastructure Hub

The Local Infrastructure Hub was created as a partnership between entities including the National League of Cities, National Urban League, and the United States Conference of Mayors. It acts as a way for cities to navigate the funding opportunities available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (BIL/IIJA) and provide technical assistance in developing applications for grants. The Hub will be offering a “Grant Application Workshop” series over the next two years to prepare cities for applying for the various funding opportunities that arise. This program is free of charge.

For more information, [click here!](#)