



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

11/14/2022

Federal and State Legislative Updates

Build America, Buy America Act

The Buy America, Build America Act was passed as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to maximize the use of American-made products and materials in all federally funded projects. This required all federally funded projects with new funds or that are new awards made on or after May.14, 2022 to source all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials in the United States. Federal departments are able to issue waivers in cases where the department director determines that applying the domestic content procurement preference

- Would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- Types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%

USDOT is taking three actions:

- Not extending its temporary waiver for construction materials, making it applicable effective Nov. 10,2022;
- Proposing a [waiver](#) for narrow categories of contracts and solicitations; and
- Proposing a narrow [waiver](#) for de minimis costs, small grants, and minor components

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

USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Guidance

On Oct.21, the FHWA released new guidance to help States address roadway deaths of vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and the disabled, in accordance with the NRSS. All States are required to develop a Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment as part of their Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 148(l). The guidance covers scheduling and frequency of the Safety Assessment, statutory and regulatory requirements, potential funding opportunities for it, and its relationship to the HSIP. To read the guidance, click [here!](#)

Central Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group (CTRTAG) Updates

CTRTAG Meeting

The next CTRTAG meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov.17th, 9:30-11:00 AM as a hybrid meeting, with the in person meeting held at CTCOG Offices. At this meeting, CTCOG's coordination of the implementation of the FY 2022-26 TxDOT Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) will be discussed, including plans for a Central Texas Transportation Summit in early 2023. Speakers will include our first Local Agency Update from the City of Killeen and a representative from the Texas Transportation Institute discussing Transportation Reinvestment Zones. To view the agenda, [Click Here!](#) To access the 2022-26 RCTP, [Click Here!](#) Like our Central Texas Transportation Facebook page [here!](#)

Funding Opportunities and Resources

USDOT Thriving Communities Program

The USDOT Thriving Communities Program (TCP) allows USDOT selected technical assistance providers to provide technical assistance and capacity building support to communities that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects. The TCP will provide two years of in-depth assistance to selected communities to help them plan and develop comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities. MPOs, cities, counties, and transit agencies are eligible to submit letters of intent for this program; Deadline to submit is Dec.6, 2022. To read the guidance, [click here!](#)

Best Practices for Pilot Car Escort Assisted Transportation

Several resources are available for freight carriers or trucks carrying materials or equipment that may hinder transportation including by becoming stuck on railways. The Specialized Carriers and Riggers Association and Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance have prepared a Best Practices guideline for Pilot Car Assisted operations. It can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, for State requirements on heavy equipment being moved across railroads, visit Texas Transportation Code Title 7 Subtitle "C" Chapter 545 Sec. 545.255 [here!](#)