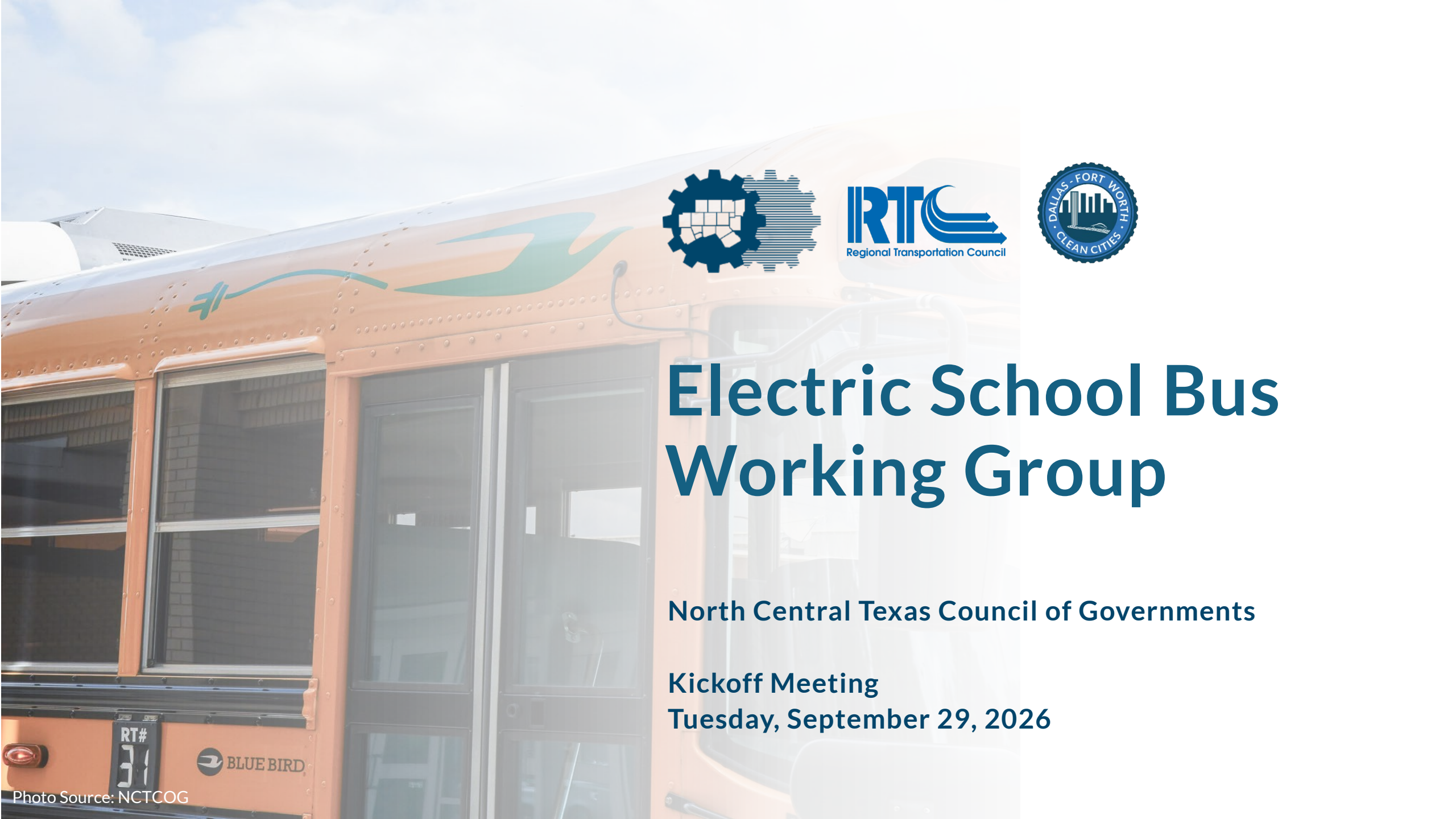


Photo Source: NCTCOG

Electric School Bus Working Group

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Kickoff Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Meeting Agenda

About Us / North Texas Air Quality Status

Participant Introduction

Discussion *(Polling Questions)*

Schedule *(Polling Questions)*

Funding and Resources

Next Steps

About Us

Regional Planning Agency

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Policy

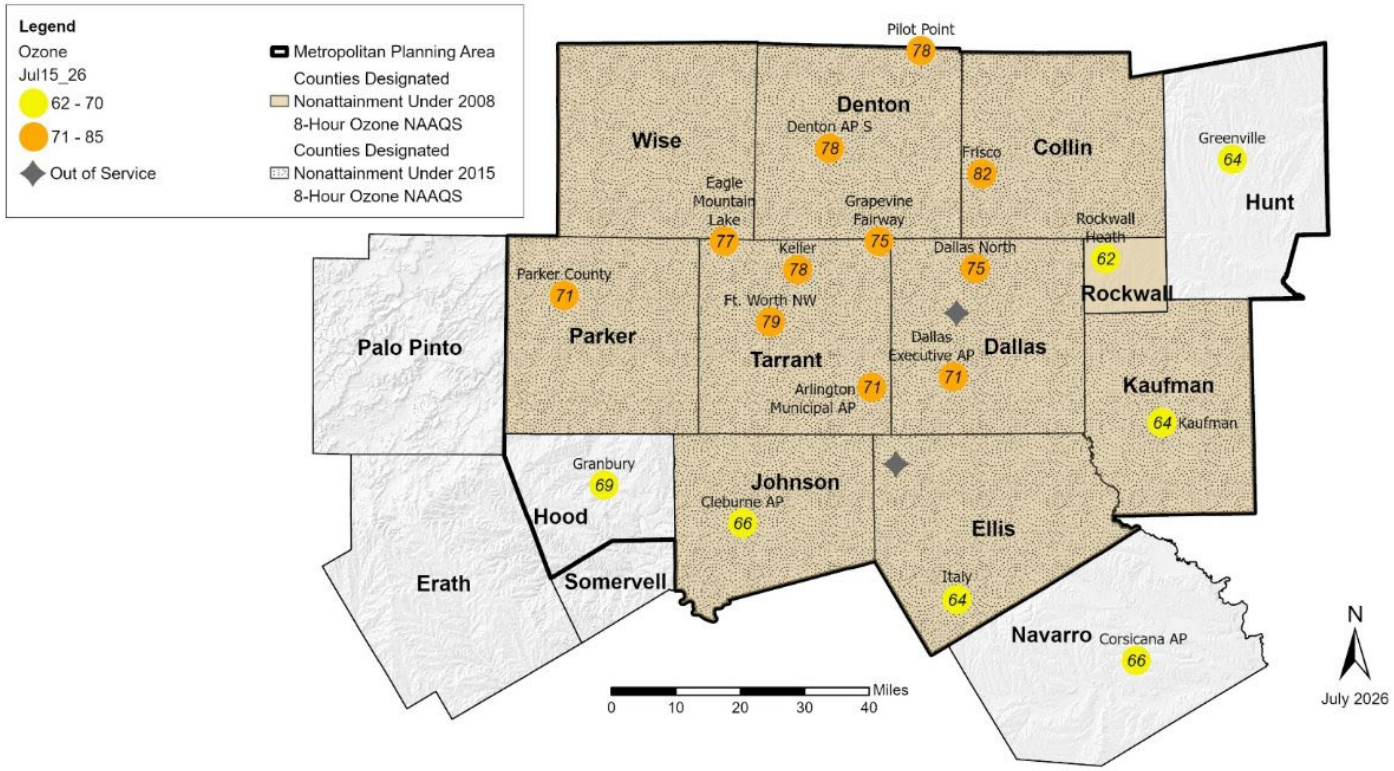
Regional Transportation Council

Department of Energy-Designated Clean Cities Coalition

Sister Coalitions in Texas:

Alamo Area Clean Cities (San Antonio)
Central Texas Clean Cities (Austin)
Houston-Galveston Clean Cities
Apprentice Coalition: South Texas Clean Cities (Rio Grande Region)

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Region and Ozone Nonattainment Areas

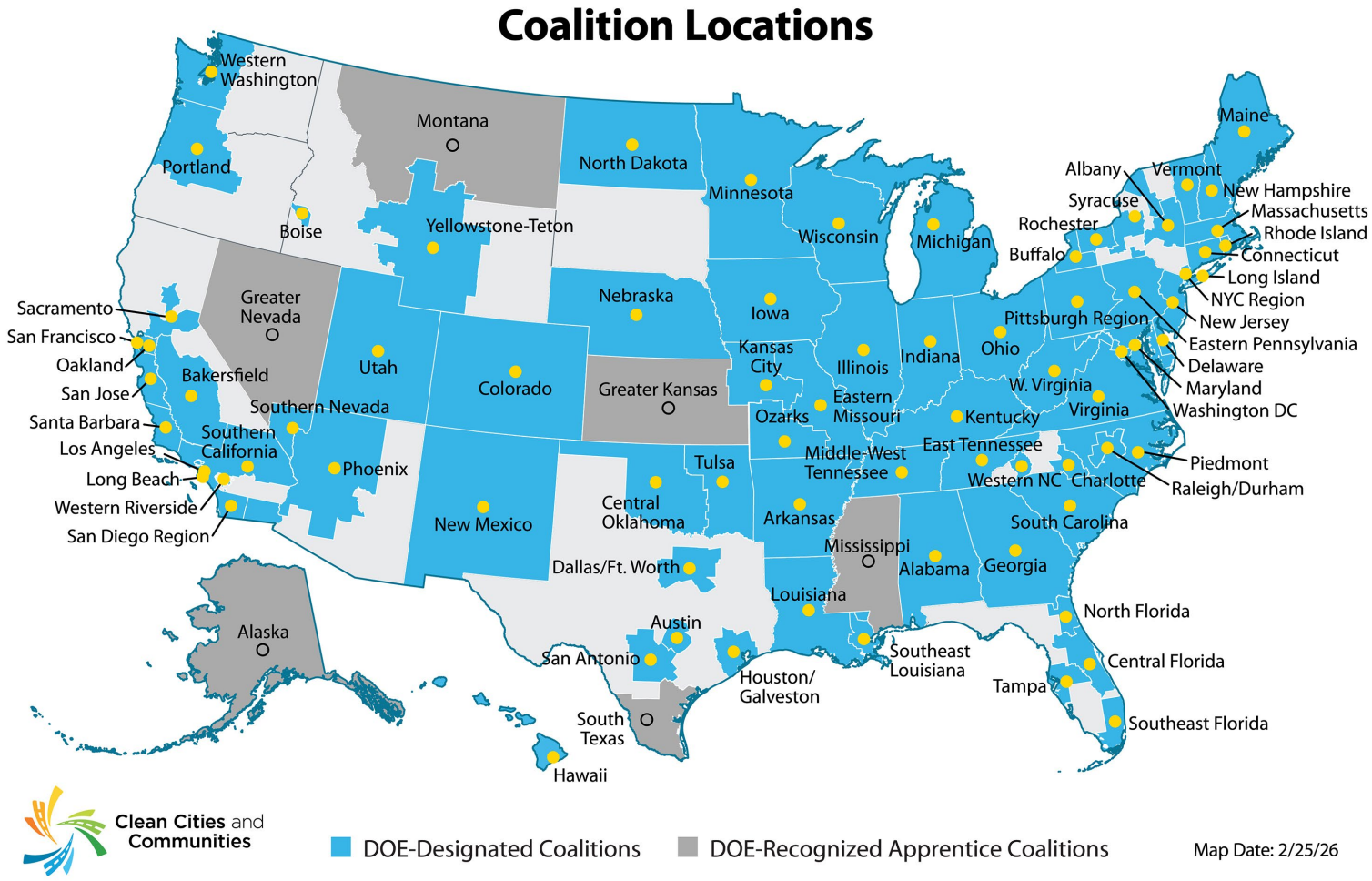


Source: NCTCOG

Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities Coalition

Mission: Improve air quality by promoting clean, reliable, accessible, and sustainable transportation

Designated by the Department of Energy as part of the national Clean Cities and Communities Partnership

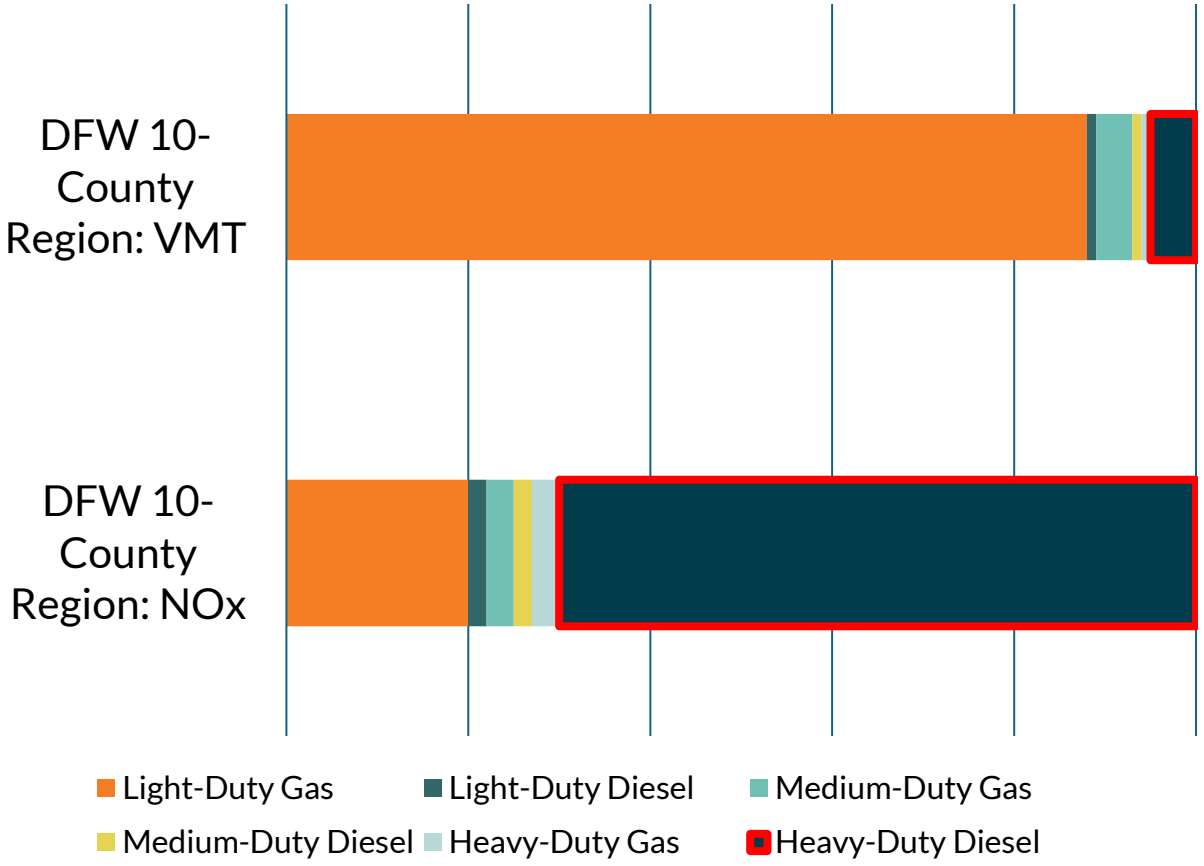


Air Quality Impact

- Current Ozone design value of 83 ppb* continues to exceed the EPA standard
- Heavy-duty diesel vehicles have disproportionate impact on regional air quality and children's health
- ~45,000 school buses in Texas**
  - 62% of school buses purchased in 2025 were diesel, 7% were electric

For more information on North Texas Air Quality, check out the 2025 AQ Handbook at: www.nctcog.org/airquality

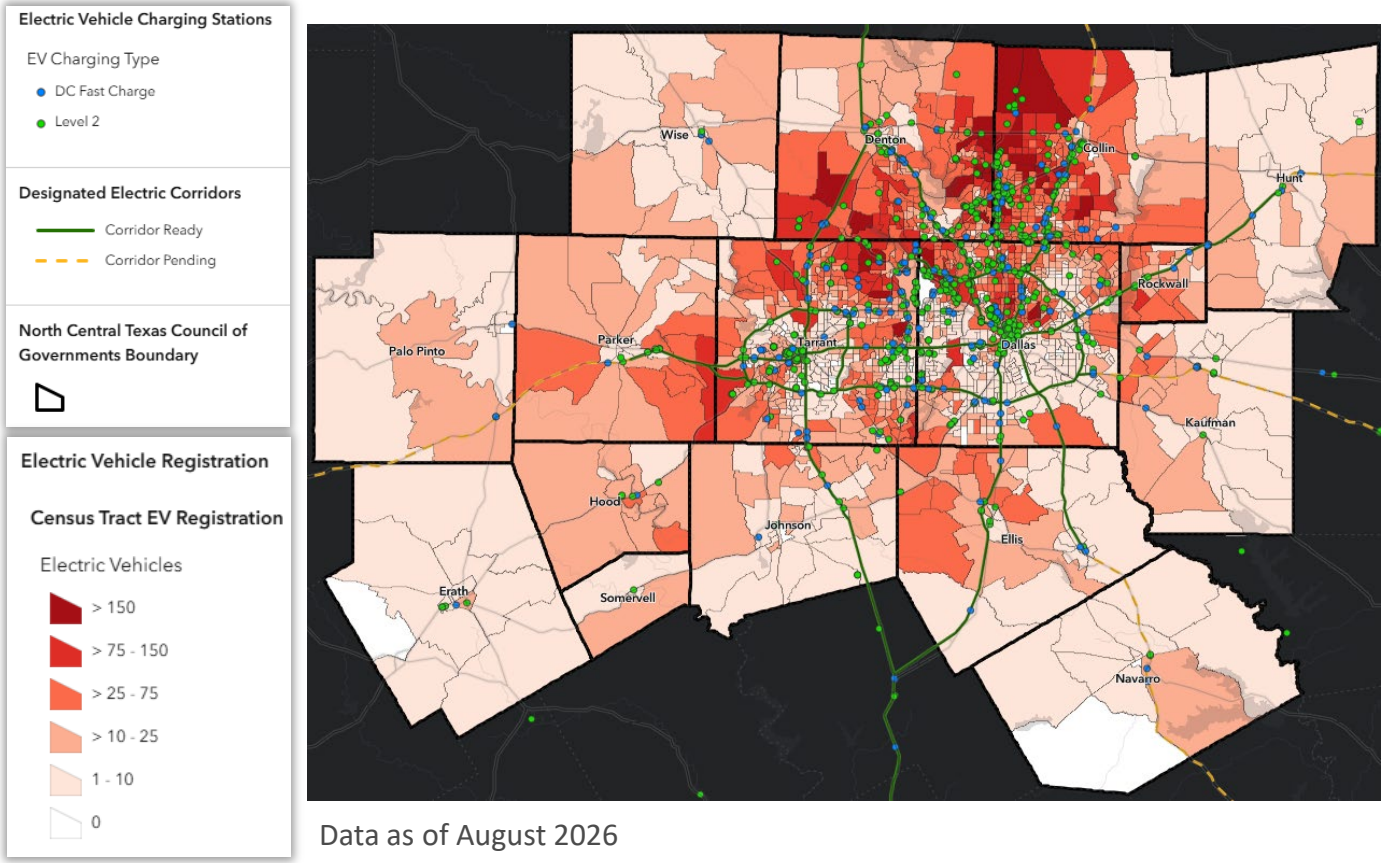
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Versus Nitrogen Oxides (NO_X) Contribution by On-Road Vehicle Type in Dallas-Fort Worth Analysis Year 2026



**Source:* www.nctcog.org/ozone
***Source:* [U.S. State-by-State School Transportation Statistics 2024-25]

Texas EV Data and Trends

Charging Sites and Registration by Census Tract



Data as of August 2026

Electric Vehicle (EV) Registration Data

dfwcleancities.org/evnt -> EVs and Texas

Region	Aug 2025	Aug 2026	Increase
Texas	395,779	505,101	28%
Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW)	**145,436**	**183,217**	**26%**

1.97% of registered vehicles in Texas are EVs

Charging Ports Statewide (includes Tesla):

- 8,334 Level 2 ports across 3,217 locations
- 5,274 DC Fast ports across 867 locations

afdc.energy.gov/stations

Electric School Buses (ESB) in North Texas

Funding awarded to school districts in the North Texas region

- ~$17.8 million awarded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program
- ~$7.2 million awarded through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's programs
- ~54 ESB have been awarded or deployed across 10 school districts

North Texas School Districts with ESBs Awarded or Deployed

Bluff Dale ISD	Muenster ISD*
Dallas ISD	North Hopkins ISD
Everman ISD	Plano ISD
Kopperl ISD*	Sam Rayburn ISD*
Miller Grove ISD	Weatherford ISD

**Funds Awarded*

Data Sources: Clean School Bus Program Awards; World Resources Institute ESB Initiative – ESB Data Dashboard; Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program

ESB Working Group Introduction and Participants

Each school give a brief description of their current ESB project

Participants:

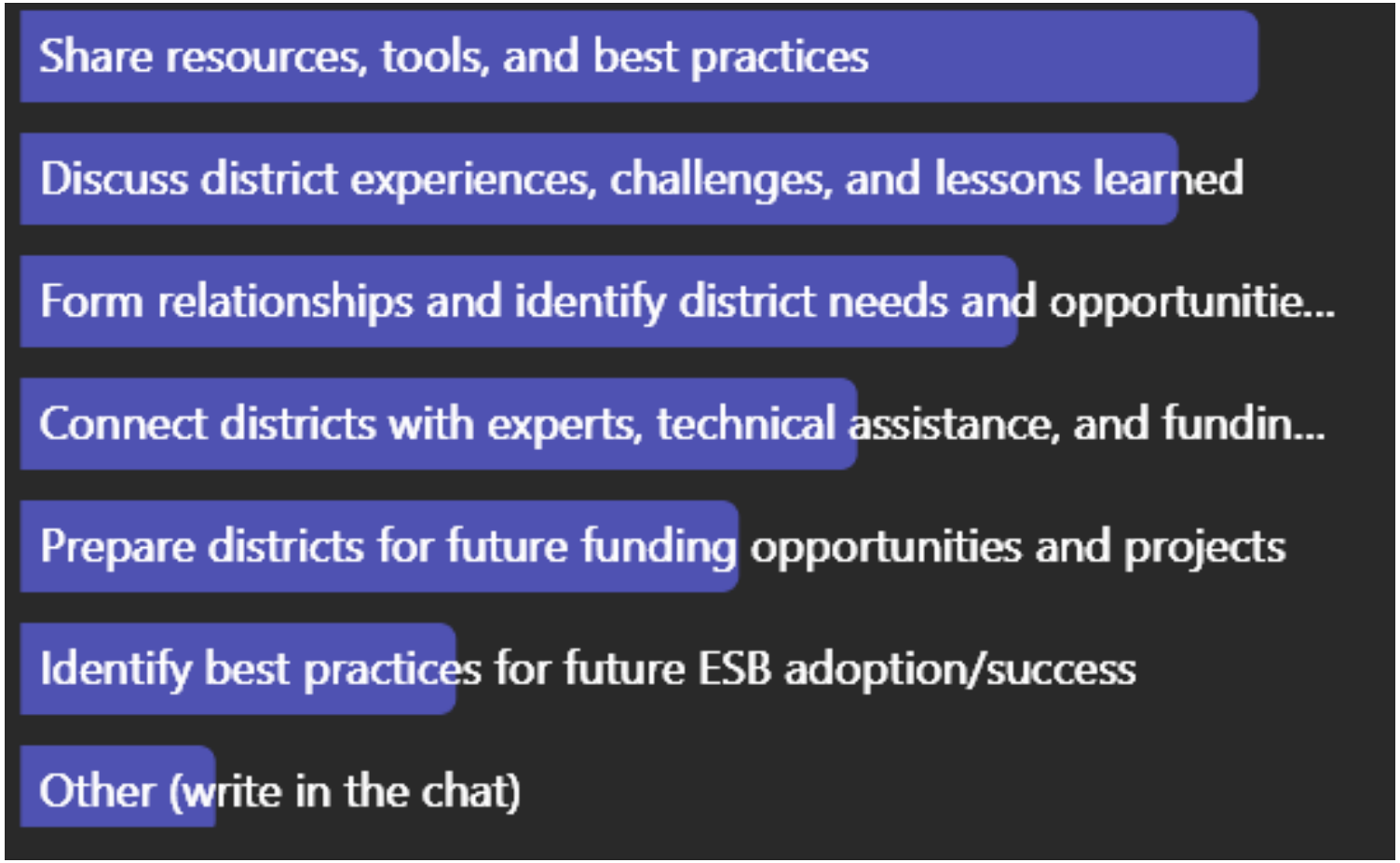
- North Hopkins ISD – Brian Lowe, Superintendent
- Dallas ISD – Duran Hargest, Director of Fleet Services
- Miller Grove ISD – Tonya Loftice, Superintendent
- Weatherford ISD – Jason Dunkelberger, Director of Transportation

Poll: Vote on ESB Working Group Objectives

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- Share resources, tools, and best practices
- Discuss district experiences, challenges, and lessons learned
- Form relationships and identify district needs and opportunities for collaboration
- Connect districts with experts, technical assistance, and funding resources
- Prepare districts for future funding opportunities and projects
- Identify best practices for future ESB adoption/success
- Other (write in the chat)

Results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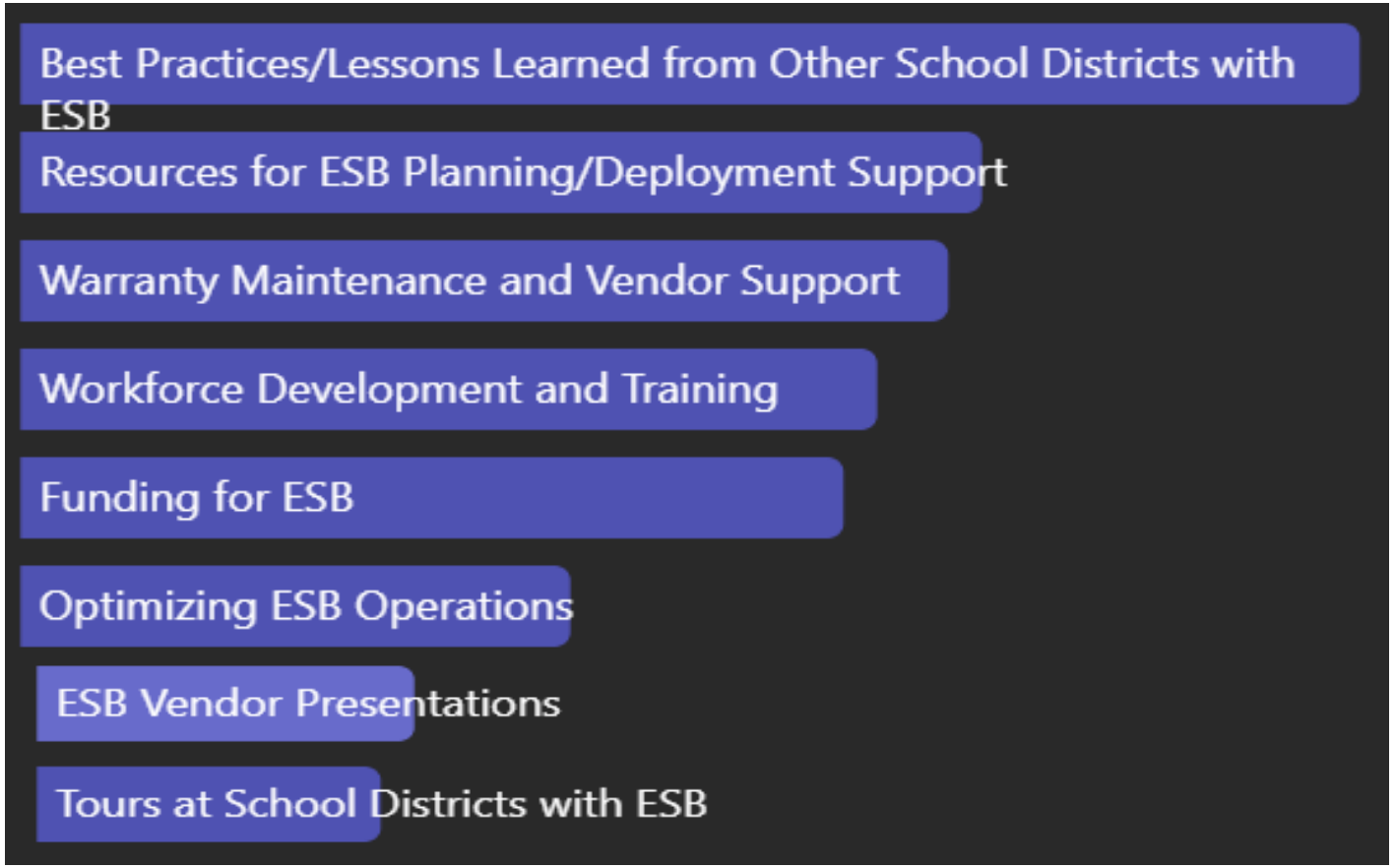
Prepare districts for future funding opportunities and projects
Identify best practices for future ESB adoption/success
Other (write in the chat)

Poll: What Vehicle Topics are of Greatest Interest?

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- Best Practices/Lessons Learned from Other School Districts with ESB
- Funding for ESB
- Resources for ESB Planning/Deployment Support
- Warranty Maintenance and Vendor Support
- Workforce Development and Training
- ESB Vendor Presentations
- Tours at School Districts with ESB
- Optimizing ESB Operations

Results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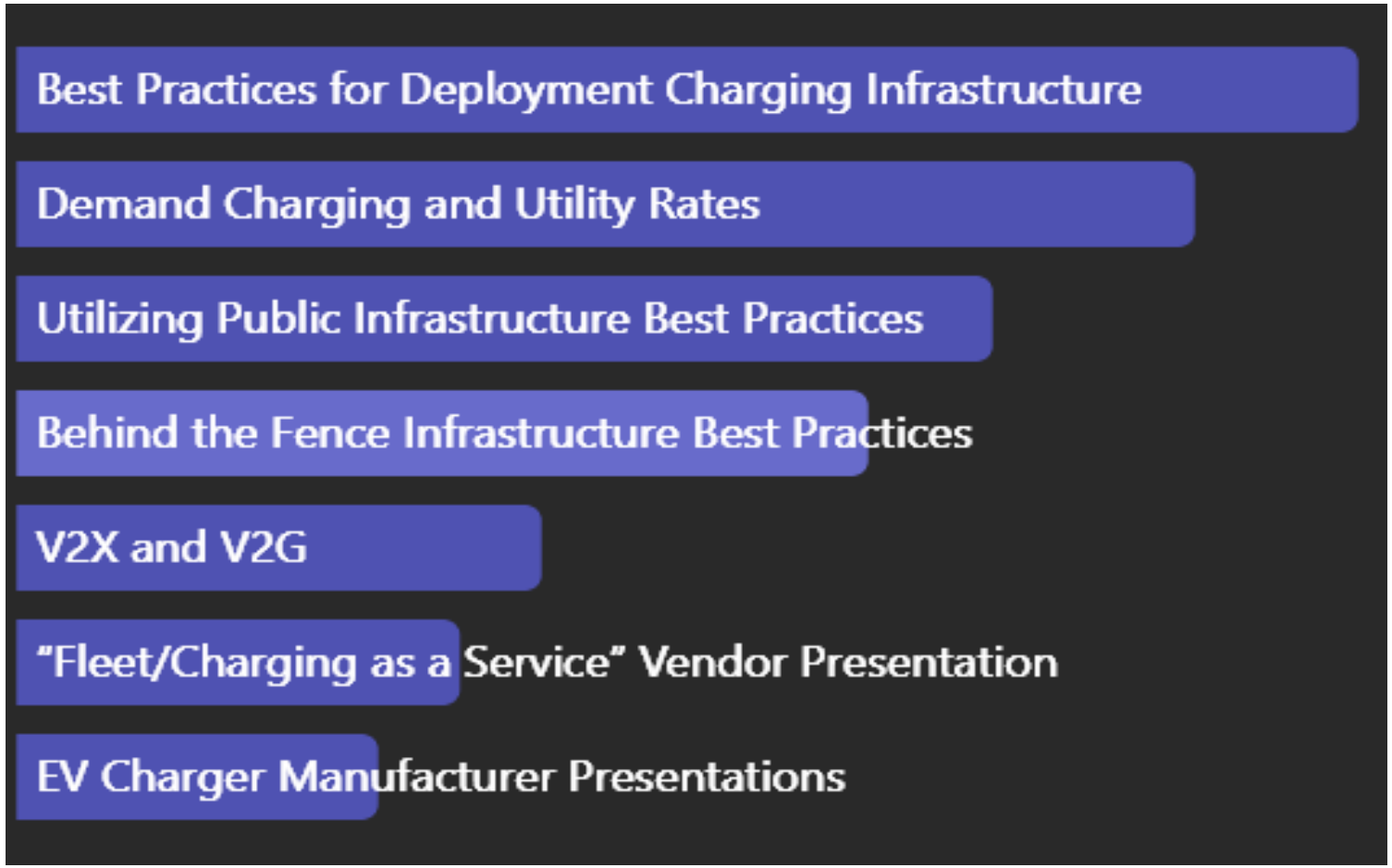
Resources for ESB Planning/Deployment Support
Warranty Maintenance and Vendor Support
Workforce Development and Training
Funding for ESB
Optimizing ESB Operations
ESB Vendor Presentations
Tours at School Districts with ESB

Poll: What Infrastructure Topics are of Greatest Interest?

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- Best Practices for Deployment Charging Infrastructure
- Demand Charging and Utility Rates
- Behind the Fence Infrastructure Best Practices
- Utilizing Public Infrastructure Best Practices
- V2X and V2G
- EV Charger Manufacturer Presentations
- “Fleet/Charging as a Service” Vendor Presentation

Results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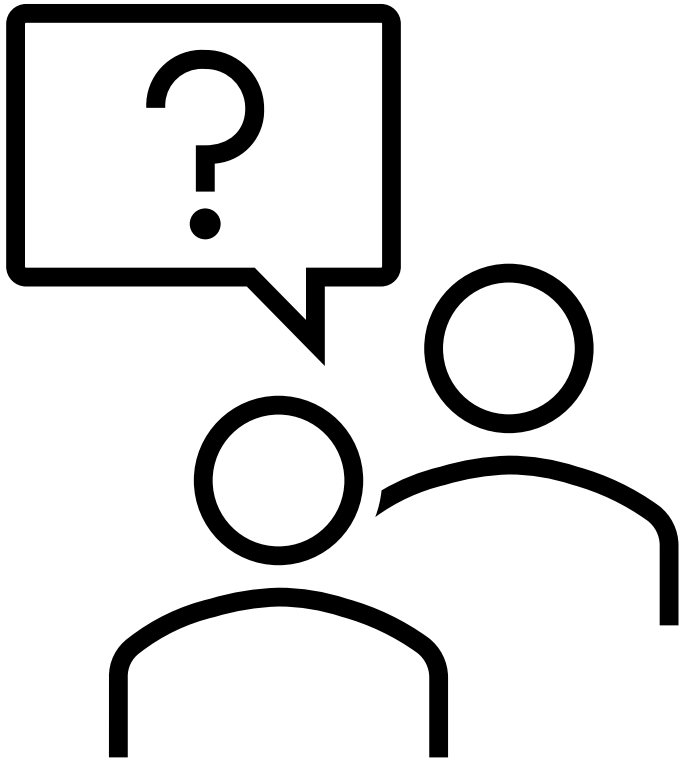
Utilizing Public Infrastructure Best Practices
Behind the Fence Infrastructure Best Practices
V2X and V2G
"Fleet/Charging as a Service" Vendor Presentation
EV Charger Manufacturer Presentations

Q & A

- Name
- Organization
- Question



Discussion Questions

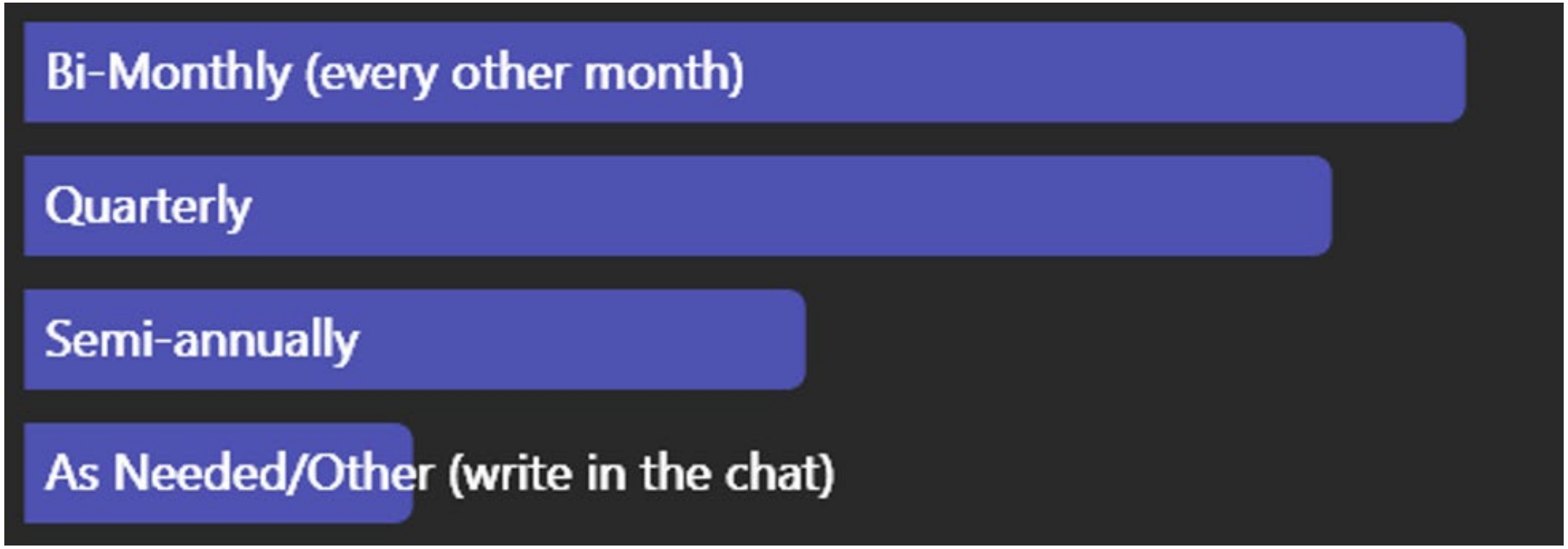
- How are ESBs fitting into daily routes and schedules?
- Has weather impacted your ESB operation?
- How is maintenance being completed at each district?
- What training has been completed, and what training is needed?
- What topics or resources would be most helpful for future meetings?

Poll: What Meeting Frequency do you Prefer?

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- Bi-Monthly (every other month)
- Quarterly
- Semi-annually
- As Needed/Other (write in the chat)

Results

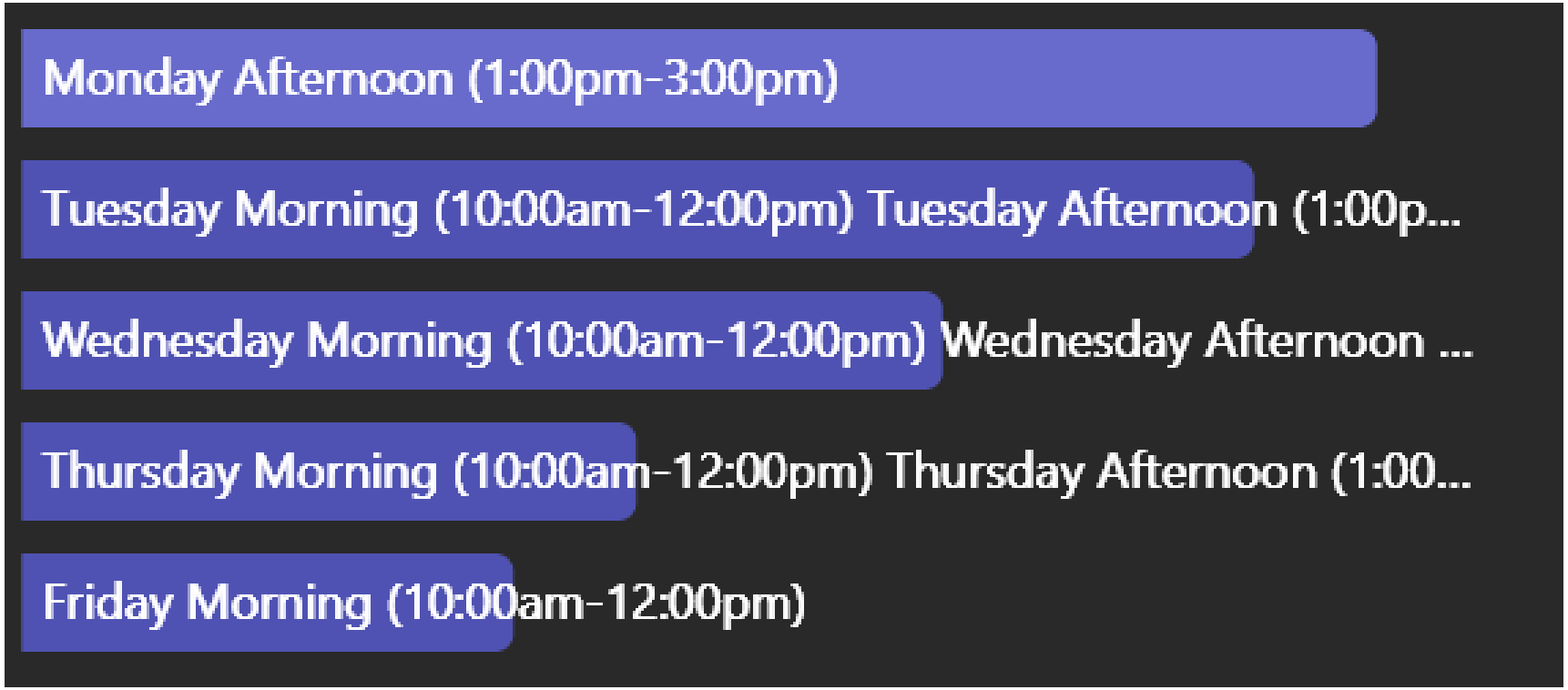

Bi-Monthly (every other month)
Quarterly
Semi-annually
As Needed/Other (write in the chat)

Poll: What Days and Times Work Best? Monday–Friday

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- Monday Afternoon (1:00pm-3:00pm)
- Tuesday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm)
- Tuesday Afternoon (1:00pm-3:00pm)
- Wednesday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm)
- Wednesday Afternoon (1:00pm-3:00pm)
- Thursday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm)
- Thursday Afternoon (1:00pm-3:00pm)
- Friday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm)

Results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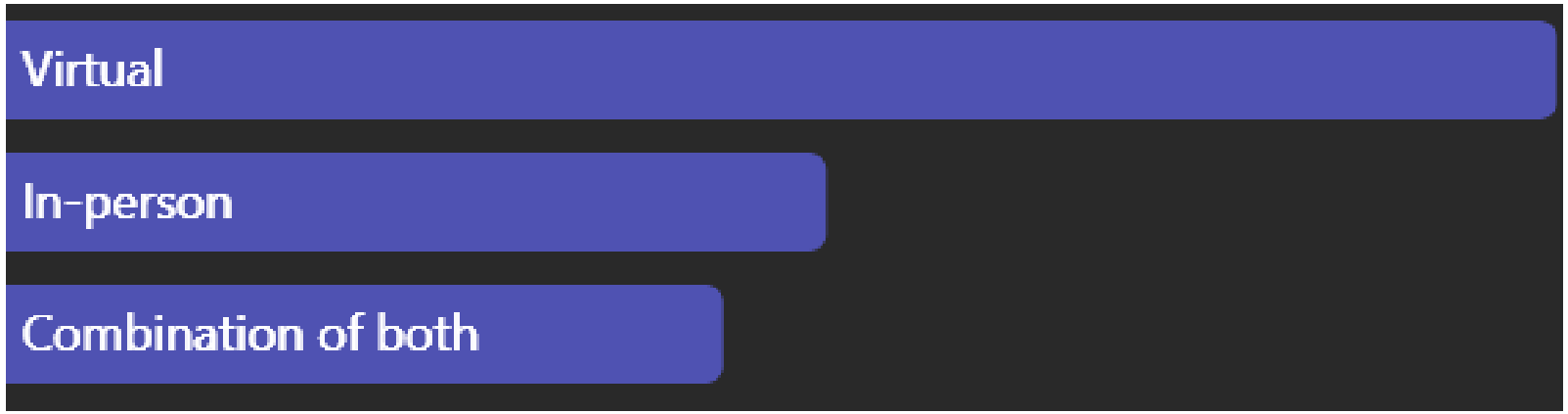
Wednesday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm) Wednesday Afternoon ...
Thursday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm) Thursday Afternoon (1:00...
Friday Morning (10:00am-12:00pm)

Poll: What Meeting Format do you Prefer?

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- Virtual
- In-person
- Combination of both

Results



Poll: If Meeting In-person, Would you be Interested in Facility Tours?

Rank from Greatest Interest to Least Interest

- School district/fleet facility tours
- Vendor facility tours
- Other entities who have adopted EVs (local governments, transit agencies, etc.)
- Not interested

Results


School district/fleet facility tours
Vendor facility tours
Other entities who have adopted EVs (local governments, transit...
Not interested

School Bus Specific Funding Opportunities

Program (Administer)	Eligible Activities	Funding Amount	Key Dates
Clean School Bus Program* (EPA)	Replace 2010 or older diesel school buses with new versions	Up to $345,000	Expected to Open Fall 2026
Texas Clean School Bus Program* (TCEQ)	Replace 2006 or older diesel school buses with new versions and purchase/install retrofit systems for school buses	Up to 80%	Expected to Open Fall 2027

NOTE: Vehicle funding programs mentioned may fund infrastructure and/or facility improvements

****Subject to change with new program requirements***

Learn More at: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding

General Vehicle Funding Opportunities

Program (Administer)	Eligible Activities	Funding Amount	Key Dates
Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TCEQ)	Replace or repower eligible medium- and heavy-duty gasoline/diesel vehicles with natural gas-powered vehicles/engines.	Up to 90% or max amount per activity type set by TCEQ, whichever is lesser	Closes 10/20/2026
Texas Volkswagen Emission Mitigation Program All-Electric Grant Round (TCEQ)	Replace or repower Class 4-8 diesel vehicles/equipment/freight switchers with zero emission versions* ***For govt. entities, eligible new fuel types include diesel or an alternative fuel for vehicle replacements***	**Varies depending old vehicle age:** • **Governmental:** Up to 100% • **Nongovernmental**: Up to 75%	Closes 8/31/2029
Texas Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment Program (TCEQ)	Purchase, replace, or repower heavy-duty on- and off-road vehicles/equipment with hydrogen	**Vehicles:** Up to 100% **Infrastructure:** Up to 50%	Expected to Open September 2026
North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicle Call for Projects (NCTCOG)	Replace older Class 6 and 7 vehicles with zero emission versions	**Varies depending on fuel and vocation type:** 33% to 80%	Ongoing deadline every 3rd Friday through the end of the year

NOTE: Vehicle funding programs mentioned may fund infrastructure and/or facility improvements

Learn More at: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding

North Texas Zero Emissions Vehicles Project

Rebates to Replace Class 6 or Class 7 "vocational vehicles" with zero-emissions trucks

- Both battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell electric trucks eligible
- Can fund supporting charging/fueling infrastructure if needed
- Both public and private sector fleets eligible

NOTE: Typical school buses are not eligible; school districts are encouraged to apply for other 'white fleet' vehicles including box trucks, work trucks, utility trucks, landscaping trucks, flatbed trucks, etc.

Straight/Box Truck



Step Van



Septic/Bucket Truck



Street Sweeper



Transit Bus



Refuse Hauler



Other Vocational Vehicles



Photo Credit: NCTCOG/Trinity Metro

No-Cost Applicant Resources

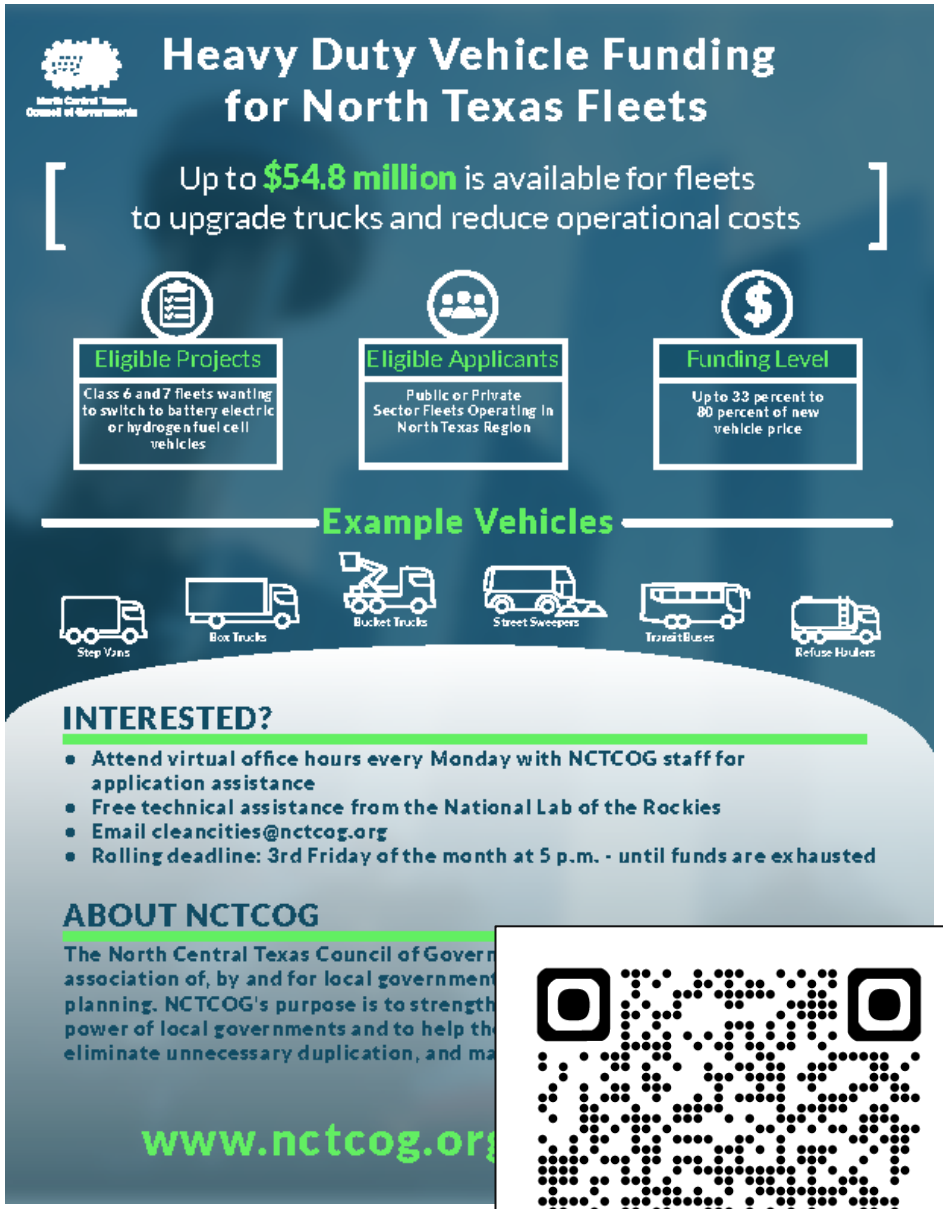
- Virtual 'Office Hours' on Mondays at 10 a.m. CT
- Project consultations from the National Lab of the Rockies
- Resources to help identify vendors/vehicles
- Workshop/meeting recordings

Details at www.nctcog.org/NTxZEV

Help spread the word! Share the flyer at meetings, newsletters, meetings, etc. NCTCOG staff available to support local events/outlets

Next application deadline: Friday, October 16 at 5 p.m. CT

Subsequent deadlines: 3rd Friday of every month at 5 p.m. CT



Facilities/Infrastructure Funding Opportunities

Program (Administer)	Eligible Activities	Funding Amount	Key Dates
Community Centers Energy Efficiency Retrofits (SECO)	Energy efficiency retrofits	Up to $3 million	December 18, 2026
Energy Improvement in Rural Areas (USDA)	Clean energy and energy efficiency	$1 billion	$200 million appropriated annually for fiscal years 2022 through 2026 (to remain available until expended)
Take a Load Off, Texas (Oncor)	Energy efficiency measures	Varies	No deadline
Texas Backup Power Package Program (Texas Energy Fund)	Provides funding to design, procure, or install backup power at critical facilities	Up to $500 per kWh	Expected to Open Fall 2026
TX LoanSTAR Program* (SECO)	Provides low-interest loans for public institutions for energy-related, cost reduction, projects	Up to $8 million	Expected to Open Summer 2027
Alternative Fueling Facilities Program* (TCEQ)	Provides funding to construct of expand alternative fuel facilities	Varies	Expected to Open Fall 2027

Subject to change with new program requirements

Learn More at: www.nctcog.org/aqfunding

Tools and Resources for School Bus Electrification

World Resources Institute (WRI) Electric School Bus Initiative (electricschoolbusinitiative.org)

- Funding and Financing Options for Electric School Buses – Funding, financing, total-cost-of-ownership tools
- ESB Charging Infrastructure – Planning, working with utilities, managed charging, and V2X/vehicle-to-grid topics
- Step-by-Step Guide for School Bus Electrification- Outlines steps to electrify school bus fleets
- Training Resources for Electric School Bus Operations & Maintenance – Training resources for drivers, fleet operators, and maintenance technicians
- Resource Library – School district stories, research, webinars, articles, and other resources

Joint Office Technical Assistance and Resources for School Districts (driveelectric.gov/school-districts) – Tools, funding, and educational resources.

Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) Electric School Bus Education (afdc.energy.gov) –Webinar series

National Lab of the Rockies (NLR) Electric School Bus Forum (fleet-forum.nlr.gov) – Talk to other districts using ESB *(request access to make an account)*

EPA Workforce Development and Training Resources (epa.gov) – Resources to support districts in training

School Districts' School Bus Resource Guide – Alternative fuel bus funding, resources, contact information

Next Steps

DFWCC Will:

- Provide slide deck and notes to group.
- Identify the next meeting time/topic and date and send to participants.





Photo Source: NCTCOG

Get Involved with DFWCC

Contact us at cleancities@nctcog.org for any questions on fleet electrification, funding opportunities, or other inquiries

Upcoming webinars and events posted regularly at dfwcleancities.org/events

Follow us on LinkedIn: linkedin.com/showcase/dfwcleancities

Sign up for weekly emails including Clean School Bus: NCTCOG Subscriptions

North Central Texas Council of Governments

DALLAS - FORT WORTH CLEAN CITIES

Contact Us

Lori Clark
Senior Program Manager
NCTCOG
LClark@nctcog.org
817-695-9232

Savana Nance
Principal Air Quality Planner
NCTCOG
SNance@nctcog.org
682-433-0488

Juliana VandenBorn
Senior Air Quality Planner
NCTCOG
JVandenborn@nctcog.org
817-704-2545

Dorcas Bisisi
Intern
NCTCOG
Dbisisi@nctcog.org
817-695-9174