

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT
INTEGRATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS INTO THE DFW REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
(R21-01)**

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

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), 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 decision on transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act assigns the MPO the responsibility for carrying out the metropolitan planning process, in cooperation with the State and public agencies; and,

WHEREAS, 23 USC §134 encourages MPOs to consult with officials responsible for other types of planning activities that are affected by transportation in their metropolitan area; and,

WHEREAS, 23 USC §134(h) provides support for coordination of UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) planning activities into the MPO process by supporting the economic vitality, increasing the safety of motorized and nonmotorized users, increasing the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight, and enhancing the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight; and,

WHEREAS, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are an unmanned aircraft and associated elements, including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft, that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system; and,

WHEREAS, Approximately 1.32 million recreational UAS aircraft and 990,000 recreational pilots are registered in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Over 900,000 commercial UAS aircraft are registered in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the initial Air Taxi Operations are projected to begin in 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the integration of surface transportation with air transportation is essential to provide seamless transfers and safe and reliable transport for regional travelers; congestion mitigation is an integral element of a reliable and safe transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, UAS technology is integral to the development of smart cities, systems, and environments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. The RTC supports a continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process to integrate land-based and aerial-based transportation systems in a safe and cost-effective fashion to maximize economies of scale and improve mobility.

- Section 2.** The RTC supports safe and responsible UAS activity within the region, including, but not limited to, medical supplies and package delivery, air taxi, public safety use, accident reconstruction, surveying, and other activities as identified in the future.
- Section 3.** The RTC encourages agencies to support their public safety services use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.
- Section 4.** The RTC encourages agencies to work with the UAS industry to adopt “pilot” programs to demonstrate the technologies properly operated in and around a metropolitan area.
- Section 5.** The RTC encourages educational institutions in North Texas to provide UAS-oriented educational offerings to help prepare the transportation workforce of the future.
- Section 6.** The RTC supports the development of UAS aircraft pilot certification standards and efforts to position North Texas as a center for UAS aircraft pilot training.
- Section 7.** The RTC encourages agencies to participate in the North Texas UAS Safety and Integration Task Force. This working group provides a forum that will allow cities to share their current use cases and policies, and also learn about other UAS use cases that can be employed by cities.
- Section 8.** This Resolution shall be transmitted to the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, and counties and cities within the Metropolitan Planning Organization planning boundary.
- Section 9.** This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

Roger Harmon, Chair
Regional Transportation Council
County Judge, Johnson County

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 February 11, 2021.

Ann Zadeh, Secretary
Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Fort Worth