



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Kamp Named Chair of Regional Transportation Council**

Arlington's Wilemon, Dallas County's Cantrell also elected officers for 2012-13

**June 20, 2012** (ARLINGTON, Texas) – Denton Mayor Pro Tem Pete Kamp will preside over the Regional Transportation Council for the next year after her election as chair of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' transportation policymaking body last week.

Kamp replaces Fort Worth City Councilmember Jungus Jordan, who had served as chair of the 43-member body since June 2011. Arlington City Councilmember Kathryn Wilemon was elevated to vice chair after a year as secretary. Dallas County Commissioner Mike Cantrell is the new secretary.

Kamp will lead the RTC during a legislative year, with lawmakers scheduled to reconvene in Austin for a 140-day session in January. The transportation council has been working on scenarios to present to the Legislature that could help North Texas enhance transportation options and improve mobility as the population grows.

The RTC oversees transportation planning for the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, one of the nation's fastest-growing regions. It guides the development of multimodal transportation plans and programs, allocates transportation funds and recommends projects to the Texas Transportation Commission for other programs.

The RTC also ensures transportation services are coordinated throughout the region and the metropolitan area complies with air quality regulations.

With the Dallas-Fort Worth area facing a long-range transportation funding shortfall, traditional and innovative funding measures are important if the region is to meet the needs of its 6.5 million residents.

The erosion of the gas tax's purchasing power, coupled with Dallas-Fort Worth's surging population, has intensified the need for innovation. And the RTC has responded with several initiatives. Among them is a plan to bring passenger rail to the 62-mile Cotton Belt corridor through the Innovative Finance Initiative (iFi). According to a recent report, approximately \$2.7 billion could be available over 40 years from a variety of funding sources.

In recent years, the region has experienced tremendous growth in passenger rail to go along with an expanding roadway system. Dallas Area Rapid Transit will open the first phase of Orange Line light rail service next month, and the Denton County Transportation Authority

recently celebrated the first birthday of its 21-mile A-train commuter rail line. The RTC played a role in the development of both.

The cooperative approach of the RTC leads to decisions that enhance the quality of life of residents who live, work and play throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Kamp was appointed to the RTC in 2004. Wilemon has been a member since 2003. Cantrell has served on the council since 2007. The new officers' terms will last until June 2013.

**About the Regional Transportation Council:**

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) of the North Central Texas Council of Governments has served as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for regional transportation planning in the Dallas-Fort Worth area since 1974. The MPO works in cooperation with the region's transportation providers to address the complex transportation needs of the rapidly growing metropolitan area. The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant and Wise counties. The RTC's 43 members include local elected or appointed officials from the metropolitan area and representatives from each of the area's transportation providers. More information can be found at [www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org).

**About the North Central Texas Council of Governments:**

NCTCOG is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1966 to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

NCTCOG serves a 16-county region of North Central Texas, which is centered on the two urban centers of Dallas and Fort Worth. Currently, NCTCOG has 240 member governments including 16 counties, 170 cities, 24 school districts, and 30 special districts.