

Taxicabs Turning Green

Program provides incentives to operate cleaner vehicles

Sept. 9, 2008 (Arlington, Texas) – A trend playing out across the country in cities such as New York and San Francisco is gaining momentum in North Texas. Last year, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced his city's taxi fleet would feature exclusively hybrids by 2012. Closer to home, San Antonio and Austin recently added hybrids to their taxi fleets.

Now local taxicab companies may be eligible to receive \$5,000 toward the purchase of low-emitting vehicles through the North Texas Green and Go Clean Taxi Partnership.

Taxicab owners who hold a taxicab operating permit within at least one of the Dallas-Fort Worth air quality nonattainment counties (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall or Tarrant) may be eligible to receive the funds. The money will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 31, or when funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

Taxi cabs and other for-hire vehicles drive an average of 60,000 to 80,000 miles per year and can play an important role in helping the region meet its air quality goals.

Replacement vehicles must meet certain Environmental Protection Agency engine standards, as well as local regulating authority (Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, city of Fort Worth, city of Dallas) specifications and operate as taxicabs in the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment counties for a minimum of three consecutive years immediately following purchase.

Registered taxicabs that have operated in at least one nonattainment county for the past 12 months and have passed a safety inspection conducted by the Department of Public Safety within the last 15 months of application are eligible. They must also stop operating as taxicabs once replaced.

Applications and more information can be found at www.NorthTexasGreenAndGo.org.

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, Rockwall and Tarrant counties, as well as portions of Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman and Parker Counties. The RTC's 40 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.

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 233 member governments including 16 counties, 165 cities, 23 school districts and 29 special districts.

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