

Office of Neighborhood Services

City of Richland Hills, Texas

## Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council  
From: Scott Mitchell, Director of Neighborhood Services  
Date: January 20, 2015  
Subject: Ordinance Adopting Region Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy

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### **Council Action Requested:**

Approve an ordinance adopting the North Central Texas Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Council's revised Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy for Richland Hills.

### **Background Information:**

In November of 2005 the City of Richland Hills approved Ordinance Number 1035-05, adopting the NCTCOG RTC Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy. This policy stipulates that Richland Hills will follow recommended guidelines from the RTC to help lower vehicle emissions as well as conserve fuel in the D/FW Metropolitan Area. In addition to reducing emissions and conserving fuel, adoption of this policy enhances potential grant opportunities for fleet and transportation related issues.

The RTC revised and updated the policy in late 2014 to reflect changes in vehicle and fuel emission control standards set by the State and Federal governments, as well as changes made by vehicle manufacturers.

This item is a request for the adoption of the revised Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy that was approved by NCTCOG on December 14, 2014.

**Board/Citizen Input:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Staff Contacts:**

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**Attachments:**

Ordinance Adopting the Revised Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy

**ORDINANCE NO. 1288-15**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS  
ADOPTING THE REVISED CLEAN FLEET VEHICLE POLICY AS  
RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL.**

**WHEREAS**, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metropolitan Area by the Governor of Texas and 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 NCTCOG and has been and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and,

**WHEREAS**, NCTCOG has been designated as a Clean Cities Coalition for the DFW region by the US Department of Energy in accordance with federal law and the NCTCOG Executive Board authorized NCTCOG to serve as the host organization for the DFW Clean Cities (DFWCC) Coalition and its efforts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated the DFW area as a nonattainment area for the pollutant ozone, and air quality impacts the public health of the entire region; and,

**WHEREAS**, emissions inventories from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) indicate that in 2012, approximately 76 percent of the nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions and 25 percent of the volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions in the DFW ozone nonattainment area are attributable to mobile sources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the RTC is responsible for transportation conformity; and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require that transportation plans and improvement programs in air quality nonattainment areas conform to the adopted State Implementation Plan (SIP); and,

**WHEREAS**, the RTC has adopted a resolution supporting the adoption and implementation of a Clean Fleet Policy by organizations with fleet operations in the DFW area; and reserves all future vehicle funding for entities that adopt and comply with a policy consistent with the provisions outlined below,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richland Hills, Texas, will set goals and provide workable, cost-effective solutions to improve air quality and reduce petroleum consumption in the DFW area, and implement those measures as practicable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**Section 1.**

**The City of Richland Hills, Texas, will reduce emissions from fleet activities by performing the following actions as practicable:**

- 1.1** Implement an idle-reduction policy/standard operating procedure (SOP) that applies to all of the entity's vehicles and equipment, except where exempted as determined by Richland Hills; communicate idle-reduction expectations to staff, vendors and visitors; and utilize idle-reduction technology.

- 1.2 Maximize use of vehicles and equipment with the lowest emissions wherever possible.
- 1.3 Ensure all conversions are EPA and/or California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified; ensure that aftermarket technologies are EPA and/or CARB verified, or are listed as an emerging technology by the EPA or a state environmental agency; and both conversions and aftermarket technologies are compatible with Texas Low Emission Diesel Program (TxLED) requirements.
- 1.4 Establish a plan to modify non-essential fleet activities on high ozone days to reduce air quality impacts.
- 1.5 Implement vehicle and equipment disposal strategies which minimize negative impacts on air quality.
- 1.6 Implement vehicle and equipment emissions inspection practices which meet or surpass the standards required by statute, including prompt resolution of any illuminated malfunction indicator lamp (MIL).

**Section 2.**

**The City of Richland Hills, Texas, will reduce overall fuel consumption, particularly the use of conventional petroleum fuels, by performing the following actions as practicable:**

- 2.1 Pursue low-emission vehicles and equipment for acquisition, with an emphasis on alternative fuel, advanced technology, and/or Smartway<sup>SM</sup> certified vehicles and equipment.
- 2.2 Improve overall fleet fuel efficiency.
- 2.3 Establish practices to reduce vehicle miles traveled, passenger miles traveled, engine hours, and/or ton miles traveled, as appropriate.

**Section 3.**

**The City of Richland Hills, Texas, will partner with the NCTCOG and DFWCC by performing the following actions as practicable:**

- 3.1 Maintain membership and active participation in DFWCC and submit timely Clean Fleet Policy reporting.
- 3.2 Evaluate and consider participation in programs to test/commercialize/demonstrate new technologies to improve efficiency, reduce emissions, and/or increase fuel efficiency.
- 3.3 Pursue activities which support peer fleets' efforts to implement fuel- or emissions-reducing activities by sharing and maximizing resources.
- 3.4 Encourage fleet activities which minimize water, solid waste, or other environmental impacts of fleet activities, as appropriate.

**Section 4.**

**The City of Richland Hills, Texas, will ensure drivers/operators and fleet personnel are familiar with air quality and petroleum reduction goals by performing the following actions as practicable:**

- 4.1** Provide in-house training and/or attending training administered by NCTCOG for fleet personnel and other staff involved in fleet decisions to review policy elements and provide recommendations for achieving objectives.
- 4.2** Consider other mechanisms to increase understanding and awareness among fleet personnel and others.

The City of Richland Hills, Texas, acknowledges that adoption of the Clean Fleet Policy, adoption of an idle reduction policy/SOP as outlined in section 1.1, submittal of both policies, and submittal of Clean Fleet Policy reporting is required to be eligible for future clean fleet funding from the RTC, and may be considered when determining other funding actions. The extent of Clean Fleet Policy implementation, as documented through reporting, will also be a factor in receiving DFWCC fleet recognition.

This policy shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption and replaces the prior Clean Fleet Vehicle Policy of the adopting entity.

I hereby certify that this policy was adopted by the City of Richland Hills, Texas, on January 20, 2015.

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THE HONORABLE MAYOR BILL AGAN

ATTEST:

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CATHY BOURG, CITY SECRETARY