

Summary
TWG Biannual Meeting
2 April 2015
10:00am - noon

TxDOT, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Bldg. 200, Classroom 1A.1 Austin, Texas

A. Introductions & Announcements

Self introductions were made and attendees signed-in. There were 40 TWG members in attendance. Bill Knowles began the meeting with an explanation of the new TWG meeting format. TWG members then split into the three subcommittee breakout sessions. The summary from each session is provided below. After the breakout sessions and lunch, the general session began.

B. TWG General Session

- **Primary Discussion Items**

- MOSERS Update— Update of the Texas Guide to Accepted Mobile Source Emission Reduction Strategies (Tara Ramani, TTI). Ramani presented on updating the Texas Guide to Accepted Mobile Source Emission Reduction Strategies (MOSERS). [Download a PDF of the presentation.](#)
- Update on FHWA Extreme Weather Climate Change—Presentation from Jenny Narvaez (NCTCOG) and Cathy Stephens (CAMPO) on their pilot programs.
[Download a PDF of the NCTCOG presentation.](#)
[Download a PDF of the CAMPO presentation.](#)

C. Subcommittee Status Updates

- **Summary of Formation of MOSERS Subcommittee (Room 1A.1).** Chairs: Tim Juarez (TxDOT) and Tara Ramani (TTI).

Juarez provided opening remarks regarding the Texas Guide to Accepted Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Strategies (MOSERS) and the ongoing updates of the guide. The current version of the MOSERS guide is the second edition published in 2007, and the aim of this initiative is to update the current content, as well as develop additional content focused on providing an additional layer of standardized guidance on the activity analysis elements of the evaluation of MOSERS.

Ramani provided a brief overview of the MOSERS update process (formal presentation was made during the main committee meeting in the afternoon). She also provided a draft of a proposed survey to be sent to TWG

members and other transportation/air quality practitioners in Texas.

- Subcommittee members provided feedback on the survey questions for TTI to incorporate into the survey.
- It was agreed that the survey would be distributed in online form, and sent to the TWG mailing list as well as to TxDOT MPO Coordinators.

Participants then engaged in a general discussion regarding this MOSERS update effort. Some key points made included:

- Suggestions for added measures/focus areas/issues include vanpool services, off-road/non-road applications.
- It was suggested that HCM methods be used where possible for the activity analysis components. Other aspects to address include activity-based models, MAP-21 requirements, etc. It was noted that there is a need to balance providing sufficient guidance with retaining flexibility to handle differences among agencies.

Training/workshops will be provided once the MOSERS guide is updated. TTI will discuss with TxDOT the possibility of providing a briefing to subcommittee members in late summer 2015 to keep them engaged in the update process.

It was recommended that any changes/modifications to methods be documented with a timestamp to track updates chronologically.

- **Documentation Subcommittee Summary (Room C).** Chair: Jenny Narvaez. Narvaez developed a mock website (not open to the public). The purpose of the page is to assist MPOs with the development of transportation conformity documentation by providing the tools and resources in one central location. During the meeting, the committee members discussed adding the following items to the development site:
 - Provide court decisions and rulings
 - Show pending federal rules and comment periods
 - List areas subject to conformity, and areas that are nearing nonattainment status
 - Chris Sasser is the contact for any recommended changes/additions/ Pull links from FHWA Transportation Conformity website (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/rule.cfm) and add them to the website: Laws and Regulations, Policy and Guidance, Research, Reference Material, Models and Methodologies, and Training

Once finalized, Narvaez will work with Chris Sasser to move the content over to the main TWG site, and then any changes or additions will need to go thru Sasser. Narvaez also indicated that the committee discussed that a guide on build/no build is desired.

- **Summary of Discussion on Near Nonattainment/Ozone Advance Subcommittee (Room 1A.2).** Chair: Cathy Stephens.

Stephens reported that the group represented areas from throughout the state and wanted to have a place on the TWG site to house documents and share information. Stephens reported coordinating efforts with other near non-attainment groups to make sure information is shared appropriately. Stephens reported that the group talked about design values and the definition. Stephens reported that some of the topics the group wanted to learn more about include the designation process, monitors (differences between regulatory and non-regulatory, etc.), transportation conformity, the SIP process, TERP and how to access that funding, ozone control measures, and emissions modeling.

Stephens reported the group also discussed future needs that include seeking training opportunities. Chris Sasser is going to search for training opportunities. The group discussed meeting quarterly with two in-person meetings as part of the biannual TWG meeting and then two teleconferences. The committee also selected Stephen Smeltzer as the co-chair.

D. Agency Information and Updates

EPA (Jeff Riley)

- **NAAQS**—Riley reported that on March 6, 2015, the EPA published the 2008 ozone NAAQS state implementation plan (SIP) requirements rule, which is the last rulemaking towards implementing the standard. This rule became effective April 6. Riley reported this was important because the D.C. Circuit Court decision on December 23, 2014, vacated both EPA's revocation of the 1997 ozone NAAQS for transportation conformity purposes and the 2008 ozone NAAQS attainment dates/years established by EPA's 2012 classification rule for the 2008 ozone standard.

Riley reported that EPA is in the process of a proposal of action on the 2015 ozone NAAQS review. Riley reported that the proposal was published on December 17, 2014, and the comment period recently closed on March 17. Riley reported that EPA received around 400,000 comments. Riley reported that he expects EPA to stay on schedule for a final rulemaking by October 3, 2015. The EPA is proposing to revise the primary standard to a level within

the range of 0.065 to 0.070 parts per million (ppm), and to revise the secondary standard to within the range of 0.065 to 0.070 ppm.

- **Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit (STAQS)**—Riley reported that the FHWA Resource Center, EPA Regions 4 & 6, and various state & local agencies are currently planning a STAQS event for Summer 2015. STAQS 2015 will most likely be held in Atlanta, GA, in the late August/early September timeframe.

The purpose of the summit is to bring together stakeholders from both the transportation and air quality communities to discuss current and coming regulatory environment, technologies and current practices vital to the field of air quality and transportation. The summit is geared to practitioners involved with public agencies at all levels. Riley reported that he is seeking input for suggested sessions and presentations. **NOTE:** Chris Sasser distributed an email to TWG on April 13 calling for agenda development suggestions.

- **MOVES**— Riley reported that EPA is having a 2-day hands-on MOVES 2014 training for new users in Austin on April 21-22. Riley reported that this training is intended to start users on the ground level and work users through examples. The group discussed various meeting logistics and the importance of users having MOVES loaded on their laptops in advance of the training.

FHWA (Barbara Maley) Maley provided the following comments:

- **DC Circuit Court Decision.**
 - See [FHWA letter dated March 24, 2015](#) to Lt. Gen Joe Weber
 - The letter addressed DFW, HGB and BMT actions
 - There was good cooperation between Federal agencies i.e., EPA and FTA Region 6
 - FHWA Division and EPA Region 6 each worked with their headquarters offices
- **FHWA and TxDOT AQ coordination.**
 - FHWA PPD and TxDOT ENV participate in weekly conference calls
 - Contact ENV/Jackie Ploch and/or ENV/Tim Wood should you desire FHWA PPD or TxDOT ENV to discuss an item
 - Regional and project-level items are discussed, as appropriate post-NEPA assignment
- **CMAQ Annual Reporting.**
 - TPP/Michelle Conkle is leading the YR 2013 and YR 2014 catch up effort

- **Technical Asst/Training.**
 - FHWA PPD is open to ad hoc discussions; i.e., timed between biennial TWG meetings
 - Contact PPD/Barbara Maley at Barbara.maley@dot.gov or 214.224.2175
- **Misc. Info.**
 - FHWA PPD will provide info to TWG/Chris Sasser, ENV/Jackie and Tim and TPP/Peggy and Cindy, as received.
- **Transportation Conformity(ies)**
 - 2014 DFW
 - 2015 H-GAC

TTI's addition to FHWA's remarks:

MAP-21 Air Quality and Congestion Mitigation Measure Outcomes Assessment Study (Summary and Technical Reports) are available at:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/research/outcomes/assessment/index.cfm

TxDOT TPP (Janie Temple) — Temple reported that D/FW conformities were in. Temple reported that Houston was also in and everything was going well. Temple reported that El Paso is preparing a conformity soon.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch) — Ploch reported that she sent two documents to Chris Sasser for potential distribution to TWG. Links to the documents are provided below:

- [84th Regular Texas State Legislative Session—Air Quality Bills](#) (PDF)
- [Research of Potential Interest to TWG](#) (PDF)

Ploch reported that she hoped to schedule a Texas-specific regional MOVES training in the next fiscal year.

TCEQ (Jamie Zech) — Zech reported that TCEQ is wrapping up their SIP revisions for the D/FW area. Zech reported that they have completed the public comment period and they are scheduled for adoption agenda on June 3. Zech reported that TCEQ is completing a SIP revision that is their version of a re-designation substitute SIP revision for the Houston area one-hour standard. Zech reported that the Houston redesignation substitute SIP revision for the one-hour standard is scheduled for adoption on July 1. Zech reported that TCEQ is working on redesignation substitute SIP revisions for the D/FW one-hour and 1997 eight-hour nonattainment areas and for the 1997 eight-hour Houston nonattainment area. Those are scheduled for proposal agenda in September.

Zech reported that in February TCEQ submitted to EPA an extension request for the

Houston area for the 2008 standard to extend the attainment date by one year.

TTI (Dennis Perkinson) — Perkinson had no updates at this time.

MPO's Status and Updates— Jenny Narvaez (NCTCOG) reported that they are still waiting to wrap up their 2014 transportation conformity. Narvaez reported that they have completed a couple of the emissions inventories for TCEQ. Narvaez reported that they did complete their environmental speed limit TCM substitution and two TxDOT districts are receiving new signs. Narvaez reported that her area is sitting at 71 ppb. Narvaez introduced a new staff member: Vivek Thimmavajhala.

E. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Sasser)

- The presenters will provide their presentations to Chris Sasser for posting.
- Chris Sasser will work with the subcommittees to summarize their updates.
- Chris Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.
- Information on the September biannual meeting to be held in Houston will be sent out next month.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, September 3, 2015, Houston*