

Summary

TWG Biannual Meeting

7 March, 2013

10:00am - noon

TxDOT, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Bldg. 200, Classroom "A" Austin, Texas
(and by VTC at TxDOT District Offices)

A. Introductions & Announcements

Self introductions were made and attendees signed-in. There were 17 TWG members in attendance along with 14 additional participants via VTC from TxDOT district offices in Beaumont, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Tyler, and San Antonio.

- B. Primary Discussion Item**— Joe Zietsman with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute gave a presentation on the newly developed transportation air quality policy analysis documentation catalog. Zietsman's Air Quality Program recently developed a website that documents TTI's transportation air quality policy analysis activities. Zietsman gave an overview of the website's capabilities, which include allowing a user to search for topics by focus area, subject category, or keyword.

Dennis Perkinson asked for clarification on citing these documents in reports, and after a discussion it was determined that "unpublished internal document" would be an acceptable citation.

Bill Knowles encouraged TWG members to browse through the portal and provide comments on areas of interest or future research topics. Knowles noted that they would be available to update some of the documentation if the need arises.

Bill Gill asked if the website documentation was limited to TTI's work with TxDOT, and Zietsman confirmed this to be correct. Knowles noted that reports from other sponsors may be posted on the TWG website in the future. Zietsman suggested that this topic stay on the agenda for future discussion.

Chris Klaus suggested a disclaimer page be added that states how to cite the documents in a report or other rules such as not sharing this information with others outside of TWG. Klaus also suggested a feature on the website that allows for ideas and comments for future research ideas.

The PowerPoint presentation, which contains information on how to access the website, is available on the TWG website at

http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/TWG_Zietsman.pdf (NOTE: This portal is intended to be for TWG members only at this time.)

- C. **Second Discussion Item**—Roundtable discussion on legislative issues pertaining to environmental/air quality issues. Jackie Ploch began the discussion by providing a summary of the bills under consideration.

Chris Klaus commented that NCTCOG regularly monitors and summarizes transportation related legislative activities, both state and federal. Klaus provided a link to share with TWG: <http://www.nctcog.org/trans/legislative/tracking.asp> . These legislative updates are generally updated at the beginning of each week.

D. EPA (Jeff Riley)

- **State SIP** — Jeff Riley reported that EPA published a final approval of the revisions that TCEQ put forward on the Beaumont/Port Arthur maintenance plan. Riley reported this revision incorporated MOVES, motor vehicle emissions budgets, and MOVES-based inventories. Riley reported that this was approved and published on February 4.

Riley reported that the notice of adequacy for MOVES-based motor vehicle emissions budgets for the D/FW area for budget years 2011 and 2012 was published on February 1.

Riley reported that EPA was still monitoring the progress of 2008 Ozone Implementation Rule—the rule which would specify items such as SIP due dates, requirements for areas, etc. Riley reported that it has still not entered the Office of Management and Budget review but that he is still receiving updates from Office of Air Quality and Planning Standards.

Dennis Perkinson confirmed that the Federal Register notices were distributed and Riley replied that was correct.

- **PM 2.5 NAAQS standard** — Jeff Riley reported that on December 14 EPA strengthened the annual health National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particles (PM_{2.5}) to 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). The agency also retained the existing standards for coarse particle pollution (PM₁₀).

Riley reported that the timeline for making attainment/nonattainment designations for the revised standard is aiming for December 2014, with designations becoming effective early 2015. Riley reported that based on those dates, SIPs would be due in 2018.

Riley reported that based on 2009-2011 monitoring, there were a few areas that may not be in attainment based on this new standard. Riley also reported that trends have generally been on a downward slope for PM 2.5 concentrations.

- **MOVES** — Jeff Riley reported that the transition grace period between use of MOBILE 6.2 and MOVES for regional analyses expired on March 2. Riley reported that most in areas in Texas are set up well. Riley reported that Houston has just started a conformity analysis to lock in the use of MOBILE 6.2, and that D/FW and Beaumont/Port Arthur have MOVES-based budgets in place.

Dennis Perkinson asked if Houston was the last remaining area to use MOBILE 6.2, and Michelle Conkle replied that El Paso may be using it as well.

Riley also reported, regarding MOVES 2013, that OTAQ may reasonably expect a transition grace period from MOVES 2010 to 2013, and also noted that budgets established with 2010 may not be incompatible with 2013.

Riley also reported about the MOVES patch update that was distributed to TWG. For more information, see:

<http://www.texastwg.org/2013/02/05/correction-to-moves2010b-database/>

Riley also reported that the U.S. Government Accountability Office drafted a report titled “Water Quality: EPA Faces Challenges in Addressing Damage Caused by Airborne Pollutants.” Riley reported that key points include the following:

- EPA had insufficient information with which to establish a secondary NO₂ and SO₂ NAAQS to address atmospheric deposition issues with waterbodies.
- Motor vehicle emissions contribute to 68% of NO_x emissions nationwide.
- According to an EPA official, establishing a secondary NAAQS for NO_x to protect against nutrient over-enrichment in a waterbody would be difficult because there can be many sources of nitrogen unrelated to atmospheric deposition, and these sources can be the dominant contributor of nitrogen to the waterbody.
- EPA announced in 2012 that it will develop a “Nitrogen Roadmap” scheduled for release in 2013 that identifies how it will foster research, program implementation, and policy integration for nitrogen and other pollutants across the agency. Developing partnerships with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and nongovernmental organizations, will be an important step. This effort may lead to more suitable approaches to address nutrient over-enrichment than establishing secondary NAAQS by themselves.

- Some areas of the nation are sensitive to the effects of acid rain, while others are naturally resistant to them. (It appears Texas is resistant).

NOTE: Chris Sasser forwarded this information to TWG on 2/26/13. Contact him if you did not receive this email.

FHWA (Shundreka Givan)

- **CMAQ reporting progress and needs** — Shundreka Givan reported that FHWA has completed CMAQ reporting requirements for FY 2012.
- **Reauthorization status** — Givan reported that regarding sequestration, that FHWA is waiting on the March 27 continuing resolution deadline to see how that plays out.
- **GHG update** — Givan reported that the Texas Climate Change and Transportation Planning Workshop on January 30 was a big success and that they are continuing to working with MPOs into incorporating climate change into transportation plans.

TxDOT TPP (Michelle Conkle)

- **Conformity updates and issues** — Michelle Conkle reported that they submitted their letter for El Paso's latest request for conformity to FHWA. Conkle reported that H-GAC still has a few pending issues and they are waiting for FHWA and TCEQ comments. Conkle reported that they recently met with NCTCOG on their upcoming request for conformity.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

- Jackie Ploch reported they are anticipating the possibility of getting NEPA delegations and are taking steps to prepare in case this occurs.

Ploch reported that state DOTs have developed a pooled fund for near-road type research issues. Ploch noted that as research was developed she would share this with the group.

TCEQ (Heather Evans)

- **SIP updates** — Heather Evans provided TCEQ SIP updates (handouts) to meeting participants. Evans mentioned the two Federal Register updates Jeff Riley noted earlier in the meeting.

Evans noted that the Houston SIP is scheduled to go before their commissioners on April 23.

- **Conformity subcommittee updates** — Evans reported that the narrative for the conformity process has been completed and is on the TWG website. The next priority is to update the pre-analysis plan to incorporate MOVES parameters.

Evans also announced that Margie McAllister is retiring at the end of March, and that she and Holly Ferguson would be assuming her duties for now. Several TWG members shared best wishes and appreciative comments for McAllister's contributions.

TTI (Dennis Perkinson)

- Dennis Perkinson had nothing to report at this time.

MPO Issues & Requests Needing TWG Discussion

- Abilene —No representatives at this meeting.
- BPA— Leanna Sheppard reported that everyone has played a significant role in getting their MCT out for public comment this week (March 4) and everything was on schedule.
- DFW — Chris Klaus reported that they will be getting with their consultative partners to discuss the proposed exclusion of analysis results on March 11 to public meetings—30 days prior to having gone for approval. Klaus reported that due to a number of complications, he is not prepared to go to public meetings on March 11. Klaus reported that he is going to delay the 30-day public process by about a month. Klaus noted that he had an outline review schedule that he did not think would interfere with the consultative review process. Klaus also reported that they are still planning for a July 20th determination.

Klaus asked about a revised TCEQ daily ozone watch email. For more information, please visit: <http://www.texastwg.org/2013/03/11/change-in-tceq-ozone-e-mail-alerts/>

- ELP— No representatives at this meeting.
- HGB—Houston had nothing to report at this time.
- Austin — Cathy Stephens reported that they are working on their ozone advance plan. Stephens reported that they had sent in their path forward letter and their ozone flex plan is their path forward until revised. Stephens noted that they are engaging in public outreach until June.
- Corpus Christi— No representatives at this meeting.
- San Antonio— Peter Bella had nothing to report at this time.
- Tyler/Longview— Karen Owen reported they are keeping a close eye on the developments of the 2010-2012 data for one of their monitoring sites. The three-year average for that site is 79 parts-per-billion. Owen also asked if EPA was still expecting a proposed revised standard in October. Jeff Riley responded that they looking for a proposal for a possible ozone standard revision in early 2014 and a final by the end of 2014.
- Victoria— Mary Craighead had nothing to report at this time.
- Waco/Temple/Killeen— No representatives at this meeting.
- Texoma (Sherman/Denison/Paris) — No representatives at this meeting
- Texarkana— No representatives at this meeting.

D. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Sasser)

- Jackie Ploch and Chris Klaus will forward legislative update information and links to Chris.
- Chris Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.
- Chris Sasser will post the slides from Joe Zietsman's presentation to TWG website.
- Chris Sasser distributed information about the TCEQ ozone watch emails.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, September 5, 2013, TxDOT, 200 East Riverside Drive, Classroom TBD, Austin, Texas* and by VTC at TxDOT District offices.