

Summary TWG Biannual Meeting

6 March, 2014

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 21 TWG members in attendance along with 17 additional participants via VTC from TxDOT district offices in Corpus Christi, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, El Paso, Longview/Marshall, Tyler, and Waco.

B. Primary Discussion Item—Presentations were made by Deanna Sivek (TCEQ), Jenny Narvaez (NCTCOG), and Jackie Ploch (TxDOT ENV) on NO₂ near-road monitors.

Deanna Sivek spoke first, and her presentation is available on the TWG website at <http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/TCEQ-Near-Road.pdf>

Sivek also followed up on a question received during the conversation about near-road monitoring regarding temporal changes and how it affects NO₂:

“I spoke with our Air Quality Division and gathered that, yes, we observe both an annual and a diurnal cycle of NO₂, which tends to peak when the mixing layer height is lowest. The mixing layer height is generally lower in winter than summer, and at night versus the day, because there is less incoming solar radiation, which heats the atmosphere and expands the mixing layer. Expanding the mixing layer dilutes the existing NO₂ into a larger volume of air, leading to lower measured concentrations of NO₂. If anyone has more questions regarding this, please have them contact me directly (Deanna.Sivek@tceq.texas.gov) and I would be happy to answer any more questions.”

Jenny Narvaez presented next, and her presentation is available on the TWG website at http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/DFW_NO2_monitoring.pdf.

Jackie Ploch was the final presenter, and her presentation is available on the TWG website at: <http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/TxDOT-Near-Road-Monitors.pdf>.

C. EPA (Jeff Riley)

- **NAAQS** — Jeff Riley reported that the NO₂ standard is reviewed every five years, and that the last review standard was completed in 2010. Riley noted that next review was scheduled to be completed in January 2015, but may be extended a year due to the expansion of the NO₂ near-road monitoring network. Riley explained that the expansion of the network was designed to address the public's perception that EPA was working with a limited data set on the last standard, and that the expanded network would give a more representative data set for designations. Riley reported that with the phased roll-out of the monitoring network between 2014-2017, EPA may complete the finalization of the NO₂ NAAQS review in the 2016 range.

2008 ozone standard: Riley reported that one of the last remaining steps is to finalize the implementation and SIP requirements rule for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Riley reported that there have been recent internal EPA briefings that they were entering the agency options selection process, which is the decision making based upon comments received during the proposal. Riley reported that he anticipates the OMB 90-day review period to begin early summer 2014.

2012 PM 2.5 designations: Riley reported that Texas submitted their recommendations to EPA for areas in 2013 and EPA is in a 120-day review period.

Ozone NAAQS review: Riley reported that EPA is currently working with a 2008 standard and with the five-year review schedule would have been due to make a recommendation in 2013. Riley reported that schedule has passed and the Sierra Club has pursued legal action to have EPA commit to a schedule for finalization.

- **Conformity** — Riley reported that in February 2014, EPA released updated documents on diesel retrofits and computer program guidance to incorporate MOVES methodology. The documents are available at the following links:

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/policy.htm#quantify>

- [Diesel Retrofits: Quantifying and Using Their Emission Benefits in SIPs and Conformity - Guidance for State and Local Air and Transportation Agencies \(PDF\)](#) (70 pp, 1.0MB, EPA-420-B-14-007, February 2014) (supersedes EPA420-B-06-005, June 2006)

- [Commuter Programs: Quantifying and Using Their Emission Benefits in SIPs and Conformity \(PDF\)](#) (13 pp, 498K, EPA-420-B-14-004, February 2014) (supersedes EPA-420-B-07-015, October 2007)

Riley reported that on Monday, March 3, 2014, EPA finalized the Tier 3 vehicle emissions standard. Further information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/tier3.htm>.

- **MOVES** — Riley reported that the release of MOVES 2014 is being held depending upon the finalization of Tier 3 standards, which were released on March 3, 2014. Riley explained the reason for this is that MOVES 2014 is intended to allow for the consideration for a lot of the reductions put in place by the Tier 3 standards. Riley reported that he did not have a specific released date for MOVES 2014, but it was reasonable to expect a summer 2014 release date.

Riley concluded EPA's updates by announcing that EPA Region 6 Air Quality Associate Director Tom Diggs is retiring.

FHWA (Jose Campos)

- **CMAQ reporting progress and needs** — Jose Campos reported that CMAQ reporting is due March 17. Campos reported that he had a list of projects out of their system that showed a change in project funding for CMAQ, and that he would provide that list to anyone that needs it. Campos also requested that each MPO verify their CMAQ contact person.
- **CMAQ funding estimates for new nonattainment areas**—Campos reported that MAP 21 has revised how money came to TxDOT.
- **Reauthorization status**—Campos reported that, regarding MAP 21, that many of the performance-based planning rules are almost ready to be released and that he would let everyone know when they were. Campos reported that there would be a series of webinars to go over this information when it's available.
- **Greenhouse gas update**—Campos had nothing to report at this time.

TxDOT TPP (Michelle Conkle)

- **Conformity updates and issues** — Michelle Conkle reported that El Paso's conformity determination was in progress and that TPP completed its review on February 10. Conkle also reported that she is sending out the CMAQ project list from FMIS to the MPOs to be entered into UPACS that Jose referenced earlier and that the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference is in Corpus Christi on June 3-5. This conference will feature an air quality track. More information about this conference is available at <http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tpp14/>.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

- **Revised after bill was signed into law.** Jackie Ploch reported on HR 4076 Home Heating Emergency Assistance Through Transportation aka (HHEAT).

The bill is based on the USDOT issued temporary emergency declaration to allow tank trucks to operate and deliver propane and heating fuels to drive for longer hours to speed up deliveries in the effected states and may last until May 31, 2014 (if needed).

Governor Perry signed the emergency declaration on January 23rd to help other states in need of propane (since we produce about 2/3rds of the nation's supply). That declaration has waived traditional licensure requirements and rules that normally prohibit other states from trucking propane from Texas and may have some increase on truck volume in Texas.

TCEQ (Jamie Zech and Heather Evans)

- **SIP updates** — Heather Evans reported that TCEQ has two active SIPs underway—one is the emissions inventory update SIP which affects both D/FW and Houston. Evans reported that they are finishing up and is scheduled to go to the commission next month (April, 2014). Evans reported that for the D/FW area 2008 ozone standard, TCEQ is still in the process of developing that SIP and is anticipating to go into proposal by December, 2014.
- **Near-road monitoring update** — Jamie Zech had nothing to report at this time.

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— Beaumont had nothing to report at this time.
- DFW — Jenny Narvaez reported that NCTCOG is working with TCEQ to wrap up their 2013 SIP inventory. Narvaez reported that they are preparing for an updated inventory using MOVES 2014.
- ELP— Isela Perez reported that they have a conformity determination that is pending, and that they are working on a new TIP for 2015-2018.
- HGB—Chris Van Slyke and Shelly Whitworth provided updates of H-GAC's recent activities which included the development of TIP plans and the voluntary advance PM 2.5 plan.
- Austin — Shana Norton reported that Bill Gill with CAPCOG has retired and that CAMPO is in the middle of a plan update, which is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2015. Norton reported that their 803 Flex Plan received an award of excellence.
- Corpus Christi— Corpus Christi reported that they were working on their long term plan and finishing up with their ozone advance letter that they are submitting to EPA.
- San Antonio— Nick Page provided an update on their MTIP updates and activities.
- Tyler/Longview— Tyler/Longview had nothing to report at this meeting.
- Victoria— No representatives at this meeting.
- Waco/Temple/Killeen— Waco had nothing to report at this meeting.
- Texoma (Sherman/Denison/Paris) — No representatives at this meeting
- Texarkana— No representatives at this meeting.

D. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Sasser)

- Jeff Riley will follow up with Chris Sasser on several emails.
- The presenters will send Chris Sasser their presentations.
- Chris Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, September 4, 2014*, TxDOT, 200 East Riverside Drive, Classroom TBD, Austin, Texas and by VTC at TxDOT District offices.