

## Summary TWG Biannual Meeting

3 October, 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 14 TWG members in attendance along with 11 additional participants via VTC from TxDOT district offices in Beaumont, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, El Paso and Tyler.

### B. Primary Discussion Item— NOTE: Due to the government shutdown, Jeff Riley and Carrie Paige were unable to attend the meeting. Riley sent his presentation, notes, and status updates to Chris Sasser on October 24 for inclusion in this summary.

[EPA Presentation on Advance](#) (provided by EPA’s Carrie Paige)

**Riley’s notes:** The shutdown resulted in delay of updates to Advance website. If anyone is having difficulty finding information/materials, please contact Carrie Paige ([paige.carrie@epa.gov](mailto:paige.carrie@epa.gov), (214)665-6521).

### C. EPA (Jeff Riley) NOTE: The following status updates were provided by Jeff Riley via email on October 24.

- **State SIP** — The 2008 Ozone Implementation Rule – proposal comment period ended September 4<sup>th</sup>, EPA back to working on addressing comments. Including an anticipated Office of Management & Budget 90-day review period, we anticipate the final rulemaking in May 2014. Except for purposes of transportation conformity, the 1997 8-hr Ozone NAAQS continues to apply until the 2008 Ozone implementation rule is finalized.
- **PM 2.5 NAAQS standard** — States are required to submit area designation recommendations to EPA by December 13, 2013. EPA is currently working towards proposal of a 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS implementation rule in Spring 2014.
- **MOVES** — EPA OTAQ anticipates release date of MOVES 2013 will be tied to EPA’s final Tier 3 rule (aiming for final rule late 2013/early 2014), because MOVES 2013 allows for analysis of Tier 3 standards and other recent regulations. The release of MOVES 2013 will start a new conformity grace

period (length/dates to be determined), and the model will be accompanied by new documentation, guidance and training.

### **FHWA (Jose Campos)**

- **CMAQ reporting progress and needs** — Jose Campos reported that they are in their new fiscal year and they are trying to get out information to all non-attainment areas that used CMAQ last year to get their reporting started. Campos reported that Shundreka Givan was promoted and now in Florida.
- **CMAQ funding estimates for new nonattainment areas**—Campos reported that last year’s nonattainment designations were for Dallas and Houston and that Beaumont and El Paso are in attainment under the 2008 standard, but continue to be eligible for CMAQ funding. This might come back under for consideration on how the funds are dispersed in Texas in the future. Campos reported that under Map 21, the fund disbursement formula is still used and the CMAQ funds are in proportion of how the funds were received the previous year.
- **Reauthorization status**—Campos had no update at this time.
- **Greenhouse gas update**—Campos reported that FHWA had a pilot climate change program with two areas who secured grants: Austin and Dallas. Campos reported that a peer climate change workshop was recently held in Austin with other states participating.

### **TxDOT TPP (Janie Temple)**

- **Conformity updates and issues** — Janie Temple reported that El Paso had a conference call the week of September 30 and they were taking action on several documents, submitting the documents, and then the conformity review period will begin.

### **TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)**

- Jackie Ploch reported that [NCHRP 25-25-Task 02](#) *Transportation Impacts of Smart Growth and Comprehensive Planning Initiatives* report was available and that the panel met to select research for the next fiscal year. Ploch reported that several project level air quality studies were proceeding.

Ploch reported that they were scheduled to submit an application package to FHWA for a project with CALTRANS.

## TCEQ (Jamie Zech and Heather Evans)

- **SIP updates** — Heather Evans provided TCEQ SIP updates (handouts) to meeting participants. Evans reported going before the commissioners in late October regarding PM 2.5 designations and at this point saying the entire state is in attainment for that standard. Evans reported that there is also going to be an item for a commissioners meeting in December regarding the Houston and Dallas emissions inventory update component of the SIPs that they are working on.
  
- **Near-road monitoring update** — Jamie Zech provided the following update: *EPA* changed the monitoring network requirements for the NO<sub>2</sub> standard to capture both peak NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations that occur near roadways and community-wide NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. This requires installing near-road monitors in certain areas of the state. Monitors are on a schedule to become operational, with
  - DFW, HGB, Austin-Round Rock, and San Antonio area monitors operational by January 1, 2014;
  - second monitors in DFW and HGB areas operational by January 1, 2015; and
  - El Paso and Edinburg-Mission-McAllen area monitors operational by January 1, 2017.

TCEQ continues to work with property owners to acquire site access agreements for the proposed sites listed in the 2013 Air Monitoring Network Plan (AMNP). Once a site access agreement has been reached for a proposed site, we then work to attain all necessary logistical permits and/or approvals required to deploy the new site. We've made recent progress for AADT (annual average daily traffic) number 7 in Austin. We're now working to secure a site agreement with the Department of Transportation District office property at 9000 North Interstate 35 and procure logistics for the site. For the other three cities scheduled to become operational by 2014, we continue to work with the property owners to acquire site access agreements for the proposed sites listed in the 2013 AMNP.

Please direct any questions concerning near-road monitoring sites to Deanna Sivek or TCEQ's Monitoring Division.

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Chris Klaus asked that in addition to the NO<sub>2</sub> effort, there are SO<sub>2</sub> and CO monitoring requirements in the upcoming years and if those are integrated or if they are all going to be separate efforts. Zech replied that in her discussions with the monitoring groups, it sounds like they are taking care of all of them together.

Heather Evans discussed having a representative from the TCEQ monitoring group give a presentation to the March meeting. NOTE: Jamie Zech sent Chris Sasser information on the monitoring group representative on October 3.

### **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 with TxDOT reported that they are updating their MTP and they do not have to do transportation conformity for the first time in many years.
- DFW — Chris Klaus reported that they received their conformity analysis in July and thanked the partners for making that successful.

Klaus reported that they are beginning another plan update with a deadline of either late 2014 or early 2015, and will go out to 2040.

Klaus reported they are holding an ozone advance workshop on October 21. Klaus reported that during the workshop they are doing a tour of an educational truck center and electrification center.

Klaus reported that TCEQ hosted a meeting in their area on the SIP that is due in 2015, and on November 5 are coordinating with Chris Kite to give a first glance at forecasting for chemical results.

Klaus reported that they are heavily involved with trying to substitute environmental speed limits in the Dallas and Fort Worth districts.

Klaus reported that they are working with Joe Zietsman and TxDOT to do heavy-duty vehicle inspection pilot program. Klaus suggested that he and

Zietsman might be able to do a presentation on this topic for the March meeting.

Klaus reported that the ozone season is nearly over and that they are at 87 ppb, and are not making much headway and need to have more control strategy meetings and solicit ideas that others may have.

- ELP— El Paso reported that they are working on getting approval on their conformity reports before sending off for federal comments and review.
  - HGB—Chris Van Slyke reported that they are updating their TIP and will start conformity in the first quarter of 2014 and implementation in the second quarter of 2014.
  - Austin — Shana Norton reported that they are in the middle of a 2014 plan update and that they have added Burnet County. Norton reported that they have been in the ozone advance program for over a year and rechristened their flex plan as their working OAT with the agreement that they would revisit that plan and adjust as needed.
  - Corpus Christi— No representatives at this meeting.
  - San Antonio— Nick Page reported that they are moving forward with their plan update. Page reported that their travel demand model should be complete by summer of 2014.
- Peter Bella reported that they have been in ozone advance for a year and had not made much progress in reducing their numbers.
- Tyler/Longview— Dale Booth reported that they are interested in finding examples of communities that are in early action compact status and in the process of transitioning into ozone advance programs. San Antonio (Peter Bella) and Austin (Shana Norton) volunteered to assist Booth.
  - Victoria— No representatives at this meeting.
  - Waco/Temple/Killeen— No representatives at this meeting.
  - Texoma (Sherman/Denison/Paris) — No representatives at this meeting
  - Texarkana— No representatives at this meeting.

**D. Documentation Subcommittee:** Chris Klaus agreed to chair the documentation subcommittee with others in the group expressing an interest to join. **NOTE:** NCTCOG staff scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, November 12.

**E. Follow-Up Actions** (Perkinson, Sasser)

- Jamie Zech will send Chris Sasser TCEQ monitoring contact information.
- Chris Sasser will follow up with Chris Klaus regarding doing a presentation on the heavy-duty vehicle inspection pilot program for the March meeting.
- Chris Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.
- Chris Sasser will send out EPA's status updates along with this summary.

**F. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday*, March 6, 2014, TxDOT, 200 East Riverside Drive, Classroom TBD, Austin, Texas and by VTC at TxDOT District offices.**