

Summary
TWG Biannual Meeting
6 September, 2012
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 15 TWG members in attendance along with 25 additional participants via VTC from TxDOT district offices in Corpus Christi, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Longview, El Paso, Tyler, San Antonio, Sherman/Denison/Paris, and Waco.

B. Primary Discussion Item— Discussion on the EPA Ozone Advance Program. A few weeks prior to this meeting, the TWG distributed a poll asking about participation in the EPA Ozone Advance Program. This topic generated a great deal of interest among TWG members. The discussion will be supplemented with updates what MPOs are doing for conformity with the 2008 ozone NAAQS.

Jeff Riley began the discussion by noting that activity and participation in the program is open to all areas, but that it is mainly intended for areas that are currently in attainment of the current 2008 ozone standard, but may find themselves (due to monitoring data) close to that standard. Riley noted that these areas would possibly benefit from voluntary emissions reductions in the area that may result in a decrease in overall trend in ozone concentrations.

Riley reported that the program is voluntary (not a regulatory requirement), and is a collaborative effort between EPA and local areas. Riley noted that any emission reduction measures that are put in place are not enforceable in the way commitments to the SIP are. Riley explained that EPA serves as a consultation partner and resource for area governments and consultation partners as they decide on measures to reduce ozone concentrations for the area. Riley reported that EPA will provide input into the process, but would not necessarily disapprove any of the implementation measures for an area.

Riley then took questions and comments from MPOs that were in attendance.

Dennis Perkinson summarized the discussion by asking the participants how best to follow-up with information about ozone guidance for near non-attainment areas given the biannual meeting schedule. Perkinson suggested a poll asking participants their thoughts on how best to proceed with distributing information about ozone

guidance. Laura Norton also reminded the group the available option of adding another meeting to specifically address this issue.

Bill Gill reminded the group that after an area is accepted into the program, you have one year to submit a plan.

NOTES: For more information regarding the Ozone Advance Program, please visit the TWG website at <http://www.texastwg.org/2012/04/06/ozone-advance-guidance-information/>

Chris Sasser forwarded a Jeff Riley email with links with information and resources pertinent to this discussion. This information is available on the TWG website at: <http://www.texastwg.org/2012/09/24/follow-up-links-from-96-twg-meeting/>

C. EPA (Jeff Riley)

- **State SIP** — Jeff Riley reported the SIP requirements rule—which is not officially considered phase 2 of the implementation rule for the 2008 standard, but is the broader implementation rule—was scheduled to be reviewed by OMB in the summer of 2012. Riley reported that since this summer is nearly over and it's not there, it may not meet that deadline. Riley reported that he still expects the draft final by February 2013, with a signature by mid-2013.

Riley reported that the first draft of the policy assessment and written exposure assessments for the ongoing five-year review of the ozone standard under the clean air science committee was released on August 16. Riley reported that originally the comment period for public comment was going to wrap up on September 11, but has been extended out to October 12.

NOTE: This document is available on the TWG website at: <http://www.texastwg.org/2012/09/24/follow-up-links-from-96-twg-meeting/>

- **PM 2.5 NAAQS standard** — Jeff Riley reported that the proposal for this standard was published on June 29, and the comment period closed August 31. Riley reported that both TxDOT and TCEQ had submitted comments to EPA.

- **MOVES** — Jeff Riley reported that in June 2012 there was an update to the user guide and installation suite.

Bill Gill asked if Riley had any comments about the MOVES revision. Dennis Perkinson noted that there had been no formal request to review MOVES 2013.

FHWA (Jose Campos)

- **CMAQ reporting progress and needs** — Jose Campos reported that FHWA is done with the 2010 reporting, and they will begin working on 2011 towards the end of the fiscal year.
- **Reauthorization status** — Campos reported that [MAP 21](#) is enacted, and that would feed into the other questions with regards to the CMAQ funding estimates for the new areas. Campos reported that a lot of the estimates depend on how MAP 21 is implemented. Campos reported that he believed CMAQ funding will still be available under MAP 21, but was unsure of how the funding will be distributed.
- **GHG update** — Campos had nothing to report at this time.
- **Additional update** — Campos reported that Dallas/Fort Worth area recently completed a consistency effort to look at potential issues with conformity.

TxDOT TPP (Laura Norton)

- **Conformity updates and issues** — Laura Norton reported that H-GAC and El Paso's conformity reviews are underway and appear to be on schedule. Norton reported that Beaumont will enter conformity lapse this month and TxDOT will continue to address issues and impacts related to this. (September)

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

- Jackie Ploch was not in attendance at this meeting.

TCEQ (Heather Evans)

- **SIP updates** — Heather Evans provided TCEQ SIP updates (handouts) to meeting participants. Evans reported that the Houston SIP (updating the budget with MOVES) is scheduled to go to proposal in October. Beaumont's has gone to proposal, and there were no comments, so it will be moved up for adoption in November 14.
- **Conformity subcommittee updates** — Evans reported that the narrative for the conformity process has been completed and is on the TWG website. The committee is currently working on revising the conformity illustration and flowchart to match the narrative. The next step is updating the pre-analysis plan to match with MOVES.

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 — Chris Klaus reported that they are waiting on documentation or feedback from FHWA regarding their air quality assessment. Klaus reported they were starting their conformity for the summer and they were going to use the current available documentation for the conformity process.
- ELP— Isele Perez reported that El Paso's conformity is underway, and that on 9/7, actions will be taken by the policy board concerning the documents on their emission plans.
- HGB—Chris VanSlyke reported that they are working on completing phase one of conformity. Next week (9/10) they will begin work on phase 2 which includes US 290 expansion and a couple other projects. VanSlyke reported that they will be opening a new conformity process in late September, and intend to add phase three early next year.
- Austin — Cathy Stephens reported that they are working with the Ozone Advance Program gathering up what they refer to as transportation emission reduction measures, which are similar to TCMs. Stephens reported that they are also going to a 2015 emissions inventory.
- Corpus Christi— Corpus Christi had nothing to report at this time.
- San Antonio— Peter Bella had nothing to report at this time.
- Tyler/Longview— Karen Owen passed along kudos to Margie McAllister for her recent assistance and for being an outstanding resource.

- Victoria— No representatives at this meeting.
- Waco/Temple/Killeen— Waco had nothing to report at this time.
- Texoma (Sherman/Denison/Paris) — Paris had nothing to report at this time.
- Texarkana— No representatives at this meeting.

D. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Sasser)

- Jeff Riley will forward Chris Sasser links related to meeting discussions.
- Chris Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.
- Chris Sasser will poll TWG members on how best to proceed with distributing information about ozone guidance.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, March 7, 2013, TxDOT, 200 East Riverside Drive, Classroom TBD, Austin, Texas* and by VTC at TxDOT District offices.