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**SUMMARY**  
**TWG Biannual Meeting**  
31 May, 2017  
10:00am – 3:00pm  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute  
Gibb Gilchrist Building  
2929 Research Parkway  
College Station, TX 77843-3135

## Follow-up Actions from THIS MEETING

- **Chris Sasser** will prepare a summary of this meeting.
- Sasser will post all presentations from this meeting.
- Sasser will distribute a poll to the group regarding the next meeting location and ideas for primary discussion topics and training opportunities.

## Next Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 2017

## Participants

There were 15 TWG members in attendance, and approximately 12 members attending via WebEx.

The meeting was led by **Laura Norton** and **Madhu Venugopal**. **Bill Knowles** began the meeting by welcoming attendees to College Station and presenting an overview of the day.

## Primary Discussion Items

**Joe Zietsman** and **Andrew Birt** presented on the Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Emissions, Energy and Health (CAR-TEEH). CAR-TEEH focuses on the impact of transportation emissions on human health. CAR-TEEH is a Tier-1 center, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary for Research and Technology under the University Transportation Centers program. TTI leads the CAR-TEEH consortium consisting of four partner universities: Johns Hopkins University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Texas at El Paso, and the University of California, Riverside.

[CAR-TEH presentation \(PDF\)](#)

Following Zietsman's CAR-TEH presentation the group engaged in the following open discussion items:

- Ramp metering study—The study looks at different criteria for traffic entering a ramp such as flow of traffic, vehicle occupancy and vehicle classification. **Jenny Narvaez** commented that it would be good to know what ramps throughout their region would be good candidates for monitoring. Currently Houston is participating in this study.
- Definition of medium-duty vehicles
  - a. Jenny Narvaez provided the following handout: [FHWA vs. MOVES Vehicle Classifications \(PDF\)](#)
- Registration data update—The group discussed the delays associated with getting current registration data and the issues associated with that.
- TCEQ’s 2017 Annual Monitoring Network Plan— Under the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 58, the TCEQ reviews its air monitoring network each year and creates a monitoring network plan to demonstrate how Texas is meeting or will meet federal air monitoring requirements. The monitoring plan includes proposed changes from the previous year and future proposed changes to the monitoring network. In addition, the TCEQ conducts a broader analysis of the monitoring needs in Texas every five years since 2010. This five-year assessment evaluates any changes in population, emissions sources, and monitored concentrations to determine whether individual monitors within the network should be added, moved, or decommissioned to best understand and evaluate air quality.
- Conformity schedule updates
- Sensitivity analyses for MOVES2014a vs MOVES2014—The group discussed the differences between the two programs as it relates to sensitivity analyses.

**(Break for lunch. The group was provided lunch. Lunch was shortened to 30 minutes then the meeting resumed at 12:40.)**

## TWG Subcommittees Breakout Sessions Updates

### Near Nonattainment/Ozone Advance Subcommittee — Darcie Shipull

Shipull discussed setting up an opportunity for TTI to put a primer together. **Bill Frawley** and **Todd Carlson** would develop the primer and pull in an air quality group to review with the purpose of preparing areas for nonattainment.

MOVES training provided to San Antonio MPO in July. Process of updating travel demand model. Shipull asked where we do model operational improvements. Getting guidance and direction from HGAC and NCTCOG.

Pre-inventory for near non-attainment areas and in the process of trying to get information early.

## MOSERS Subcommittee — Chair: Madhu Venugopal

Venugopal requested a volunteer to lead this group. Sasser sent out forms on adding new strategies and modifying. Venugopal reported that they were working to make it official and posting on website. Finished adding strategies to Excel automation. Once this is done it will go to individual MPOs and then staff can be trained.

## Documentation Subcommittee — Chair: Jenny Narvaez

Narvaez had no updates. All documents have been updated and posted on the TWG website.

## Agency Information & Updates

### EPA (Jeff Riley)

**NAAQS**—2015 ozone NAAQS. Background: on October 1, 2015 the ozone NAAQS was begun and started the 2-year designations process. October 1, 2017 is the date for finalizing designations. The one milestone approaching now is the 12-day letters. This is EPA's response to the initial recommendations the state agencies made in 2016. The milestone date is June 2. There was some expectation that EPA would not make the milestone, and Riley did indicate that EPA will not make the June 2 deadline. Effectively the message is that the new leadership is deliberating on the 2015 NAAQS and cannot pin down a timeline for milestones. The entire timeframe is also delayed. EPA will be missing the deadline, but Riley asked to keep in mind that 120 day letters have to be sent in every area designated. They only apply to recommendations to areas that EPA doesn't agree with. The message: we will be missing the 120-day deadline but the entire process is not necessarily slipping. Still gunning for October 1, 2017.

**Conformity**—Riley reported that OTAQ is currently updating the 2015 ozone NAAQS in time for finalizing the ozone NAAQS. The 2015 NAAQS implementation rule is still undergoing briefings within the agency.

**MOVES**—Riley reported that there is an interest in trainings. OTAQ is now lining up travel dollars available to training on a per request basis. If there's an interest in pursuing, it would be a good idea to bring that forward in the near future. Currently there are three trainings scheduled: July in Ann Arbor, Emissions inventory conference in Baltimore in August and the EPA office in region 8 in Denver is putting together early fall training.

MOVES model workgroup has a meeting coming up in a few weeks. TWG has a link to that webpage and a link to those materials.

## FHWA (Barbara Maley)

Maley provided the following updates:

- May 22: Apr-May Issue of AQ and Sustainable Transport Highlights shared
- June 1: P3 webinar (including CMAQ)
- June 6: PEL webinar
- week of Jun 13: DFW Federal Certification on-site review
- June 14: Scenario Planning webinar
- week of Jun 26: H-GAC Federal Certification on-site review

Maley's reply when asked about the length of Consultative Partner review time for El Paso Hot Spots:

- Review, consultant revision then re-review;
- multi Hot Spots (3) received at one time;
- length of each Hot Spot submission; FHWA-PPD and TxDOT-ENV discussion re. the need for all of the submitted info.; and
- Hot Spot is only one of many items for Jose and Barbara to accomplish e.g., STIP reviews, etc.

## TxDOT TPP

### **Field representative updates (Raymond Sanchez, El Paso; Nick Page, NCTCOG; and Leanna Shepherd, HGAC)**

Sanchez assigned to El Paso. Working with El Paso MPO staff and district.

Page—NCTCOG May 18 pre-analysis consensus plan meeting and comments through June. Developing demographics for 2018 plan. Expecting conformity determination by June 2018. Also working with San Antonio now. No change in AQ master schedule for either.

Shepherd—H-GAC master schedule have moved a little as they have two conformity cycles running parallel. Some of the project listings have moved the timeframe. That process should not overlap. Their other conformity for 2045 plan is projected to be shortened from December to September.

**San Antonio - Alie Blazosky**—Zach Graham began working out a way to list out and visualize network links of different model years. Programs other MPOs have used for other years. Talk more and demonstrate at the next TWG meeting.

## TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

**Topics of interest to TWG/research projects**—Ploch was unable to attend, but provided the following update:

On, 5/23 ENV submitted minor revisions to update the Conformity Hotspot - Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC) Form used to consult with Conformity Consultation Partners. Proposed revisions include:

- Adding a project description field
- Adding a "requested by" date
- Make the explanation field in Table II more concisely represent the choices selected
- Make the data in Table III easier to read for comparisons
- Adding in delay time to Table III
- Highlighting the fields for data entry in yellow

We've also asked if partners would agree to removing Directional split in peak-hour (D) and Peak-hour traffic volume (% of AADT)(k) from Table III as these appear to be useful information in an actual hot-spot analysis but may not be needed for making the POAQC decision.

If possible, we would appreciate comments by 6/30/2017 on the edits and any other suggestions that will help partners make the decision on whether or not a project is a project of air quality concern. POAQC projects require a hotspot analysis in CO and PM nonattainment/ maintenance areas.

TRB is soliciting panel members for the following approved NCHRP studies:

- NCHRP 25-25/105 Pub Health & Transport Communication Guide. Produce a guidebook for transportation professionals that will facilitate successful communication and cross-sector partnerships between transportation and public health communities.
- *Quantifying the Contribution of Vehicle Emissions to Local Air Quality*, which was selected as noted below at \$700,000. Note more funding was awarded than requested. The objective of this research is to evaluate modeling techniques and ambient measurements to comprehensively understand and explain vehicle emissions contributions to local air quality. The research will consist of three sets of work: 1) a thorough literature review of air quality modeling techniques and available field measurements; 2) a sensitivity-type analysis of modeling techniques and a trend assessment of field measurements for selected case studies identified in the literature review; and 3) evaluations of near-road measured concentrations to model predictions to better understand the application of models necessary to quantify vehicle emissions contributions to

local air quality. Project statement is at:

<https://rns.trb.org/dproject.asp?n=41058>

- “Methods for State DOTs to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Transportation Sector”, which selected at \$500,000. This research would identify specific efforts and strategies to reduce transportation sector greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are within the State Departments of Transportation (DOT) control and provide methods for estimating and monitoring their benefits and costs. Project statement is at: <https://rns.trb.org/dproject.asp?n=41057>

[Bills Reviewed by ENV 85<sup>th</sup> Session \(PDF\)](#)

### TCEQ (Jamie Zech)

**SIP updates**—Zech provided a SIP update.

### TTI (Joe Zietsman, Madhu Venugopal)

Zietsman provided updates on two projects: The Exxon/Mobil project sought to answer if infrastructure improvements improve emissions. If you have the right modeling platform you can begin answering those questions. He said they struggled to come up with a way to model that, but learned how to. Significant because you have to model microscopically and regionally.

The other project involved EPA and Ann Arbor and looked to use it as a leverage to examine sophisticated data collection. Also helping emissions profiles.

Venugopal— CEQ idling study. Feed into MOVES modeling. Reaching out to MPOs to see if they have data to support the study.

### • MPO’s (For those in attendance) – Status & Updates

El Paso: One of the topics they had an interest in was project level conformity with pm 10 with consultative partners how we could streamline these calls.

They did an amendment for the conformity to MTP and about to admit SIP revisions for category four projects going. 2045 MTP and deadline for new projects was last month. In the process to weed out those projects.

The discussion prompted an idea for the next TWG meeting—mitigate PM10 hotspot analysis on El Paso.

Temple MPO: continuing to watch our readings. Provided bike racks under Rider 7. Other educational outreach events.

NCTCOG: Received an award. Fund technology projects from EPA. Wrapping up heavy duty vehicle duty project with TTI. Also finalizing the scope for new project with

overweight vehicles and their emissions impact. Also going to celebrating Clean Air Action day on June 3.

San Antonio: no reports

Houston: The group reported that they are participating with Houston tomorrow. Other reports include:

- May be hosting next state-wide meeting.
- Did a quick survey and got information from 11 metropolitan areas. Three parts for urban metro areas/fast chargers/outreach and education.
- MG America road rally is coming up in June.
- Kicking off the ozone season. Conroe is sitting at 77.
- Alt fuel and natural gas project looking at near zero trucks. When they running at high speeds they were about the same but idling was near zero.

**(Meeting Concluded)**