

Summary
TWG Quarterly Meeting

4 August, 2011

10:00am – 12:30pm

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

A. Introductions & Announcements

Self introductions were made and attendees signed-in. There were 20 TWG members in attendance along with 14 additional participants via VTC from TxDOT district offices in Beaumont, Houston, El Paso, Tyler, San Antonio and Waco.

B. Primary Discussion Items

1. Discussion on the new EPA ozone standard and proposed implementation rule. (EPA, Jeff Riley)

Jeff Riley reported that the EPA did not issue the final rule on July 29th (per an e-mail sent out on 7/26/11). Riley reported that it was his understanding this decision had nothing to do with any restructuring or the OMB review process. Riley reported that it was a matter of a few competing priorities at OMB. Riley reported that it was still a top priority, and noted that the official EPA statement indicated it would be finalized “shortly.”

Riley also reported that it was his understanding that the proposed implementation rule was going to be released at the same time.

Riley also noted that the use of Subpart 1 for implementation was a reasonable assumption.

2. Roundtable discussion (led by MPOs) on staffing requirements for areas in non-attainment. Over the past few months there has been significant interest from areas that may be entering non-attainment as to their expected staffing requirements. This discussion will focus on their expected staffing requirements.

Madhusudhan Venugopal with NCTCOG provided a summary regarding their staffing. To view a PDF of his summary, please visit the TWG website at: http://www.texastwg.org/files/NCTCOG_TWG_TeamSummaries.pdf .

Graciela Lubertino with HGAC provided a summary of their staffing. To view a PDF of her summary, please visit the TWG website at: http://www.texastwg.org/files/HGAC_Summary.pdf.

George Pinal with **El Paso MPO** gave a brief summary of his duties and their staff. Pinal reported that they had a person who helped with outreach and regulatory items. Pinal reported that they had a TIP team for short range planning. They have two people who help with travel modeling. They also use TTI to assist with travel demand modeling and emissions inventory.

Pinal reported that he puts the document together once all the information for the conformity report is provided. Pinal also reported that they are working with UTEP to help address their state implementation plan. Pinal also noted that moving from MOBILE6 to MOVES will have to be addressed in the near future as far as emissions inventories and mobile sources.

Dennis Perkinson summarized the discussion by noting that there was input from a cross section of large and small MPOs with a range of approaches. Perkinson noted that Beaumont took perhaps a less diverse approach than El Paso, but still uses outsourcing, while NCTCOG is virtually all in-house. Perkinson noted that the best approach was to move incrementally and make use of the resources that are out there.

Janie Temple also noted that some of the issues mentioned will come down to what your local areas like and that you can't plug one method or model from somewhere and put it in place in your area. Temple said that we had the TWG for guidance and information sharing. Temple said that it might be worth conducting a poll of non-attainment areas to see what kind of methods they are using to streamline the process.

Janie Temple also mentioned that it might be good for the areas with questions to send them in to Chris Sasser for future consideration.

C. Agency Information & Updates

EPA (Jeff Riley)

- State SIP— Jeff Riley had no updates at this time.

NOTE: Jeff Riley reported that he attended an FHWA-hosted conference (Southern Transportation Air Quality Summit) in Raleigh, North Carolina. Riley reported the summit focused on federal highways, EPA, and some MPOs primarily out of the North Carolina area and Florida. The summit provided overviews of current points of interests, including sessions on NO² monitoring implementation, MOVES for non-modelers, and program and regulatory updates. North Carolina State made the

materials available on their website, and **Jeff is going to forward the link to Chris Sasser to send out to TWG.**

FHWA – (Jose Campos)

- CMAQ reporting progress and needs—Jose Campos reported that the CMAQ reporting system is going public and that they are going to be working with TxDOT the MPOs to get caught up. Campos asked the non-attainment areas to update their contact personnel.

Janie Temple responded that Chris Sasser had polled the non-attainment areas asking about the need for CMAQ availability or training. **Sasser is going to forward the received e-mails to Jose and Shundreka Givan.**

Jose and Shundreka also spoke about the availability of CMAQ training.

- Reauthorization status—Jose Campos reported that they had reauthorization through the end of the calendar year.
- GHG update—Jose Campos had nothing to report at this time.
- Regionally significant project update—Jose Campos reported that the MPOs were in the process of developing a definition for regional significant projects. Campos encouraged everyone to do this as it helps with moving projects, especially if there is a project that can be defined as not being regionally significant.

Janie Temple added that there are definitions in the conformity and planning regulations and both needed to be considered. Dennis Perkinson noted that there is also information available on the TWG website under [Tools](#).

TxDOT TPP (Janie Temple)

- Conformity updates and issues (Janie Temple) – Janie Temple had nothing to report at this time.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

- Jackie Ploch reported that she had just received news from EPA regarding roadside monitors. There were six areas looked at for roadside monitors in Texas. Due to funding limitations, they are only looking at having them in the Houston/Dallas areas.

- Ploch reported that they are working with the regional MPO coordinators on providing training to MPOs once they know which areas might be subject to any revised standards. Ploch reported that they are planning on starting this initiative in the fall.
- Ploch reported that Federal Highways has agreed to do MOVES training in Texas for FY 2012. In addition to that, Ploch requested to Federal Highways to offer conformity training as well. Ploch reported that she would send out notices, dates, and times as they become available.
- Ploch reported that they had some PM/hotspot issues for the El Paso area and they are working on something equivalent to what the planning level has for the pre-analysis consensus form. Ploch noted that she could not find the process document on the TWG website. **Chris Sasser will follow up with Ploch.**

TCEQ (Margie McAllister, Heather Evans)

- Margie McAllister provided TCEQ SIP updates (handouts) to TWG. McAllister also mentioned that for those attending the meeting via VTC, to e-mail her and she would e-mail them the update document.
- Heather Evans announced that she is going to begin working with the SIP group, but will still attend TWG meetings.

TTI (Dennis Perkinson)

- Dennis Perkinson reported that TTI continues to provide GHG emissions estimates upon request.

MPO Issues & Requests Needing TWG Discussion (*if any*)

- BPA— Beaumont had nothing to report at this time.
- DFW – Madhu Venugopal reported that on August 14 they received conformity information for their 2035 plan. Madhu reported that they were gearing up for another conformity.
- ELP— George Pinal reported that El Paso was working on a new metropolitan transit plan, and they have plans to have that complete next year.
- HGB—Graciela Lubertino reported that Houston is working on conformity and waiting for project selection.
- Austin — A representative from Austin reported that she had recently attended MOVES training in Lafayette, LA and that it was tremendously helpful. Cathy Stephens has her in the process of scheduling a training locally, and she will update TWG as information becomes available.

Andrew Hoekzema reported that Austin has an upcoming Formula One race, and there was an agreement reached between the city and organizers to provide an air quality impact analysis that will involve looking at the transportation related emissions. Hoekzema reported that this seems to be new territory for Texas to perform this type of special event analysis, and his concern was how this potentially bad ozone day would figure into the overall attainment picture. Hoekzema asked Houston or Dallas (hosts of recent Super Bowls) for guidance or information.

- Corpus Christi— No representatives at this meeting.
- San Antonio— San Antonio had nothing new to report at this time.
- Tyler / Longview— Tyler had nothing new to report at this time.
- Victoria— No representatives at this meeting
- Waco— Ed Kabobel reported that in their next air quality advisory committee meeting, they would be discussing the September '06 episode. CAPCOG had asked their region if they wanted to participate and what kind of resources they were going to offer.
- Temple/Killeen— No representatives at this meeting
- Texoma (Sherman/Denison/Paris) — No representatives at this meeting
- Brownsville— No representatives at this meeting
- Texarkana— No representatives at this meeting

D. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Sasser)

- D/FW and Houston will send Chris Sasser summaries of their presentations.
- Jeff Riley will send Chris Sasser a link to the conference materials.
- Chris Sasser will follow up with Jackie Ploch on the process document missing from the TWG website.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, November 3, 2011, TxDOT, 200 East Riverside Drive, Classroom TBD, Austin, Texas* and by VTC at TxDOT District offices.