

Summary
TWG Quarterly Meeting
6 May, 2010
10:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
TCEQ, Bldg. B, Room 201A, Austin, Texas
(and by VTC at TCEQ Regional Offices as requested in advance by Heather Evans)

A. Introductions & Announcements

Self introductions were made and attendees signed-in. There were 37 TWG members in attendance along with 21 additional participants via VTC from TCEQ regional offices in Beaumont, Houston, Fort Worth, Tyler, Temple/Killen, Sherman/Dennison/Paris, El Paso and Waco. We also had Barbara Maley and Amma Cobbinah join us via teleconference.

B. Primary Discussion Item—New Ozone Standards and the Effect on Conformity

The objective is to provide an open forum for the discussion and communication of issues or areas of concern relating to conformity under the new standards. The focus is on clearly understood issues being communicated to the group and to the regulatory agencies. The following issues were discussed:

- Different Classification Schemes—Jeff Riley with EPA reported that the revised classification schemes will be released in late June or early July. There will be 2 or 3 suggestions for classification schemes put forward. The implementation rule will be released by December of 2010 and classifications would follow shortly after that.
- Outreach to New Areas—Paul Tiley with TxDOT introduced the new areas and asked for their input and questions. Robert Wood with Texoma COG noted that his district shares a border with Colin County and asked about future planning for non-attainment. Jose Campos with FHWA responded that they have met with most of the areas that they are sure are going to be in non-attainment and also said they are available for future visits or questions for those that are near N/A.

Shelley Whitworth asked if Census data from 2005 would be used and this was confirmed.

A question was asked about timeframes and if EPA has guidance on boundaries. Jeff indicated that there was a SIP toolkit available on the EPA website:

<http://www.epa.gov/glo/SIPToolkit/index.html>

- Implementation of the Lowest Standard in a Shortened Time Frame—There was a discussion on the implementation of a ground-level ozone concentration of between 60 and 70 parts per billion and which areas would be affected.
- Application of Proposed Secondary Standard—Jeff reported that the secondary standard for other environmental considerations will be calculated and discussed in new implementation rule. Jeff defined secondary standards as setting limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. Jeff was asked if the second standards would affect conformity and he indicated that the implementation rule would answer that question. Jeff also provided a general overview presentation on the 2010 O3 standard proposal, which describes the concept behind the secondary standard:
<http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/pdfs/20100106present.pdf>

Jeff reported that Region 4 had recently worked with their MPOs to discuss jurisdiction, public and planning processes, and other issues. It was essentially a “conformity 101” plan that was well received. He recommended that this could be used in our region.

C. Agency Information & Updates

EPA (Jeff Riley)

- Jeff reported that April 12, 2010 is the effective date for the revised NO₂ standard. Jeff noted that the standard was being legally challenged by the American Petroleum Institute, but does not anticipate this causing a delay. The standard introduces a new one-hour maximum standard for NO₂ at 100 parts per billion.
- Jeff reported that on March 22, 2010 EPA proposed new rules that amend the Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule. These proposals would require reporting of emissions data from the oil and natural gas, industries that emit fluorinated greenhouse gases, and from facilities that inject and store carbon dioxide (CO₂) underground for the purposes of geologic sequestration or enhanced oil and gas recovery.

FHWA (Jose Campos)

- CMAQ reporting progress and needs— Jose reported that everyone had access to CMAQ and most areas have completed putting data up from 2007. Everyone should be working on 2008 data.
- CMAQ funding estimates for new nonattainment areas— Jose reported that he is working on an estimate, assuming the same funding levels and utilizing the same population ratios.
- Reauthorization status —Jose reported that SAFETEA-LU has been extended through FY 10, funded at the FY 09 level.

- ARRA Stimulus Funding Update— Jose reported that ARRA stimulus funding is still ongoing but has slowed down. He indicated that the MPOs need to have their revised STIP and TIP plans submitted. The FHWA has not acted on them, yet.
- GHG Update— FHWA is encouraging areas to take GHG into account and announced Theresa Claxton as the new “green coordinator”

TxDOT TPP (Paul Tiley)

- Conformity updates and issues, if any (Paul Tiley) – Paul Tiley reported the following updates: El Paso completing their conformity process. Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth are starting new conformity determinations. Beaumont has started the modeling for their conformity determination.
- Webinar format—Paul reported that beginning in August the meeting will be available as a Webinar. Short for Web-based seminar, a webinar is a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the internet. A key feature of a Webinar is its interactive elements -- the ability to give, receive and discuss information. Chris Sasser will send out an e-mail with information on how to connect via Webinar in the upcoming month.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

SIP Workgroup - Traffic counts distributed to districts will be sent out to MPOs. Jackie reported that preliminary locations and funding for NO₂ roadside monitors are in the process of being identified.

TCEQ (Margie McAllister)

SIP Updates – Margie McAllister handed out the SIP updates. The electronic version will be forwarded to Chris for inclusion with the Summary notes and posting on the TWG website.

TTI (Dennis Perkinson, Todd Carlson, Reza Farzaneh) –

- Todd Carlson reported that he is in the process of updating the Texas Guide to Accepted Mobile Source Emission Reduction Strategies (MOSERS). Parts A and B of the 3rd edition will have updated regulations, standards, and equations. Todd indicated that they will try and incorporate new topics, and will be contacting MPOs in the upcoming months for guidance as to how the guide can work better for them. Todd indicated that a draft will be ready for review at the February quarterly meeting.
- Reza Farzaneh gave a PowerPoint presentation on TTI's new Environmental Emissions Research Facility located at the Riverside Campus. Reza summarized the facility's technical specifications and projects that are underway and forthcoming. For information on tours, contact the Center for Air Quality at zietsman@tamu.edu. The presentation is available on the TWG website in the May 2010 Meeting Resources section.

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

- BPA— Beaumont is working on theirs and has nothing new to report at this time.
- DFW – **AMPO Update**—Madhu Venugopal reported the development of a best practices of conformity facts and figures brochure. He will forward the summary notes from the last AMPO meeting after they are finalized.
Construction Program— Lori Clark reported on the development of a model Clean Construction Specification which may be incorporated into public works construction contracts. The specification is intended to increase the use of the cleanest available construction equipment and establish best operational practices.
Electrification— Jenny Danieau reported the growth of a statewide shareholder group of over 80 individuals for the Electric Vehicles North Texas initiative. This program has been developed to coordinate a partnership with utility companies, regional governments, school districts, transit authorities and local businesses in an effort to develop a plan that prepares the region for the transition to plug-in electric vehicles. The website is available at <http://www.nctcog.org/trans/air/programs/evnt/>.
- ELP—El Paso reported that they are having meetings about their conformity report and developing a rider program.
- HGB—Shelly reported that a study was recently completed that surveyed drayage trucks around the port of Houston. Although figures are still being compiled, it appears that because of stricter air quality measures, older trucks are migrating from California to Houston. This is something Houston will have to consider in the future.

- Austin—Cathy reported that Austin is now in violation of the 70 parts per billion standard and there was discussion regarding the 8-hour ozone flex program.
- Corpus Christi—No representatives at this meeting
- San Antonio— San Antonio is working on theirs and has nothing new to report at this time.
- Tyler / Longview— Nothing to report at this time. Victoria— No representatives at this meeting
- Waco— The TWG welcomed Waco. Chris reported that they will probably be in non-attainment next year and are investigating ways to be proactive in changing the behavior of the driving public.
- Temple/Killeen—Reported that they have two years of data and are preparing for non-attainment. Also asked about coordinating efforts with the nearby military base. Lori reported she had experience with one of the reserve bases near Dallas and would pass on the information for her contact there.
- Texoma (Sherman/Dennison/Paris) — The TWG welcomed Texoma. They are in the information gathering process. No other comments.
- Brownsville— No representatives at this meeting
- Texarkana— No representatives at this meeting

Other (All)

Several attendees inquired about training opportunities for new N/A areas. The National Transportation Institute has a course on conformity that will be held in 2011.

<http://www.ntionline.com/CourseInfo.asp?CourseNumber=FP213>

HGAC and TxDOT TPP volunteered to assist with coordinating this training.

Dennis Perkinson requested agenda items for the next quarterly meeting.

D. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Tiley)

- Jeff is going to send a link to the SIP toolkit available on the EPA website and Chris will post online.
- Jackie is going to send a consolidated time line to the group and traffic counts to MPOs.
- Madhu is going to send summary notes to Chris from the next AMPO meeting after they are finalized.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday*, August 5, 2010, TxDOT, 200 E. Riverside, Classroom “E”, and by VTC and Webinar (*details forthcoming)