

Summary
TWG Biannual Meeting
3 March 2016
10:00am – 3:00pm
North Central Texas Council of Governments
William J. Pitstick Executive Board Room
616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two
Arlington, Texas 76011

A. Introductions & Announcements

Self introductions were made and attendees signed-in. There were 36 TWG members in attendance. **Laura Norton** began the meeting with an explanation of the meeting format.

B. SIP roundtable discussion (TCEQ)

Jamie Zech, Mary McGarry Barber and **Walker Williamson** (TCEQ SIP team leader) conducted the SIP roundtable discussion.

The questions addressed included:

- Describe the SIP as a general concept.
- What are the inputs for SIP development? (How do SIP inputs compare to what near-nonattainment MPOs are already doing as part of the Ozone Advance Program?)
- When are MVEBs required? What about when they're not required?
- How are MVEBs developed?
- When are TCMs required to be considered?
- What are the components and eligibility requirements of a limited maintenance plan?
- What is the general timeline for the SIP development process, and what are the tasks undertaken?
- TCM project life.

Williamson replied that the SIP was the state's plan to comply with the Clean Air Act. Williamson explained for most in attendance it would mean complying with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Williamson explained the different types of SIPs and the purpose they served.

Williamson explained that the inputs for SIP development depend on what the SIP revision is trying to demonstrate. For example, an attainment demonstration is going to have emissions inventories, modeling, rulemakings, etc. Walker explained the various inputs for different types of planning SIPs.

Jackie Ploch asked a question about the I/M (inspection and maintenance) requirements. Zech responded that they are required under the Clean Air Act for certain classifications of non-attainment. For more information, visit the TCEQ website at: <https://www.tceq.state.tx.us/airquality/mobilesource/im.html>

McGarry Barber led a discussion on VMTs and how they factor into the SIP process.

Two documents were distributed: [a typical RFP Situation — Emissions, Target Values and Reductions for all Source Categories](#); and [Sample On-road RFP EI and MVEB with Safety Margin](#). (PDFs)

For more information on SIP, please refer to the following documentation: [SIP 101, presentation from Kristin Jacobsen SIP Project Manager, Air Quality Division](#) (PDF)

[SIP: Introduction](#) (TCEQ website)

Break for lunch

C. Subcommittee Status Updates

Conformity Documentation Chair: **Jenny Narvaez**

Narvaez reported that the documentation from the subcommittee was available on the TWG website at: <https://www.texastwg.org/transportation-conformity-resources/>

It was suggested to add the SIP timeline to this page. [Download the current SIP timeline](#). The SIP timeline is also now available on the TWG website.

MOSERS Chair: **Tim Juarez**

Juarez reported that he had provided preliminary information on the MOSERS manual at the last TWG meeting in Houston and requested feedback from the users group through a survey. Juarez noted that MOSERS is broken into three modules. **Reza Farzaneh** explained the methodology and purpose behind the three modules. Module 1 is background material, module 2 is strategies and equations and module 3 is a spreadsheet tool for estimating changes in activity parameters (speed, traffic volume, delay, etc.). Juarez proposed an annual update cycle for the manual.

[Download the TWG MOSERS update](#) (PDF)

Near Nonattainment/Ozone Advance Chair: **Janie Temple**.

Temple reported that the workgroup has had two good sessions. Temple reported that the workgroup has talked about SIPs, TCMs and triannual reviews and looking at the data required for that. Temple noted that based out of the two meetings she suggested they rebrand the committee to be a NAAQS/SIP focused workgroup, and

having a team that meets regularly to discuss SIP timelines and discuss designations. Temple also polled the group to see if anyone was interested in taking over as chair.

D. Introduction to the TTI Portal demonstration (TTI, Andrew Birt)

Birt presented on the Air Quality web portal. Birt explained the goals of the portal were to create an information and training hub for transportation-air quality professionals, provide an iterative and continually evolving platform that incorporates AQ knowledge base generated at TTI and elsewhere and responds to needs of users; is low maintenance and high impact; and easy-to-use and interactive.

NOTE: Birt requested user feedback on the AQ Portal. Instructions are as follows:

Feedback

Andrew Birt – a-birt@tti.tamu.edu, <http://eco.tamu.edu/AqPortal/>

Please send me any:

Comments, e.g., I don't think the AQ101 diagram is a good representation of the process. *Here is what I think it should look like....*

Explicit Ideas for future development, e.g., I think a 'conformity planning timeline' tool would be a useful addition. *It should do x, y, z....*

Examples of specific problems that the portal could help solve, e.g., We often need to hire new staff and we need a resource to get them quickly up to speed with AQ issues

We need to be able to get at specific information very quickly, but do not have the 'in-house' resources to enable this.

E. Agency Information & Updates

- **EPA (Jeff Riley)**
 - NAAQS — Riley reported that **Chris Sasser** distributed an email (**on March 1**) to the group stating that EPA had developed and released the 2015 ozone NAAQS designations guidance. Riley stated that the guidance helped to plan out the anticipated timelines for the entire designations process between the state agencies and EPA regional offices.

Riley reported that work had begun on developing the 2015 ozone implementation rule. Riley stated that the Office of Air Quality and Planning Standards is that the implementation rule spells out the SIP

requirements as well as including the classifications. Riley stated the anticipated timeframe was October 2017.

- **FHWA (Barbara Maley)**

- Regional Transportation Conformity — Maley reported that in the near term, the partners can look forward to: Houston-Galveston, Dallas Fort Worth and El Paso. For Houston-Galveston, the transportation partners have offered one round of comments; it went well.
- CMAQ— Maley reported that there is a new reporting tool and webinars for internal and external audience have been held by HQ
- Laws and regulations—Maley reported that for the FAST Act: PPD/Planning Team staff is available for presentations.
- Policy and guidance—Maley reported that ENV/Jackie Ploch asked that to confirm the status of the Performance Measure NPRM including the two CMAQ related measures (traffic congestion and mobile source emissions). She's heard that it's at OMB and could be out as early as April. (Confirmed with HQ/Emily Biondi on Friday, March 4.). While on the phone with HQ/Emily Biondi, she shared that the *Cost Effectiveness Table* could be posted early April; webinars to follow.
- Training —Maley reported that DFW project-level training will be held on April 8; wrapping up this round of training and she welcome ideas for a next round of webinars, for example":
 - CMAQ Reporting* with TPP/Michelle Conkle and Maley
 - Transp Conformity for New NA Areas* with ENV, Jose and Maley

The Texas Transportation Conference to be held in the summer of 2016 in Houston.

NEPA Audit #3 to be held with ENV (Jackie, Tim) and USEPA on Wednesday, April 13.

ENV/Jackie - desires NTI Conformity training for TX
(Post TWG for AQ - emails regarding the training are being exchanged between FHWA and TxDOT)

- Other / GHG Update— Maley reported that **Kirk Fauver** is the PPD-lead for GHG and CC and is providing information, as appropriate.
- *Additional Questions/Comments:*

Unknown – desires additional information on Early Action Compacts. Maley suggested this question is better addressed to USEPA and/or the State. *ENV/Jackie response:* Not much is expected out of Congress until after the election. For additional information, visit: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/eac.html>

- **TxDOT TPP**

- Field representative updates (Tim Juarez, El Paso; Nick Page, NCTCOG; and Travis Milner, HGAC)

Juarez reported that El Paso provided to their transportation policy board an update to the Horizon 2040 MTP that will coincide with the development of their 2020 TIP. Juarez stated that they anticipate having these updates completed by June 2017.

Page reported that Dallas had several conference calls with their consultative partners. **Jenny Narvaez** reported that they were planning a conformity/TCM substitution conference call following the meeting and that they were in the middle of their 2016 transportation conformity plan. Narvaez reported that during this conformity they were finding out they may have to do a substitution for one of their transportation control measures.

Milner reported that for Houston they had a conformity update underway and that H-GAC was addressing FHWA's comments. Milner stated they were anticipating a late May/early June approval.

- **TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)** — Ploch reported that there was going to be a joint AASHTO meeting for planning, performance and environment at the Wyndam in San Antonio from June 19-24. For more information about this meeting, view the conference website at: <http://www.cvent.com/events/2016-joint-meeting-of-aashto-s-standing-committees-on-environment-planning-and-performance-managemen/event-summary-ef7afaba7fa54ee9b57637e02ce6fd05.aspx>

Ploch also discussed projects of relevance to the group.

- **TCEQ (Jamie Zech)** — Zech provided the following update.

Near-road update: There are active near-road monitors for NO/NO₂/NO_x, PM_{2.5}, and CO in the Dallas and Houston areas, and there are active near-road monitors for NO/NO₂/NO_x in the San Antonio and Austin areas. Near-road monitors for PM_{2.5}, and CO are still pending for the San Antonio and Austin areas and are expected to be active by January 2017. As of the end of

February 2016, there have been no exceedances recorded at any of the active PM_{2.5}, and CO monitors. The PM_{2.5} standard is not based on exceedances, but on the annual mean over three years. Data are still incomplete for the active PM_{2.5} near-road monitors and pending analysis and validation.

- **TTI (Madhusudhan Venugopal, Joe Zietsman)** — Venugopal introduced himself to the group as a new TTI employee and how he was available to assist regions.
- **MPO's Status and Updates**— Narvaez and **Shelly Whitworth** provided conformity updates.

F. Follow-Up Actions (Norton, Sasser)

- The presenters will provide their presentations to Sasser for posting.
- Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.
- Information on the September meeting will be sent out when it becomes available.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, September 1, 2016, Location TBD*