
SUMMARY
TWG Biannual Meeting
1 September 2016
10:00am – 3:00pm
Alamo Area Council of Governments
AACOG Boardroom
8700 Tesoro Drive #160
San Antonio, TX 78217

Follow-up Actions from THIS MEETING

- **Chris Sasser** will prepare a summary of this meeting.
- Sasser will post all presentations from this meeting.
- The next meeting date and location will be discussed at the next TWG Advisory Committee meeting.
- **Jamie Zech** will check on TCEQ statements regarding the VW ruling.

Next Biannual Meeting

TBA

Participants

There were 38 TWG members in attendance.

Discussion

The meeting was led by **Laura Norton** and **Madhu Venugopal** who began the meeting with an explanation of the meeting format.

Primary Discussion Items

El Paso Sketch Planning Tool—Mike Medina & Venugopal.

Venugopal and Medina co-presented on the El Paso Sketch Planning Tool. The tool was developed for the El Paso MPO and allows for the assessment of the emissions impacts of transportation projects and strategies, at the network level, and for individual projects or initiatives, based on predefined user inputs. A Q&A session followed their presentation.

The presentation is available on the TWG website at:

http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/Trans_AirQuality_SketchPlanningTool.pdf

Open discussion topics

VW partial consent decree—Jody Loza (NCTCOG) brought up questions and potential concerns regarding the EPA’s partial consent decree for the Volkswagen Clean Air Act Settlement and how it may affect the air quality planning process. Jamie Zech (TCEQ) had no information to share at this time, and will forward applicable information to the group as it becomes available.

Presentation on TxDOT’s TDM dashboard—Bill Knowles (TxDOT) presented on the Texas travel demand model dashboard, which provides information to MPOs on information relevant to their study areas. Knowles walked through the dashboard and provided examples of the available information. Knowles expressed that he thought this would be a powerful tool for MPOs and was training on the use of the dashboard and soliciting input.

The presentation is available on the TWG website at:

<http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/TDM-Dashboard.pdf>

Regionally Significant Project – Allie Bazosky (Alamo Area MPO) presented on the MPO’s process for determining a regionally significant project. Bazosky provided an overview of the MPO’s area and that they would need to demonstrate transportation conformity based on their 3-year average. Bazosky explained they reviewed other Texas MPOs definitions to help craft their own.

The presentation is available on the TWG website at:

http://www.texastwg.org/files/2011/11/RegionallySignificantDefinition_TWG_9-1-16.pdf

TWG Subcommittees Breakout Sessions

Near Nonattainment/Ozone Advance Subcommittee — Interim Chair: Janie Temple (Note: Temple was not in attendance. Knowles led the discussion.)

Knowles moderated the discussion and the group talked about the need for training. Knowles said the next TWG meeting was going to be held in College Station at TTI and the group could discuss adding a day of training before or after the meeting for the near nonattainment areas. Potential training topics included MOVES training, case studies on Smart Cities, sketch planning tool and green roads. NOTE: If anyone is interested in chairing this committee, please contact [Chris Sasser](#).

MOSERS Subcommittee — Chair: Tim Juarez

Venugopal noted that the group would continue to receive comments until October 1 on the modules that were distributed. Venugopal explained that this was a working document, and after they received initial comments they would send out revised

versions and update every quarter from then forward. Venugopal said that the committee had a December timeframe for finalizing the document.

(Break for lunch)

Agency Information & Updates

EPA (Jeff Riley)

NAAQS/Conformity—Riley reported that the proposed implementation and classifications rule for the 2015 ozone standard that has been at the Office for Management and Budget Review since early-to-mid-August and is pushing towards a late September or early October signature. Riley reported that publication would be 2-4 weeks after that signing. Riley reported that it would contain the proposed approach for all classification levels and different requirements for SIPS.

MOVES—Riley reported that several trainings were on the schedule for EPA/OTAQ. Riley said that the specific date for the Ann Arbor, MI, training was October 5-6 and the Region 10 training in Seattle, WA, is November 1-2.

A question was asked to Riley about bringing the trainings back to Texas. Riley responded that there could be a case made for bringing it back to Texas given the great response from the last training, but it was difficult doing it in the same place more than every three years. **Jackie Ploch** suggested a webinar option, but others noted it was better to have face-to-face training.

FHWA (Barbara Maley)

Regionally Significant Project — Alamo Area MPO. Maley thanked AAMPO for the information. It is good to see documentation of the coordination and resulting definition and figure. Barbara and Jose will further discuss "Outlier Roadways Proposed to not be included;" specifically SH 80.

Agency Information & Update — FHWA. Transportation Conformity for Hou-Gal: complete. Transportation Conformity for D/FW: hopefully the letter will go out Friday, September 02, 2016.

CMAQ— FHWA, TxDOT and the MPOs are cleaning up some prior year projects.

CEQ GHG— Maley had no updates at this time.

Maley responded to a question about consistency. Maley replied that there is consistency re. 'limits' as well as 'design'. The 4-year TIP entry and project should be within the limits of the Plan and Conformity. The lane design should match e.g., existing, proposed; mainlanes and frontage.

TxDOT TPP

Field representative updates (Tim Juarez, El Paso; Nick Page, NCTCOG; and Megan Campbell, HGAC)

Juarez reported that the El Paso region is currently working on their travel demand model and are in the process of procuring contractor services for their Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Juarez also provided an update for the San Antonio region; they are working with air quality workgroups in preparation for being designated nonattainment.

Page reported that NCTCOG had the transportation conformity letter and signature.

Campbell was unable to attend the meeting.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

Topics of interest to TWG/research projects—Ploch reported that they were looking at project level conformity and analysis. Ploch reported on three research programs that were looking at uncertainty in the modeling chain for project level work. One is TxDOT sponsored and was awarded to TTI. Ploch reported that a pooled fund with nine state DOTs is a complimentary study on the before mentioned project. Ploch also reported on a project with AASHTO, FHWA, and EPA geared at issues associated with modeling at the project level.

Ploch reported that the TCEQ greenhouse gas and climate change guidance that was signed on August 1, made public on August 2, and published in the Federal Register on August 5.

TCEQ (Jamie Zech)

SIP updates—Zech reported that on August 3 the commission approved the recommendations to designate nonattainment counties under the 2015 standard. Zech reported the counties recommended for nonattainment to the Governor, which included Bexar County as well as the D/FW and Houston areas. Zech reported these recommendations were based on the 2013-2015 monitoring data.

Near-road monitors update—Zech reported that the PM and CO near-road monitors were still scheduled to be operational by January 1, 2017, in the Austin and San Antonio areas.

TTI (Joe Zietsman, Madhu Venugopal)

Zietsman provided updates on the interagency contract with TxDOT. Zietsman reported that TTI had completed work on an Air Quality Report website portal and he encouraged users for feedback. Zietsman also reported that he wanted to incorporate the portal with the TWG website. Zietsman said that he wanted to work with TxDOT to

identify and prioritize training opportunities for the next TWG meeting to be held in College Station at the TTI headquarters.

- **MPO's (For those in attendance) – Status & Updates**

No updates were provided for those in attendance.