
SUMMARY

TWG Meeting

December 6, 2018

10:00am – 3:00pm

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg E, Rm 254

Austin, TX 78753

Follow-up Actions from THIS MEETING

- **Kristi Holstead** will prepare a summary of this meeting and post on the TWG website.
- Kristi Holstead will post all presentations from this meeting.
- Kristi Holstead will work with the TWG members to develop the agenda for the next meeting.
- Kristi Holstead will work with the subcommittee chairs to develop topics to discuss for the next meeting.
- Kristi Holstead and **Madhu Venugopal** will work on the conformity/SIP timeline and collect the necessary information from TWG members.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2018

Participants

There were 15 TWG members in attendance, and approximately 22 members attending via WebEx.

The meeting was led by **Laura Norton** and Madhu Venugopal. Laura Norton began the meeting by welcoming attendees to Austin. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves.

Primary Discussion Items

Peggy Thurin spoke regarding the CMAQ funding. Alamo will be added in with the 2020 PCP this summer and funding will be in the spring. 2008 waving for the bump in severity for NCTCOG and HGAC. Otherwise, the formula is the same. It takes the population and weights it on the ozone attainment status, and then you get a percentage of CMAQ funding based on your population.

Steve Dayton presented on the VW Mitigation Plan and provided an update on the TERP program.

[Presentation - VW mitigation Plan and TERP Update](#)

(Break for lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:00.)

TWG Subcommittees Breakout Sessions Updates

Near Nonattainment/Ozone Advance Subcommittee — Darcie Shipull

Darcie Shipull stated that the sub-committee discussed CAPCOG working on their Regional Air Quality Plan and they would not tie it into the Ozone Advance Program. The sub-committee mentioned that they hope they will bring back the Emissions Analysis on the PAQ with PPRMA. The sub-committee feels this will be beneficial to other near-nonattainment areas that may be looking at things that they can do to keep an eye on their air quality.

Darcie mentioned an upcoming workshop in San Antonio for Transportation Conformity; the information can be found below:

[Introduction to Transportation Conformity](#)

MOSERS Subcommittee — Chair: Madhu Venugopal

Madhu Venugopal stated that the sub-committee discussed the Modules 1 and 2 and they will release those modules in the coming months. Module 3 is still waiting for comments. They have received some comments but would appreciate more input. Once Module 3 is implemented, it will be difficult to go back and change it. **Reza Farzaneh** stated that Modules 1 and 2 are compliments to the document, the current version which was released in 2007, so they are a restructure. Module 3 is the tool. Module 3 is where the feedback is needed. This will be the tool/standard that everyone uses.

Agency Information & Updates

EPA (Jeff Riley)

Jeff Riley provided an overview on the following:

- NAAQS –
 - The final 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP requirements rule was signed by Administrator Wheeler on November 7, 2018, and was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 2018. It will be effective February 4, 2019. There is mention of transportation conformity and general conformity in the rule itself. The transportation conformity was already covered in the June 2018 Transportation Conformity Guide that OTAQ released. Conformity for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS is still required at this time for both transportation and general conformity purposes. Although comments were taken during the proposal process for the rule, two approaches for revocation of the 2008 NAAQS, in light of the South Coast II decision, revocation of the 2008 NAAQS and the Anti-Backsliding Requirements will likely be addressed in a separate, future, rulemaking. There is no clear outline as to the timeframe for when that might occur.

- The areas that were designated in Texas and Sunland Park, New Mexico (which is bordered up against El Paso Area) they were all designated as marginal attainment under the standard. That means that they have a three-year deadline to reach attainment from the effective date of designations. For Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and Sunland Park, that would be August 3, 2021. For San Antonio that would be September 24, 2021. Within two years of the effective date of designations, the state would be submitting to the EPA based on emissions inventory and emissions statements for major sources at 100 tons/year or over and non-attainment new source review program offset rations. For marginal level areas, motor vehicle emission budgets are not a requirement.
- Sent to TWG on Monday, EPA updated the Ozone PM2.5 and regional haze modeling guidance.
- Conformity –
 - November 29, 2018, the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality and the DOT released a Transportation Conformity Guidance for the South Coast II decision. It specifically focuses on how to make transportation conformity determinations for areas that were either non-attainment or maintenance for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS when it was revoked. Section 2 focuses on what are termed “orphan maintenance” areas, of which Beaumont/Port Arthur was identified as one for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS. Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the guidance cover a lot of the concerns relative to the Beaumont area. On December 4, 2018, the Beaumont Area consultation partners discussed how to apply this guidance going forward with conformity work done to-date in the area. Section 3 of the guidance applies to the 1997 non-attainment areas and orphaned non-attainment areas. This guidance focuses more on the difference in non-attainment area boundaries between standards like the 1997 and 2008 standard. This covers areas like Dallas and Houston.
 - November 20, 2018, the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards released a 1997 Ozone NAAQs Resource Guide for Maintenance Planning. The guide focuses on guidance and supporting technical information on ozone design values for states to use for development of second 10-year maintenance plans for 1997 orphaned maintenance areas as well as redesignation requests and first 10-year maintenance plans for 1997-orphaned non-attainment areas. The resource guide lays out a similar offering to the EPA’s limited maintenance plan policy.

FHWA (Barbara Maley)

Barbara Maley provided the following updates:

- El Paso Regional Conformity was signed on November 6, 2018, on the 2045 Plan and the 2019-2022 TIPS.
- Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Transportation Conformity was signed on November 21, 2018. This allowed them to go in and lift SIP exceptions that were contingent on some changes that needed to be made as part of the 2045 Plan and 2019-2022 TIPS.

- El Paso for Sunland Park is in the pre-analysis stage for the 2045 Plan and 2019-2022 TIPS.
- Houston/Galveston has regional transportation conformity on the table. They are in the pre-analysis plan. Also for the 2045 Plan and 2019-2022 TIPS.
- The South East Regional Transportation Commission is in the stage of guidance on that is slated for the first week of December.
- FHWA has a November 2018 Quarterly Revision out right now that is being commented on. As soon as the November 2018 Quarterly Revision closes there will be a STIP out of cycle revision for December.
- FHWA has sent out the Air Quality Highlights, which is shared with TWG as soon as FHWA receives them.
- FHWA has been working very closely with Peggy Thurin (TxDOT) on CMAQ as an advisory role.

TxDOT TPP

Field representative updates (Raymond Sanchez, El Paso; and Nick Page, NCTCOG)

Raymond Sanchez stated that the El Paso region is working on the situation regarding the conformity process for the Sunland Park area. They have an aggressive schedule for certain items that need to be complied from here until the end of January policy meeting in 2019.

Claudia Valles stated that they are hoping to have comments by the end of the first week of December 2018.

Nick Page stated that Alamo Area MPO conducted their 2nd inter-agency consultation on October 31, 2018, and reached a consensus on the pre-analysis consensus plan. The notes will be sent out soon along with a request for another meeting sometime in January.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch)

1. EPA has issued a conformity information collection request (comments due 1/18/2019). EPA has estimated nationwide conformity costs to be \$2.3 million per year. Previous annual cost estimates in Texas exceeded \$1 million per year.
 - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/11/19/2018-25188/proposed-information-collection-request-comment-request-transportation-conformity-determinations-for>
 - AASHTO is developing a comment letter.
 - If MPOs and consultation partners have updated information on conformity costs to share, please coordinate that information with the TxDOT MPO field rep and Jackie Ploch.
 - TxDOT (coordinated by FED) will share Texas information with AASHTO.
2. NCHRP 08-117 Impact of Transformational Technologies on Land Use and Transportation. This research is developing a guidebook for land use and transportation planning considerations for transformational technologies. The guidebook should be complete in August 2019 and will be shared for TWG distribution. It will cover:

- Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Cities Internet, smartphone applications that affect travel demand
 - Passenger Vehicle Applications - Technology applications focused on passenger vehicles
 - Infrastructure Applications - Applications focused on ground transport infrastructure
 - Logistics Applications -Technology applications focused on goods movement
3. NCHRP 25-56: *Methods to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions From the Transportation Sector*. Texas is a possible host state for 1 of 3 workshops in the April-June 2019 time-period. Once states are selected, a notice will be shared for TWG distribution.
 4. NCHRP 25-55: *Assessment of Regulatory Air Pollution Dispersion Models to Quantify the Impacts of Transportation Sector Emissions*. The 3-year research is currently reviewing existing tracer and wind tunnel study datasets (found 23). In addition, the study is identifying potential field locations for new tracer studies.

TCEQ (Jamie Zech)

Jamie Zech provided the following comments:

- TCEQ started work on redesignation request maintenance plan out of the South Coast II decision. They are still in development of all of those SIP revisions.
- Houston redesignation request maintenance plan for the 1979 one-hour and the 1997 eight-hour standards, went to proposal in September. The comment period closed and the adoption agenda is scheduled for December 12, 2018.
- The Beaumont/Port Arthur Area – TCEQ is developing a 1979 one-hour ozone standard redesignation request and maintenance plan, along with a second 10-year maintenance plan for the 1997 eight-hour standard. That went to proposal October 17, 2018. The comment period closed with no comments received. Adoption is scheduled for January 30, 2019.
- The Dallas/Fort Worth Area – TCEQ is developing 1979 one-hour and 1997 eight-hour ozone redesignation request maintenance plan. It goes to proposal on December 12, 2018, and is scheduled for adoption in early spring 2019.
- The El Paso Area – They were designated as non-attainment under the one-hour standard of the 1979 one-hour. TCEQ is developing the SIP revision to re-designate along with the maintenance plan for that standard. It goes to proposal January 16, 2019, and is scheduled for adoption in late spring 2019.
- TCEQ saw the proposed bump up for Dallas and Houston under the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard. TCEQ is in preliminary planning for the development of the SIP revisions to address that reclassification.

TTI (Madhu Venugopal)

Madhu Venugopal put together a timeline in Tableau that he and **Kristi Holstead** will update with information from the various TWG members. The timeline provides a living document for members to compile schedules for all the MPOs and planning organizations to use.

Jenny Narvaez stated that NCTCOG has reached out to Dennis Perkinson (TTI) and Janie Temple (TxDOT) regarding the registration data. They have received the 2018 registration data from the DMV and shared it with TTI and TxDOT. TxDOT is putting together or is about to receive, the updated data from the DMV. Jenny stated that NCTCOG would like to request a TWG Sub-Committee devoted to the receipt of the DMV registration data or that NCTCOG can continue to receive the data and continue to forward it. NCTCOG would like TxDOT or TTI to review the data and compare it to the 2014 data. **Andrew Birt** stated that TTI had the registration data and had been reviewing it over the last few weeks. TTI provided TxDOT with details on the format that TTI needs the data in based on previous data extractions.

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

Allie Blazosky stated that a doodle poll would be sent for a mid-January meeting request regarding the notes from the Alamo Area MPO's pre-analysis consensus plan. El Paso and CAMPO might be on a similar timeline for the emission analysis.

Bob Dickinson stated that they had received several calls from consultation partners asking how they will handle the EPA guidance on the conformity guidance South Coast II decision. He stated that they would have to demonstrate conformity, but they will do not have to do emission analysis.

Graciela Lubertino is working on the 2045 RTP and the 2019-2022 TIP. H-GAC is in the preliminary consensus. She hopes that they would reach consensus soon.

Jenny Narvaez stated that NCTCOG recently wrapped up their ozone season. NCTCOG received their conformity determination on November 21, 2018. NCTCOG provided emission inventories to TCEQ for the redesignation one-hour 1997 standards. NCTCOG is ramping up the emission inventories for the reclassification of the 2008 standards. NCTCOG recently finished the emissions modeling for the CAPCOG MOPAC project.

(Meeting Concluded)