



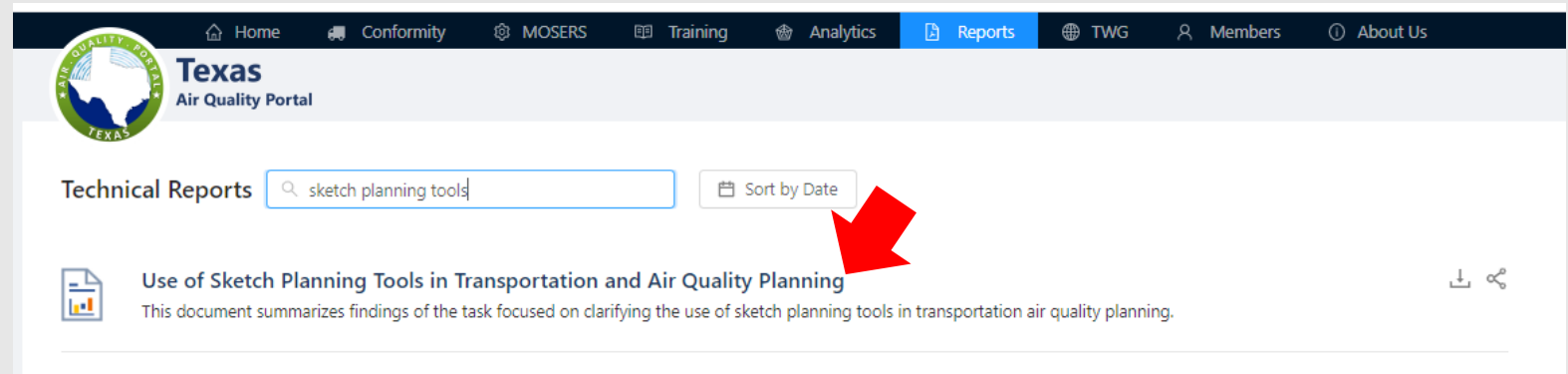
Use of Sketch Planning Tools in Transportation and Air Quality Planning

TWG Quarterly Meeting

June 4, 2020



- There have been several discussions among Texas' air quality stakeholders and TWG members on the topic of “sketch planning tools” to support air quality planning activities.
- TTI developed a brief overview document to:
 - Provide information to TWG stakeholders (define these type of tools and clarify appropriate use)
 - Initiate discussion on future needs in Texas
- Document is available on the Texas Air Quality Portal (reports section)
 - <https://txaqportal.org/>





- They provide a “*general order-of-magnitude estimates of travel demand and traffic operations in response to transportation improvements*”
- Provide a first-cut estimate of a transportation measure’s impact for a relatively small investment of time and effort
- Strict definition -> limited to macroscopic, area-wide estimations of travel demand and emissions
- Broader definition -> includes corridor-level, or strategy-specific assessments
- Underlying principles are consistent with any transportation emissions analysis - total emissions are a function of vehicle activity and emissions rates per unit activity

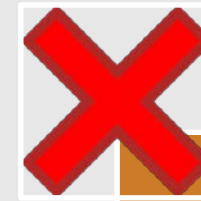


- Advances in computation and modeling have made it possible to provide quick emissions estimates for transportation networks or projects
 - In this context, it is important to understand **appropriate uses** for these types of tools



Can be used for

- Research
- Scenario planning
- Trends analyses
- Impact assessments
- Grant applications



Cannot be used for

- Regulatory processes (i.e. conformity)



Terminology and Technical Capabilities

- No standardized terminology for what constitutes a “sketch planning tool”
- Tools are becoming increasingly sophisticated with advancements in modeling

Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses

- These tools can be used for a variety of purposes
- They cannot be used to bypass or substitute existing conformity processes in nonattainment areas

Existing Utilities and Methods

- Complement, but not replicate existing conformity processes

Stakeholder Communication

- Important to avoid confusion and to ensure buy-in

Statewide Applications

- Do not recommend a “one size fits all” tool



- Memorandum titled “Use of Sketch Planning Tools in Transportation and Air Quality Planning” is available here: <https://txaqportal.org/>
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