
SUMMARY
TWG Meeting
June 4, 2020
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Follow-up Actions from THIS MEETING

- **Kristi Holstead** will compile the notes from the meeting and provide the slides on the TWG website.
- **Madhu Venugopal** and **Kristi Holstead** will work to send out a poll regarding the 2018 registration data to receive any comments that members may have.

Next Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2020 (tentative)

Participants

There were approximately 48 TWG members in attendance via Microsoft Teams.

Janie Temple and **Madhu Venugopal** led the meeting. **Janie Temple** began the meeting by welcoming attendees and reviewing the virtual meeting guidelines.

Primary Discussion Items

Chris Kite (TCEQ) presented on the Emissions Impacts of Electrifying Passenger Cars in Texas:

[Emissions Impacts of Electrifying Passenger Cars in Texas \(PDF\)](#)

Tara Ramani (TTI) presented on the Use of Sketch Planning Tools in Transportation and Air Quality Planning:

[Use of Sketch Planning Tools in Transportation and Air Quality Planning \(PDF\)](#)

Andrew Birt (TTI) presented an update on the DMV vehicle registration data analysis:

[DMV Vehicle Registration Data Analysis Update \(PDF\)](#)

Secondary Discussion Items

AACOG, H-GAC, and NCTCOG provided presentations regarding Air Quality Impacts During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

[COVID-19 Impacts on San Antonio Air Quality \(PDF\)](#) – Lyle Hufstetler, AACOG

[Air Quality Monitoring Data from Pandemic Times \(PDF\)](#) – Graciela Lubertino, H-GAC

[Effects of COVID-19 on Transportation and Related Health Impacts \(PDF\)](#) – Chris Klaus, NCTCOG

Reza Farzaneh provided a presentation on the updates to MOSERS, the TxAQ Portal, and TWG Training:

[MOSERS Update \(PDF\)](#)

(Break - The meeting resumed at 12:45)

Agency Information & Updates

EPA, Jeff Riley

Jeff Riley provided the following updates (reviewed by Jeff Riley):

- **Ozone Review Final Policy Assessment released**
 - Finalized 5/29. On Monday, June 1st, EPA has released the Final Policy Assessment for the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (PA, EPA-452/R-20-001). This document was prepared as part of the current review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for photochemical oxidants including ozone (O₃). The PA serves to "bridge the gap" between the currently available scientific and technical information and the judgments required of the Administrator in determining whether to retain or revise the existing O₃ NAAQS. The primary and secondary O₃ NAAQS are set to protect the public health and the public welfare from O₃ and other photochemical oxidants in ambient air.
 - The final PA is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/ozone-o3-standards-policy-assessments-current-review>
 - Pg. 200 – Thus, the evidence and exposure/risk information, including that related to the lowest exposures studied, lead us to conclude that the combined consideration of the body of evidence and the quantitative exposure estimates including the associated uncertainties, do not call into question the adequacy of protection provided by the current standard. Rather, this information continues to provide support for the current standard, and thus supports consideration of retaining the current standard, without revision.

- 2015 O3 NAAQS – EPA revised the primary and secondary ozone standard levels to 0.070 parts per million (ppm)
- Next step – Notice of proposed rulemaking on the NAAQS review is targeted for the first half of 2020, with targeted final rulemaking late 2020.
- **Dallas/Ft. Worth Transportation Control Measure Substitution**
 - EPA's Notice of Administrative Change signed 5/14/2020, awaiting publication in Federal Register. This notice completes the substitution process for converting the IH 35E/IH 635 HOV Lane TCMs to traffic signalization project TCMs. The substitution is already in effect with issuance of EPA's 2/21/2020 concurrence letters to NCTCOG & TCEQ, the NOAC will revise the approved Texas SIP under 40 CFR 52.
- **Beaumont/Port Arthur 2nd Maintenance Plan proposal**
 - Signed by Regional Administrator 5/29, awaiting publication in Federal Register.
 - Texas submitted a request to the EPQ to re-designate the Beaumont/Port Arthur area under the revoked one-hour ozone standard. The submittal also included a second 10-year maintenance plan for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS for the Beaumont/Port Arthur area. Beaumont/Port Arthur was re-designated in 2010 to attainment of the 1997 NAAQS. EPA is not taking action on the one-hour ozone standard portion of the submittal at this time.
 - Approval of the second 10-year maintenance plan will not establish any new motor vehicle emission budgets for the Beaumont area related to transportation conformity, because under the conformity rule 40 CFR 93.109(c), there is an exemption for doing the regional emissions analysis for any standards that have been revoked.
- **Houston/Dallas Revoked Ozone NAAQS legal challenge**
 - April 14, 2020, Earth Justice (representing Sierra Club, Downwinders at Risk, and the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services) filed a petition for review in the DC Circuit Court on a couple of recent EPA final actions. One related to the Houston area and one related to the Dallas/Fort Worth area.
 - Final actions were resulting from submittals that Texas had made to EPA requesting re-designation for the Houston area and Dallas area under the revoked one-hour ozone and 1997 eight-hour ozone standards.
 - The action for Houston was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2020.
 - The action for Dallas/Fort Worth's final action was published on April 6, 2020.
 - In the final actions, the EPA found that the areas had met the statutory re-designation criteria for those revoked ozone standards, and so the EPA terminated Clean Air Act, anti-backsliding obligations for those two revoked standards for each area.
 - Petitioners specific issues will be submitted to the Court at a later date (petitioners briefs are due early in July). EPA is awaiting the Court's schedule. On June 1st, DOJ submitted a request for dismissal/transfer (to dismiss from the DC Circuit and transfer venue to the 5th Circuit). I believe petitioners briefs are due early in July.
 - Sierra Club's nonbinding statement of issues in the D.C. Circuit challenge to the Texas and Houston functional redesignations:

- Whether EPA's claim of authority to terminate anti-backsliding protections for areas that have not attained the national ambient air quality standard for ozone violates the Clean Air Act.
- Whether EPA's claim of authority to terminate anti-backsliding protections in such areas unlawfully modifies national Clean Air Act implementing regulations that limit EPA's authority to terminate anti-backsliding protections.

TCEQ, Jamie Zech

Jamie Zech provided the following updates:

- SIP Revisions Updates:
 - DFW and Houston - As of the March 5th meeting, TCEQ had just adopted the serious reclassification, attainment demonstration, and RFP SIP revisions and the RACT update rulemakings for the DFW and Houston areas under the 2008 8-hour standard. These were submitted to the EPA in May. The EPA website shows the SIP revisions posted and is taking comments on the SIP revisions for the adequacy of the budgets through July 3rd.
 - June 10th – adoption scheduled for the DFW, HGB, and Bexar county emissions inventories SIP revisions under the 2015 8-hour ozone standard. These will be submitted by the end of June (submittal deadline is August 3rd). There are no conformity implications or budgets. It is a reporting requirement of the 2015 Ozone NAAQS that TCEQ reports the 2017 base year inventories.
 - July 1st – scheduled adoption for the Bexar County Federal Clean Air Act 179B SIP revision. The area would be attaining the standard but for emissions from outside of the area. It is being submitted under the 2015 8-hour Ozone standard. It is not a required SIP submittal. There is no deadline. TCEQ plans on submitting it to the EPA by the end of July. Again, there are no conformity implications or budgets. If EPA approves it, it will hold the area in a marginal non-attainment status.

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

Allie Blazosky stated that AAMPO initiated the formal interagency consultation review process shortly after the Memorial Day holiday of our FY 2021-2024 TIP and Mobility 2045 project list. A drawing issue FHWA encountered with the network shapefiles is being addressed.

Bob Dickinson stated that The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission – Metropolitan Planning Organization (SETRPC-MPO) staff continued work on the following activities:

- SETRPC-MPO staff held a 30-day public comment period (April 1-30, 2020) and a live stream public meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2020, regarding the draft revised JOHRTS MTP-2045 Amendment #1 and the draft JOHRTS FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The JOHRTS Transportation Planning Committee reviewed and adopted these documents on Thursday, May 28, 2020. The

SETRPC-MPO had no new added capacity projects included in either of these two documents.

Claudia Valles stated that during the El Paso MPO's last Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting on May 22nd, the TPB members approved the amendment to the Destino 2045 Transportation Conformity Report, Destino 2045 MTP and the 2021-2024 TIP. Once TxDOT finishes the revision of the TIP, El Paso MPO will send it to the consultative partners to start the review process.

Graciela Lubertino stated that H-GAC is in the process of updating the networks for the new conformity and waiting to get the new 2018 vehicle registration data. VMT mix and seasonal factors from TTI. This conformity determination is being developed to amend the 2045 RTP and 2021-2024 TIP. It should get FHWA approval by March 2021.

Jenny Narvaez stated that NCTCOG is planning on doing their Mobility Update and associated conformity for 2022. NCTCOG is wrapping up their 2021-2024 TIP development process. NCTCOG finished the Over-Size Overweight emissions study with TTI. NCTCOG is also working with TTI and TxDOT on analyzing the 2018 vehicle registration dataset. NCTCOG submitted for the Build grant last month. NCTCOG has also been working on CMAQ performance measures, which is gearing up to start again. NCTCOG is getting ready to submit a grant proposal to conduct a greenhouse gas emission inventory. NCTCOG is working with their Air Quality Health Monitoring Task Force.

Andrew Hoekzema provided the following documents for inclusion in the COVID-19 discussion:

[Air Quality Newsletter](#)

[Memo on COVID-19 Impacts on Austin Area Air Quality](#)

TxDOT TPP

Field representative updates: Raymond Sanchez (H-GAC, El Paso), Nick Page (NCTCOG, San Antonio), and Phillip Tindall (Beaumont, Port Arthur)

Raymond Sanchez was unable to attend.

Nick Page was unable to attend.

Phillip Tindall was unable to attend.

FHWA, Barbara Maley

Barbara Maley stated that with the forward of the Air Quality and Sustainability Highlights, and combined with the EPA and TPP/MPO's updates, FHWA does not have any additional updates.

[FHWA Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Highlights](#) - (Sent to members on May 1, 2020)

TxDOT ENV, Tim Wood

No updates provided at this time.

TTI, Madhu Venugopal and Joe Zietsman

Madhu Venugopal stated that TTI continues to work on the Air Quality Master Schedule. TTI and has collected most of the required data; however, there is some information lacking due to the COVID situation. He asks that members e-mail information to be incorporated into the schedule. A meeting will be scheduled soon to review the prototype of the Air Quality Master Schedule.

Joe Zietsman thanked the presenters and all TWG members for their participation in TWG's first virtual meeting.

(Meeting Concluded)