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## SUMMARY

### TWG Meeting

September 3, 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 reach out to TCEQ about presenting on their tri-annual Fuel Study at the next TWG meeting.

## Next Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020 (tentative)

## Participants

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

**Madhu Venugopal** led the meeting. **Bill Knowles** began the meeting by welcoming the attendees.

## Primary Discussion Items

**Juan Villa** (TTI) presented on the Impact of COVID-19 on Texas's Transportation System:  
[Impact of COVID-19 on Texas's Transportation System](#) (PDF)

**Xiaodan Xu** (TTI) presented on Moving Towards a More Sustainable "New Normal":  
[Moving Towards a More Sustainable "New Normal" – A Case Study of El Paso, Texas](#) (PDF)

## Secondary Discussion Items

**Jason Brown** (NCTCOG) and **Reza Farzaneh** (TTI) provided a presentation on the Characterization of Oversize/Overweight Vehicles in the NCTCOG Region:  
[Characterization of Oversize/Overweight Vehicles in the NCTCOG Region](#)

**Madhu Venugopal** provided a presentation on the Status of Future of TWG Breakout Session Recommendations:  
[Status of Future of TWG Breakout Session Recommendations](#)

**Madhu Venugopal** provided an update on the **DMV Vehicle Registration Data**. NCTCOG called for a special meeting to discuss the 2018 registration data on August 18, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to review technical analyses that had been performed on the data by other stakeholders (HGAC, TTI, TCEQ), and to obtain a consensus on the technical applicability of the data for air quality planning. The consensus was reached that the 2018 registration data was appropriate for future air quality planning requirements. As a result, Janie Temple will make a request for 2019, 2020 end of year data. TCEQ also requested that we obtain mid-year data sets for each year and for 2017 which had group consensus. Janie Temple advised the group that the request may take some time. Perhaps 2-3 months minimum. (the last request took 4 months after the DMV determined the process to use). We do not know if their process has changed since the last request. The meeting-notes and summary will be available on the TWG website. Kristi will send a TWG notice when the summary is available.

**Madhu Venugopal** opened a group discussion regarding **CMAQ Performance Measures**. October 1, 2020, is the deadline for mid-performance period reports. The purpose of the discussion was to see how other regions/MPOs were doing. **Jose Campos** (FHWA) stated that TxDOT is continuing to work with the MPOs on any revisions that are required to the CMAQ Emissions Targets. The system is open, and TxDOT can start imputing data. **Jenny Narvaez** (NCTCOG) stated that they had discussions with H-GAC and El Paso regarding changes to the CMAQ Performance Measures that they are going to provide for the 2022 targets. TxDOT was also included in the discussions.

## **(Break - The meeting resumed at 12:50)**

**Reza Farzaneh** provided an update on **MOSERS** and the **Texas Air Quality Portal** (the portal [[txaqportal.org](http://txaqportal.org)]). A lot of updates have been made to the portal, including updates to the MOSERS and conformity sections. The Air Quality Master Schedule is also available on the portal. A new version of the MOSERS Tool was released on September 3, 2020.

## **Agency Information & Updates**

### **EPA, Jeff Riley**

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

- **Ozone NAAQS Review, Proposed Decision & Notice of Public Hearings** – On July 13, 2020, the EPA Administrator signed a notice proposing to retain, without changes, the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone (established in 2015, primary and secondary ozone standard levels at 0.070 parts per million). The proposed action was published in the Federal Register on August 14<sup>th</sup>, with a 45-day comment period ending October 1, 2020. EPA held two virtual public hearings on Monday, August 31, 2020, and Tuesday, September 1, 2020.  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-14/pdf/2020-15453.pdf>

- Please use the following link to access a summary fact sheet:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/proposal-retain-ozone-national-ambient-air-quality-standards>
- American Lung Association, NRDC, EarthJustice, etc. have criticized the decision and process, industry (oil, manufacturing, other sectors) have supported the decision.
- Have received a request to extend the comment period, the request is under review.
- Next step – Upon conclusion of the public comment period & response to comments, EPA targets final rulemaking by end of 2020.
- **Particulate Matter Review** – On April 30, 2020, EPA published in the FR the agency’s proposed decision on the review of the particulate matter NAAQS. The decision regarding the primary and secondary standards is to retain the current standards (established in 2012) without revision. Publication started a 60-day comment period, ending June 29, 2020. EPA received ~6,500 unique comments.
  - Next step – Upon development of a response to comments, EPA targets final rulemaking by end of 2020.
- **Beaumont/Port Arthur 2<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Plan Final Rulemaking** – Signed by Regional Administrator August 3, 2020, published in Federal Register September 2, 2020 (effective October 2, 2020). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-09-02/pdf/2020-17228.pdf>
  - On June 8, EPA published a proposal in the FR to approve a second 10-year maintenance plan for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS through 2032 in the Beaumont/Port Arthur (BPA) area. The comment period ended July 8, and EPA received 1 adverse comment. The final rulemaking addresses this comment and finalizes our proposed approval of the maintenance plan.
  - On February 5, 2019, Texas submitted a request to EPA to re-designate the BPA area under the revoked 1-hour ozone standard. The submittal also included a second 10-year maintenance plan for the 1997 ozone NAAQS for the BPA area. EPA did not propose action on the 1-hour ozone standard portion of the submittal.
  - Approval of the second 10-year maintenance plan does 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.
- **DFW & Houston Serious area RFP for 2008 Ozone NAAQS** – State submitted SIP revisions to EPA May 13, 2020, to address DFW & Houston serious area RFP requirements for 2008 ozone NAAQS. Submittals contain NO<sub>x</sub> & VOC MVEBs for 2020. Draft proposed approvals starting concurrence routing for RA signature, sign & publish proposed approvals within the next month/1.5 months. Plan to approve MVEBs & make adequacy determination in the final action, publish final approvals by April 2021 – effective date will start 24-month conformity clock for new budgets.
- **MOVES3 (MOVES Model Update)** – Beta test has closed, MOVES Development Team received numerous comments – beta testers included EPA, FHWA & FTA, as well as 9-10 “power users” – state/local agencies. MOVES team is working to address comments,

still planning to release in CY2020. MOVES team is also drafting supporting documentation to model – updated technical guidance, SIP & conformity guidance – plan to release everything (model/documentation) at the same time.

## TCEQ, Jamie Zech

Jamie Zech was unable to attend the afternoon session but provided the following updates:

On June 10, 2020, the commission adopted the emissions inventory (EI) SIP revision for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS for the HGB, DFW, and Bexar County nonattainment areas. It was submitted to the EPA on June 24, 2020. The revision, if approved, will satisfy the SIP requirements for Texas areas designated nonattainment under the 2015 standard, being the initial EI, emissions statement, and new source review requirements for areas with marginal nonattainment classification.

The commission adopted the Beaumont-Port Arthur (BPA) Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the One-Hour Ozone NAAQS and Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS SIP Revision (Non-Rule Project No. 2018-027-SIP-NR) on January 30, 2019. On June 8, 2020, the EPA proposed to approve the second 10-year maintenance plan for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard portion of the submittal, while choosing to not act on the remainder of the submittal (85 FR 35041). The final notice was published on September 2, 2020. The EPA has taken the position that it lacks the authority to redesignate areas under revoked standards to attainment. Therefore, TCEQ is preparing a request to withdraw from EPA consideration the one-hour portion of the 2019 BPA redesignation request and maintenance plan. It is scheduled to be considered by the commission on September 25, 2020 (Non-Rule Project No. 2020-039-SIP-NR). This is not a SIP revision, but a request to withdraw one. It is an adoption-only action for the commission. The withdrawal request package will be available for public reference this Friday.

The commission adopted the El Paso Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the One-Hour Ozone NAAQS SIP Revision (Non-Rule Project No. 2018-029-SIP-NR) on January 16, 2019. The EPA has taken the position that it lacks the authority to redesignate areas under revoked standards to attainment. Therefore, TCEQ is preparing a request to withdraw from EPA consideration the 2019 El Paso one-hour redesignation request and maintenance plan. It is scheduled to be considered by the commission on September 25, 2020 (Non-Rule Project No. 2020-039-SIP-NR). This is not a SIP revision, but a request to withdraw one. It is an adoption-only action for the commission. The withdrawal request package will be available for public reference this Friday.

The Bexar County FCAA, §179B Demonstration SIP revision that demonstrates that the Bexar County marginal ozone nonattainment area would attain the 2015 eight-hour ozone standard by its attainment deadline “but for” anthropogenic emissions emanating from outside the U.S was adopted by the commission on July 1, 2020, and submitted to the EPA on July 13, 2020. This SIP revision has no motor vehicle emissions budgets and, if approved, would relieve the area from being reclassified to moderate.

Please contact Jamie Zech ([jamie.zech@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:jamie.zech@tceq.texas.gov)) with questions concerning these SIP actions or TCEQ actions for pollutants that do not relate to transportation conformity (sulfur dioxide, lead, regional haze).

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

**Allie Blazosky** stated that AAMPO is working on responses to comments from FHWA. They had a productive phone call with FHWA approximately one and a half weeks prior to the TWG meeting and is currently polishing up their formal response to the interagency consultative partners. AAMPO is working through some lessons learned on the project-level conformity side since its first conformity last year. They hope to have the 2020 conformity finished within the month.

**Phillip Tindall** provided the update Bob Dickinson (SETRPC-MPO). SETRPC wanted to express their appreciation to TCEQ and others who helped to get the Beaumont/Port Arthur Maintenance Plan approved.

**Claudia Valles** stated that on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, the El Paso MPO held a call to review the draft comments that they received on August 24, 2020, from FHWA. The following day they received comments #1 and #2 and are waiting for more comments. Currently, the El Paso MPO is working to address these comments. They have already contacted the New Mexico Environment Department, FHWA New Mexico, and TTI for advice. El Paso MPO expects to have the comments (#1 and #2) ready to be sent in a week. They are also working on the validation of the new TDM model and 2050 MTP.

**Vivek Thimmavajhala** stated that NCTCOG is still planning on updating their mobility plan and the next conformity in 2022. NCTCOG recently wrapped up its 2021-2024 TIP Development Process. NCTCOG is also continuing to update its COVID-19 impacts data analysis. NCTCOG Director, Michael Morris, takes the updated presentation to the Surface Transportation Technical Committee and the Policy Board (RTC) every month. NCTCOG is ramping up to conduct a regional greenhouse gas emission inventories and coordinating with NCTCOG cities and local governments. The current design value for North Texas is at 76 parts per billion, and the Grapevine/Fairview monitor is driving it. Unofficially, the data shows that NCTCOG is above the 75 standard, as well.

**Andrew Hoekzema** stated that CAPCOG signed up for the PM Advance Program. CAPCOG and H-GAC are the only metro areas doing the PM Advance Program. CAPCOG is the only one doing both PM Advance Program and the Ozone Advance Program. The reason for this is that CAPCOG region levels of PM are above what EPA recommended for consideration for a standard.

## TxDOT TPP

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

**Raymond Sanchez** stated that he did not have any updates for H-GAC. For El Paso MPO, the staff is addressing comments from the consultative partners. TxDOT is in the process of

reviewing the conformity review documents provided by the El Paso MPO.

**Nick Page** was unable to attend.

**Phillip Tindall** nothing to add in addition to the SETRPC update (above).

### FHWA, Barbara Maley

**Barbara Maley** stated that it's not too soon to begin entering 2020 CMAQ information into the CMAQ Reporting Tool.

The latest Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Highlights were sent out on September 3, 2020, to the TWG members. This includes all FHWA's updates on air quality items.

FHWA is working on project level conformities; by August 2020 (8 months), they had as many project-level conformities as they had for 2019 (12 months).

### TxDOT ENV, Tim Wood

**Tim Wood** provided the following updates:

- TxDOT has done a lot of project-level conformity this year; however, they will probably not have as many next year as the budget will be lower.
- Emission Rate Lookup Table on [txaqportal.org](http://txaqportal.org): ENV is updating its emission rate lookup table currently and hopes to have something completed by the beginning of 2021 (will go out to 2050).
- ENV is currently beta testing FHWA's DAANA (Dataset Application for Air Quality and Noise Analysis) Tool. The tool pulls together from various federal databases to create data that can be used in MOVES.
- ENV is doing research study on electric vehicles. Specifically, different adoption projections and how they would affect regional ozone.
- ENV has received several submissions for ENV to be research champions for their research program. Please, make sure that the submission applies to ENV and is something that ENV can implement.

### TTI, Madhu Venugopal and Joe Zietsman

**Madhu Venugopal** stated that the next version of the MOVES model, MOVES 3, is scheduled to be released by the end of 2020. TTI was a beta tester.

The Air Quality Master Schedule (AQMS) has been posted on the portal ([txaqportal.org](http://txaqportal.org)). TWG members are encouraged to visit the AQMS and test it out. Please, provide any feedback. There were some good suggestions provided, and TTI will try to incorporate those suggestions.

**(Meeting Concluded)**