
TWG Meeting Summary

September 7, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

Follow-up Actions from THIS MEETING

- **Anna Fildes** will prepare a summary of this meeting.
- **Madhu Venugopal** will work with **Janie Temple** on:
 - Scheduling a couple of research idea meetings between April and August 2024 in preparation for RTI statements and identifying TxDOT Champions.
 - Scheduling a brainstorming meeting to talk about TWG working more closely with **Casey Wells** on work related to the resiliency plan, the carbon reduction plan, and the statewide plan.

Next Meeting

- TWG Advisory Meeting - Thursday, **October 5, 2023** (tentative)
- TWG Quarterly Meeting - Thursday, **December 7, 2023** (tentative)

Participants

About 43 TWG participants attended via Microsoft Teams.

Madhu Venugopal led the meeting and began by welcoming new attendees, **Xiao Yu** and **Tim Vinciguerra**.

Updates and Introductions

Venugopal stated that TWG Quarterly and Advisory meeting invites went out for FY-24. If you didn't receive them, reach out to **Fildes**.

Primary Discussion Item

Jamie Zech presented on [Legislative Session Updates](#) of interest to the TWG.

Vivek Thimmavajhala presented on [Vehicle Registration Data Sensitivity](#).

Chaoyi Gu presented on [MOVES4 Review and Findings](#).

The group discussed updates on **Pending Conformity Determinations**.

- **Andrew DeCandis** offered to participate in future TWG conformity discussions and TWG workgroups to help move things along.
- **Temple** encouraged MPOs to use the tools already available to avoid deviations from the standard documentation and to avoid causing longer review times. MPO participation in the workgroups is also critical to keep conformities standardized

and help avoid delays. The network check tool helps to standardize things and should be useful to multiple MPO groups. Regarding SIP, everyone should give some thought to what information on the AQMS timeline is critical.

- **Thimmavajjhala** plans to set up a call to discuss the network review tool.

Due to time restraints, the following discussions were tabled for next time:

- Resilience Improvement Plan
- DMV Registration Update from TxDOT and TTI

Agency Information & Updates

EPA, Jeff Riley

MOVES4 Model Posted on EPA Website

On August 30, 2023, EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) announced the [web posting of MOVES4](#), the latest version of EPA's on-road & non-road mobile source model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment. The MOVES4 version captures the benefits from newer promulgated regulations, the latest available vehicle & emissions data, and offers improved functionality – especially for modeling electric vehicles. The MOVES4 software is available for download on the website linked above, as well as associated documents (Questions & Answers, Overview Report, MOVES Policy Guidance, MOVES Technical Guidance, and technical reports documenting data & algorithms used in MOVES4).

In the coming weeks, EPA will publish a *Federal Register* notice announcing the availability of MOVES4 for SIP and transportation conformity purposes. The notice of availability will establish the end date for the MOVES "grace period" (expected to be 2-years, like other past major model updates), after which the MOVES4 model must be used for conformity analyses.

OTAQ will host a MOVES4 webinar on September 13, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Central. [Webpage with webinar registration link](#)

The webinar will cover:

- Overview of how MOVES4 emission results compare to MOVES3.
- Guidance on how and when to use MOVES4 for SIP development, transportation conformity, and other purposes.
- Information on MOVES4 tools & inputs, including how to update MOVES3 inputs to work with MOVES4.

EPA Initiates New Review of the Ozone NAAQS to Reflect the Latest Science

On August 21, 2023, EPA announced that the reconsideration effort of the Agency's December 2020 decision to retain the 2015 ozone NAAQS would be rolled into a new review of the Ozone NAAQS. The EPA Administrator Regan made this decision upon consideration of the advice & recommendations of the independent Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) ozone panel to ensure the ozone standards reflect the most current, relevant science and protect people's health from these harmful pollutants. ([more info](#))

EPA originally targeted December 2023 for completion of the Ozone NAAQS reconsideration effort; this timeline does not apply to the new Ozone NAAQS review. EPA has not yet announced the NAAQS review schedule/milestones, such information will be shared with TWG when it is available.

On August 25, 2023, EPA published a Call for Information in the Federal Register, a request for research studies & published data to inform the Agency's development of a new Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants. The Call for Information closes October 24, 2023.

2022-2023 DERA Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity

On August 2, 2023, EPA announced the 2022-2023 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grants notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). Grants will be awarded to implement cleaner technology projects to reduce emissions nationally from the existing fleet of older diesel engines. The funding opportunity closes December 1, 2023. Subject to availability of funds, the quantity/quality of applications received, and other considerations, EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$115 million in DERA grants funding. ([more info](#))

TCEQ, Jamie Zech

Jamie Zech shared the following updates:

2015 Ozone NAAQS (70 ppb)

- Projects scheduled to be considered for adoption on November 8, 2023:
- Bexar County Moderate Attainment Demonstration (AD) SIP Revision
- Bexar County Moderate Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) SIP Revision
- Bexar County Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) SIP Revision
- Bexar County I/M Implementation Rulemaking (30 TAC Chapter 114)
- Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Moderate AD SIP Revision
- Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Moderate AD SIP Revision
- DFW-HGB Moderate RFP SIP Revision

2008 Ozone NAAQS (75 ppb)

Project proposals scheduled to be considered for publication and public hearing/comment on November 29, 2023:

- HGB Severe AD SIP Revision
- DFW Severe AD SIP Revision
- DFW-HGB Severe RFP SIP Revision
- Bexar County Moderate Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) SIP Revision
- Volatile Organic Compounds Rulemaking impacting DFW, HGB, and Bexar County areas (30 TAC Chapter 115)
- Nitrogen Oxides Rulemaking impacting DFW, HGB, and Bexar County areas (30 TAC Chapter 117)

MPOs (For those in attendance) – Status & Updates

Clifton Hall thanked **Barbara Maley** and FHWA for help finalizing and getting their conformity determination approved last month. A tentative schedule was uploaded to the AQ portal. A TP conformity update will be submitted to the board in May for approval. Thanks to **Venugopal** and the TTI team for their conformity help and contributions.

Bob Dickinson the transportation conformity documents were submitted for MTP 2045 and FY23-26 Transportation Improvement Program. Thanks to the consultative partners for their help in preparing some of the documents. Work continues on the development of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan-2050 which should be completed by late November 2024.

Harrison Plourde El Paso MPO has been going through some project-level conformities and recently updated documentation on the last outstanding project-level conformity. A project change on the New Mexico side of the MPO has required a look at conformity for MTP and TIP in early 2024. **Claudia Valles** is expected to return from leave in October.

Andrew DeCandis H-GAC is thankful for the help received in getting conformity together and reviewed. No additional comments.

Vivek Thimmavajhala NCTCOG is working on conformity because of the newly approved 2020 motor vehicle emission budgets. In the coming weeks, we will take some information to our technical committee and policy body. We are awaiting partner comments on the pre-analysis plan.

NCTCOG was awarded the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for the DFW area. Plans are underway to update our GHG emissions inventory from our 12-county MPA to our 16-county COG region, which will be one of the key deliverables for the priority climate action plan or PCAP under the CPRG.

TxDOT TPP

Field representative updates: Raymond Sanchez (El Paso, HGAC, and Beaumont), Phillip Tindall (NCTCOG), Brigida Gonzalez (AAMPO)

Raymond Sanchez had no additional comments.

Phillip Tindall was unable to attend the meeting.

Brigida Gonzalez said there were new MPO coordinator assignments effective 10/1/23.

FHWA, Jose Campos

Barbara Maley provided the following FHWA Texas Division updates:

On September 5th, **Maley** and **Jose Campos** presented on the Texas Air Quality Portal to FHWA's larger Air Quality Discipline. The presentation request was initiated by FHWA's Resource Center air quality training class instructors. The information was well received, especially the Pre-Analysis Consensus Plan template. FHWA gave credit to TxDOT and TTI (as its contractor) for the Portal.

TxDOT Updates

Janie Temple TXDOT started a new fiscal year with our interagency contract and had an initial meeting to look over everything and review ongoing requests from the TWG and MPOs. We will relay what requests from last year were accomplished and share other analyses and reports via the AQ portal.

Laura Norton was unable to attend.

Tim Wood had no additional comments.

TTI, Madhu Venugopal

Venugopal shared that TTI has a lot of moving pieces with MOVES4 and the AQMS in the new FY-24. TTI is diligently working on getting everything out. **Fildes** will coordinate meetings with MPOs to discuss paths moving forward for MOVES4.

Finally, participants are encouraged to reach out to **Fildes** or **Venugopal** if they have something to present or share that would benefit TWG participants.

(Meeting Concluded)