

Summary
TWG Biannual Meeting
3 September 2015
10:00am - 3:00pm
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, Texas 77027
2nd Floor, Conference Room B

A. Introductions & Announcements

Self introductions were made and attendees signed-in. There were 32 TWG members in attendance. Laura Norton began the meeting with an explanation of the revised TWG meeting format. TWG members then split into the three subcommittee breakout sessions. The summary from each session is provided below. After the breakout sessions and lunch, the general session began.

B. TWG General Session

- **Primary Discussion Items**

- Conformity 101 overview presented by Jackie Ploch and Laura Norton. [Download a PDF of the presentation.](#)
- Joe Zietsman presentation “Workshop on Leveraging Grant and Funding Opportunities for Transportation Air Quality in Texas.” [Download a PDF of the presentation.](#)

C. Subcommittee Status Updates

- MOSERS subcommittee update (Tim Juarez)
 - Juarez provided an update on the MOSERS guidebook. Juarez also discussed resubmitting the survey Chris Sasser sent to TWG for additional feedback. [Download a PDF of the presentation.](#)
- Conformity Documentation subcommittee update (Jody Loza)
 - Loza provided an overview of the transportation conformity resources documentation now available on the TWG website: <http://www.texastwg.org/transportation-conformity-resources/>
- Near Nonattainment/Ozone Advance subcommittee update (Janie Temple)
 - Temple reported that the subcommittee discussed technical issues and timelines; looking at data availability and the timelines for the new standard (when the critical dates will occur). Temple reported that they wanted to make sure the MPOs were as prepared as possible by sharing the information that is available. Temple reported that the subcommittee

had a good representation from TxDOT and other resource agencies. Temple requested that for the next meeting a regular representative from TCEQ and other resource agencies continue to attend.

D. Agency Information and Updates

EPA (Jeff Riley) NOTE: Jeff Riley was unable to attend this meeting. Laura Norton presented his updates.

- **Ozone/ozone NAAQS review:** EPA sent the final ozone NAAQS review rulemaking to OMB on August 28th, still on-track to meet court-ordered deadline of Administrator's signature on final action by October 1, 2015.

Institute of 21st Century Energy (U.S. Chamber of Commerce) has released "Grinding to a Halt" reports (Washington, D.C. & Las Vegas area so far) on impact of a revised ozone standard on key transportation projects. Another 2 or 3 reports are slated for release before the October 1st review deadline. U.S. CoC page features a petition form to express concern over a revised ozone standard. More information is available at:

<http://www.energyxxi.org/sites/default/files/grinding-to-a-halt-report-update.pdf>

Federal Register notice published on August 10, 2015, "Proposed Partial Consent Decrees". Agreement relating to a federal implementation plan (FIP) addressing Texas emissions, which could contribute to non-attainment or interfere with maintenance of the '97 ozone or PM 2.5 standard. NOT a transportation concern, no potential for highway sanctions or other transportation-related issues.

More information is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/08/10/2015-19599/proposed-partial-consent-decree-clean-air-act-citizen-suit>

- **Conformity guidance:** EPA OTAQ is revising the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS conformity guidance to reflect MOVES. The revision should be completed late summer 2015.

- **MOVES implementation:** A MOVES two-day training workshop will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 22-23. MOVES two-day training materials available online.

More info at: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/models/moves/training.htm>

OTAQ is working on MOVES 2014A with an anticipated October 2015 release. Preliminary testing has yielded very small downward changes in NOx estimates.

FHWA (Barbara Maley) Maley provided the following comments:

- **Transportation Conformity:** DFW – signed; H-G – in progress; and BPA – PPD/TxDOT/MPO joint call on Friday August 28.
- **CMAQ including Annual Reporting:** 2013 and 2014 – PPD/TxDOT and MPOs still working on closing out. 2015 – Stay tuned for a new platform. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/reporting/
- **Laws, Regulations:** MAP-21 extended thru Oct29. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/legislation.cfm>
- **Policy and Guidance:** Suggest everyone stay informed via the FHWA newsletter available on the TWG website as well as FHWA's website. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/highlights/high0715.cfm
- **Training:** The NEPA AQ training, initially slated for late-September, has been postponed. Once the course materials are updated, it will be re-requested by ENV/Jackie Ploch.
- **Environmental Coordinators Conference (ECC), Austin:** Air Quality is addressed on September 9 and 10. Draft Agenda: <https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/conference/2015-env-conference-agenda.pdf>
- **Conformity Report Forms (CRFs):** These are provided to PPD for DFW and H-G on an as needed basis by ENV/Tim Wood.
- **AQ weekly calls:** These are ongoing between PPD (Jose, Barbara) and ENV (Jackie, Tim).
- **TxDOT Air Quality Toolkit:** There have been air quality updates; see TxDOT's website. <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/compliance-toolkits/air-quality.html>

TxDOT TPP

- Field representative updates (Tim Juarez, El Paso; Nick Page, NCTCOG; and Travis Milner, HGAC)

Juarez reported that El Paso was working with TxDOT to work through inconsistencies between the models, which have now been resolved. Juarez reported that the timeframe is late spring to early summer and they are working with their consultative partners (Clean Horizon), and looking at their 2020 TIP.

Page reported that he just began working with NCTCOG in June and is looking forward to working with all the consultative partners across the field.

Milner reported that they are actively working to address consultative partner comments and they are rerunning the travel demand model (the week of August 31). Milner reported the new VMT numbers were slightly high and they were going to rerun the air quality model and results should be available on September 8. They are planning for September 11 approval.

TxDOT ENV (Jackie Ploch) — Ploch had nothing additional (from her earlier presentation) to report at this time.

TCEQ (Jamie Zech) — Jamie Zech provided the following updates.

- Near-road Monitors: Near-road monitors are operational in the Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio areas. Near-road monitoring data to date show compliance with the monitored NAAQS. PM2.5 data are pending validation.

Near-road monitors in the El Paso and Edinburg-Mission-McAllen areas are scheduled to be operational by January 1, 2017. The monitoring division expects this would delay the three years of data collection to determine designations and SIP deadlines.

List of near-road monitors

Operational as of January 2014

- CAMS 1066: Houston Southwest Freeway (NO2)
- CAMS 1069: San Antonio IH-35 (NO2)

Operational as of April 2014

- CAMS 1067: Dallas LBJ Freeway (NO2)
- CAMS 1068: Austin North IH-35 (NO2)

Operational as of April 2015

- CAMS 1052: Houston North Loop (NO2, PM2.5 & CO)
- CAMS 1053: Fort Worth California Parkway (NO2, PM2.5 & CO)

Operational as of January 2017

- El Paso (NO2)
- Edinburg-Mission-McAllen (NO2)
- Austin-Round Rock (PM2.5 & CO)
- San Antonio (PM2.5 & CO)

TTI (Andy Mullins, Joe Zietsman) — Mullins had no updates at this time. Zietsman reported that August 31 was the end of the fiscal year and a lot of projects concluded and reports were being prepared for submittal. Zietsman reported on projects for TCEQ that involved long haul Mexican trucks and busses crossing the Mexican border. Zietsman also introduced Andrew Birt and discussed a few of the projects he will be involved in.

MPO's Status and Updates— Lisa Weston from CAMPO reported that they had adopted their 2014 plan on time and on budget.

E. Follow-Up Actions (Perkinson, Sasser)

- The presenters will provide their presentations to Chris Sasser for posting.
- Chris Sasser will prepare a summary of today's meeting.
- Information on the September biannual meeting to be held in Dallas will be sent out next month.

E. Next TWG Meeting: *Thursday, March 3, 2016, Dallas*