

January/February 2019

Air Quality and Sustainable Transportation Highlights

*Prepared by the Office of Natural Environment
Federal Highway Administration*



U.S. Department of Transportation
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Announcements and Recent Events

FHWA Publishes Computation Guidance for Total Emissions Reduction Measure

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a new document relating to the CMAQ emissions performance measure, called [Computation Guidance for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement \(CMAQ\) Program Total Emissions Reduction Measure](#). This document provides guidance on calculating the Total Emissions Reduction measure, as required by 23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) part 490. This is the only measure in 23 CFR part 490 that State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to calculate and report to the Performance Management Form (PMF). A companion to this document is a [new reporting tool](#) in the CMAQ Public Access System.

FHWA Welcomes Four New Team Members in Air Quality and Environment

FHWA is pleased to welcome four new air quality staff: three members of the Environment, Air Quality, and Realty Team in the Resource Center, and one new staff member at headquarters. The new resource center staff members are: Leigh Oesterling, an Environmental Protection Specialist, who comes from the FHWA Ohio Division and is working on conformity, MSAT and CMAQ; George Noel, an Air Quality Modeling Specialist, comes from the US DOT Volpe Center and will be supporting work on emissions, dispersion and traffic modeling ; and, David D'Onofrio, Environmental Protection Specialist, who comes from the Atlanta Regional Commission where he served as the Principal Planner and will be working on conformity, emissions modeling and CMAQ. Finally, Edward Dancausse, the Air Quality Specialist for the FHWA North Carolina Division Office joined the Office of Natural Environment Air Quality and Noise team in Headquarters where he will work on conformity and CMAQ. Please see the Contacts section at the end of this newsletter to reach out to these new team members.

2018 Alternative Fuel Corridor Nominations

FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment and Realty, received 21 nominations in response to the third request to designate alternative fuel corridors, as required by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The 2018 nominations were due by January 31, 2019. Nominations are currently being

evaluated, with designation announcements planned for Spring 2019. Rounds 1 and 2 resulted in a total of 58 designations, covering segments of 84 Interstates and 44 state roads/highways, spanning 43 states, plus the District of Columbia. More information on the FHWA Alternative Fuels Corridor Program can be found on [FHWA's Alternative Fuel Corridor webpage](#).

FHWA Releases Quick Guide on Requirements for Renewable Energy Projects in Highway Right-of-Way (ROW)

FHWA recently released a [Quick Guide on Requirements for Renewable Energy Projects in the Highway Right-of-Way](#). Several States have installed renewable energy generation projects, such as solar arrays and wind turbines, along the highway ROW, while other States are considering doing so. This quick guide is intended to point FHWA Division Offices and State DOTs to the relevant FHWA requirements, including 23 CFR 645 Accommodation of Utilities, or 23 CFR 710 Right-of-Way Use Agreements. It is guidance only and does not create any requirements other than those stipulated in statute or regulation. The guide is meant as a condensed version of information available in FHWA's [Guidance on Utilization of Highway Right-of-Way](#).

FHWA's Public Roads Magazine Spotlights Work on Renewable Energy in Highway Right-of-Way.

A recent article titled "[Renewable Roadsides](#)," highlights the increasing interest among State DOTs in the installation of renewable energy technologies in the highway right-of-way. As they explore the possibilities, State DOTs are learning from their peers. Early adopters of ROW solar and State DOTs that are currently pursuing renewables provide lessons based on their experiences for those considering options for the future. The [article](#) highlights a number of these lessons through case studies in Oregon, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Utah. For more information, see the [Renewable Energy in Highway Right-of-Way](#) page, or contact Tina Hodges at 202-366-4287 or Tina.Hodges@dot.gov.

FHWA Updating CMAQ Program and 'It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air' Websites

The Federal Highway Administration is currently conducting a research project to update program materials and refresh both the [CMAQ Program](#) and [It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air](#) websites. FHWA is hosting two webinars to share information and resources with a variety of stakeholders, and inform FHWA about ways to modernize the websites and attract new users. Two upcoming webinars are scheduled for April 23 and April 24:

- **Tuesday, April 23rd 1:00 – 2:00pm ET: Updating FHWA's CMAQ Program Website and Resources.** *Note: this webinar is not about CMAQ funding or eligibility requirements or about the CMAQ Performance Plan requirements.* Register Now at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8180212976660855810>
- **Wednesday, April 24th 1:00 – 2:00pm ET: Updating the Website and Program Materials for FHWA's It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air.** Register Now at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5367123472112401154>

Transportation, Air Quality and Health Symposium Brings Together Experts in Transportation and Health

The [Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Emissions, Energy and Health](#) (CARTEEH, a US DOT University Transportation Center) hosted a Transportation, Air Quality, and Health Symposium in Austin, TX, on February 18-20. The symposium aimed to promote research, policy and emerging issues related to transportation emissions, energy, air quality, exposures and human health by bringing together experts from the transportation and health disciplines. Victoria Martinez presented the FHWA [Health in Transportation Corridor Planning Framework](#), which supports transportation agency efforts to incorporate health considerations into corridor planning studies. Contact Victoria at victoria.martinez@dot.gov for more information.

Meetings, Conferences, and Workshops

Save the Date: Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit (STAQS), August 20-21, 2019

The Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit (STAQS) 2019 will be held on August 20th and 21st in Louisville, KY. The meeting is being sponsored this year by FHWA, EPA and the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency (KIPDA). More information will be shared as planning for the conference is finalized. Contact Mike Roberts at Mike.Roberts@dot.gov for additional details.

FHWA, AASHTO and TRB Conference on Transportation System Resilience, November 13-15, 2019

FHWA, AASHTO and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) are sponsoring the [2nd International Conference on Transportation System Resilience to Natural Hazards and Extreme Weather](#) from November 13-15, 2019, at the National Academies Building in Washington, DC. The conference is designed to provide transportation agencies with information, research results, and example practices to assist in their ability to anticipate and adapt to the potential impacts of changing climate conditions and extreme weather events. The conference also includes international dialogue on research, implementation, and lessons learned. There is an opportunity to attend through a webcast. Registration will be available soon and a call for proposals is planned for March 2019. See the [conference website](#) or contact Heather Holsinger at Heather.Holsinger@dot.gov for more information.

TRB Conference on Health and Active Transportation, December 11-12, 2019

TRB is sponsoring the [Conference on Health and Active Transportation](#) on December 11-12, 2019 in Washington, DC. This conference will explore opportunities in quantifying the health effects of transportation policies, infrastructure, and travel behavior. It also intends to raise awareness of opportunities to integrate health and health equity into transportation planning across all levels (including planning for active transportation). Contact Bernardo Kleiner at BKleiner@nas.edu or Gary Jenkins at GJenkins@nas.edu for more information.

Training Opportunities

Introduction to Transportation Conformity: In-Person Trainings

The National Transit Institute (NTI) is offering in-person training opportunities covering its “Introduction to Transportation Conformity” course. This 2.5 day course will present basic information about conformity requirements and the relationship of the transportation and air quality planning processes in order to prepare agency staff (federal, state and local) to participate in interagency consultation and work effectively in resolving conformity issues. Upcoming deliveries include June 2019 in Lansing, MI. For more information and to register, please visit [the NTI registration website](#).

Additional Web-Based Transportation Conformity Training

As a reminder, several web-based transportation conformity training opportunities are available on-demand from [FHWA's conformity training website](#) (under "Web-based Training"). These training opportunities range in level of detail from a short 27-minute video providing a high-level basic overview of transportation conformity to a detailed set of 32 self-directed training modules. Recordings of two webinars were added recently: basic transportation conformity overview (June 12, 2018, 70 minutes) and basic MOVES emissions model training (June 18, 2018, 42 minutes).

The target audience for these training materials are FHWA staff and State and local transportation partners (MPOs and State DOTs) who are either new to or would like a refresher training on the conformity process. For questions, please contact David Kall, at david.kall@dot.gov, or (202-366-6276).

CMAQ 101 Training

The FHWA posted a 27-minute YouTube video on the CMAQ program. The video provides a basic introduction to the program, how CMAQ funds are distributed to states, and the types of projects eligible for the CMAQ program. The training is available via the [FHWA's YouTube channel](#). For more information about the CMAQ program, please contact Mark Glaze at mark.glaze@dot.gov or (202) 366-4053.

FHWA NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects

The FHWA Resource Center Planning and Air Quality team will be conducting a series of training sessions on NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects. The training includes sessions on project-level applications appropriate for managers and practitioners, as well as hands-on sessions intended for modelers. Please note this is not a general MOVES training course, but is focused on project-level applications. It is not intended to address regional applications, such as SIP emissions inventories or regional (plan and TIP) conformity analyses. If you are interested in this training, please contact Michael Claggett at michael.claggett@dot.gov.

MySQL Training for MOVES Model Users

Two training opportunities are available for MOVES model users. A three-hour webinar provides an introduction to MySQL Query Browser and MOVES interface. A six-hour training over two days will enable users to do MySQL programming and to write their own MySQL scripts and to manipulate MySQL databases including MOVES input and outputs. For more information or to schedule training, please contact Michael Claggett at michael.claggett@dot.gov.

Air Quality Planning Web Course Available at No Cost

The National Highway Institute (NHI) Air Quality Planning web-based training series is designed for transportation practitioners. It includes four modules: Clean Air Act Overview (FHWA-NHI-142068), State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Transportation Control Measure (TCM) Requirements and Policies (FHWA-NHI-142069), SIP Development Process (FHWA-NHI-142070), and Transportation Conformity (FHWA-NHI-142071). All courses are free. For more information, visit the [NHI website](#) and search “Air Quality Planning,” or look for the specific course number. Please contact Karen Perritt at (202) 366-9066, or Karen.Perritt@dot.gov with any questions or comments.

FHWA Resource Center Training Activities

FHWA’s Resource Center Air Quality Technical Services Team is available to offer MOVES and other trainings. More information is available at the [Resource Center website](#).

Reminders

- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Emission Reductions Calculator.** The FHWA is continuing to develop a series of tools to provide technical support for the implementation of the CMAQ Program. This CMAQ Emission Reductions Calculator is offered as an additional resource to assist DOTs, MPOs, and project sponsors in the project justification process. All modules are available on the FHWA [CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit](#) webpage. For more information, please contact Mark Glaze (Mark.Glaze@dot.gov or 202-366-4053).
- **MOVES2014b Mobile Source Emissions Model.** EPA released MOVES2014b in August 2018 to improve estimates of emissions from nonroad mobile sources. MOVES2014b does not significantly change the onroad criteria pollutant emissions results of MOVES2014 and is not considered a new model for State Implementation Plan (SIP) and transportation conformity purposes.
- **Computation Procedures for Travel Time and Non-SOV Performance Measures.** FHWA has developed an internal document, [FHWA Computation Procedure for Travel Time Based and Percent Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle \(non-SOV\) Travel Performance Measures \(May 2018\)](#), to ensure consistency in the determination of significant progress for the National Highway Performance Program and the National Highway Freight Program (see [23 CFR 490.109](#)). FHWA is making this document public to provide transparency in its calculations and to give State DOTs a frame of reference when establishing their targets.
- **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Designations for 2015 Ozone NAAQS.** Initial transportation conformity determinations for the 2015 ozone NAAQS are due one year from the effective date of the nonattainment designations, which is August 3, 2019 for most areas (see final rule [here](#)) and September 24, 2019 for the San Antonio, TX area (see final rule [here](#)). EPA released updated [Transportation Conformity Guidance for 2015 Ozone NAAQS Nonattainment Areas and updated the Green Book for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS](#).

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- **US EPA Resources on Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS.** EPA is providing a Resource Document and supporting technical information to assist states in developing maintenance plans for certain areas that were designated as nonattainment or redesignated to maintenance for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS prior to its revocation. The following resources are available via [EPA's website](#): [Fact Sheet](#), [Resource Document for Developing Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS](#), [1997 Ozone NAAQS Air Quality Monitoring and Modeling Data](#), [1997 Ozone NAAQS Emission Inventory Data](#).
 - **US EPA Report on Four Implementations of TEAM Method.** EPA has released a new report on summarizing findings about VMT and emissions impacts of travel efficiency strategies using the Travel Efficiency Assessment Method (TEAM). The report, [Applying TEAM in Regional Sketch Planning: Four Case Studies](#) summarizes strategies used in Puget Sound, WA; Champaign, IL; Lake Charles, LA; and the State of Connecticut.
 - **FHWA Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Framework.** FHWA has now posted an easily downloadable [pdf version](#) of the [Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Framework, 3rd Edition](#). The Framework is a manual to help transportation agencies assess and address vulnerability of transportation infrastructure and systems to extreme weather and climate effects.
 - **FHWA Regulatory Requirements on Emergency Relief Program.** On November 27, 2018, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) posted guidance on its [Emergency Relief Program website](#) to clarify implementation requirements associated with the regulation on Periodic Evaluation of Facilities Repeatedly Requiring Repair and Reconstruction Due to Emergency Events, per 23 CFR 667.
 - **FHWA Peer Exchanges on Renewable Energy in the Highway Right-of-Way.** FHWA has published a series of reports summarizing the results of peer exchanges that brought together practitioners to discuss accommodating renewable energy technologies, such as solar energy generation, in highway rights-of-way. Peer exchanges were held in multiple regions of the country between 2017 and 2018. See the [Renewable Energy in Highway Right-of-Way website](#) for more information on research and past peer exchanges.

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Past issues of the *Air Quality and Sustainability Highlights* are available on FHWA's website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/highlights/ or <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/newsletter/>.

Please e-mail Victoria.Martinez@dot.gov with any suggestions for future issues.