



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Air Quality + Sustainable Transportation Highlights



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Announcements

FHWA 2022 Environmental Excellence Awards - Call for Nominations

The Environmental Excellence Awards (EEAs) recognize outstanding transportation projects, processes, and organizations that incorporate environmental stewardship into the planning and project development processes using Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding sources. Any organization, agency, group, or individual in the public, private, or non-profit sectors may submit a nomination. **Entries are due by December 15, 2021.** Please visit the [EEA Website](#) to learn more about the EEA process and to submit an application.

USDOT Climate Action Plan Released

The U.S. Department of Transportation released its [Climate Action Plan](#) as required by [E.O. 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#). The plan builds on previous Climate Action Plans prepared in 2012 and 2014 and focuses on climate adaptation and resilience, outlining priority adaptation actions. The plan includes a Policy Statement that notes that “climate change presents a significant and growing risk to the safety, effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of our transportation infrastructure and the communities it serves.” The Statement includes guiding principles the agency will follow to ensure that, where possible, federally supported transportation infrastructure and USDOT programs will consider climate impacts and incorporate climate resilience: use best available science; prioritize the most vulnerable; preserve ecosystems; build community relationships; and engage globally.

FHWA Posts CMAQ National Project Map

FHWA posted a [map of CMAQ projects](#) obligated between FY2014 and FY2019. The map can be sorted by state, project type, project funding, and more. The map is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the [CMAQ Public Access System](#) for complete project information. For more information or with questions, please contact [Karen Perritt](#).

NOAA Announces Effects of Sea Level Rise Impacts Grant Awardees

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has [awarded \\$4.6 million in fiscal year 2021](#) (FY21) to fund research on sea level rise impacts on surface transportation, coastal ecosystems, and communities, as well as enhancing coastal resilience. FHWA is partnering with NOAA on two of the awards for projects that specifically address transportation impacts. Summaries of these two projects and the other awarded grants are available in [NOAA's FY21 Effects of Sea Level Rise Program Awards](#) document.

FHWA Noise Barrier Inventory Available

The triennial Noise Barrier Inventory is now available online at the FHWA Noise Program website: [Inventory- Noise Barriers- Noise- Environment- FHWA](#). The narrative summary, graphs, and tool now include data collected for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019. FHWA collects and updates information on noise barriers every 3 years. States are required by the highway noise regulations (23 CFR 772.13(f)) to maintain an inventory of all constructed noise abatement measures.

Revised 2015 Ozone Designations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) redesignated certain areas for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), effective July 14, 2021. This review focused on 16 counties associated with nine nonattainment areas located in seven states – Colorado, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico (the county under review is in Texas), and Wisconsin. EPA revised the boundaries for six nonattainment areas in four states (Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin), and reaffirmed the April 30, 2018 designation associated with Ottawa County, Michigan. In the case of the Doña Ana County, NM and Denver Metro/North Front Range CO nonattainment areas, EPA intends to revise its initial designation. [Click here for additional information](#).

EPA Releases PM Hot-Spot Guidance Update

EPA's updated [PM Hot-Spot Guidance: Transportation Conformity Guidance for Quantitative Hot-spot Analyses in PM2.5 and PM10 Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas](#) is now available. This guidance describes how to model the local air quality impacts of certain transportation projects on the PM2.5 and PM10 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). This guidance is to be used by state and local agencies to conduct quantitative PM "hot-spot analyses" for new highway and transit projects. This October 2021 version reflects MOVES3, including new guidance on the number of MOVES runs; to reflect that AERMOD is the required model for PM hot-spot analyses; and to reflect guidance implementation and experience in the field. EPA also clarifies that the technical information in this guidance may also apply when completing analyses of

transportation projects for other purposes, such as general conformity, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses, or assessing near-source air quality in communities with environmental justice concerns.

EPA Releases Patch for MOVES3 Mobile Source Emissions Model

EPA has posted a patch to MOVES3 (MOVES3.0.2) that fixes a variety of small issues and bugs. Users should download and use this new version if they have not yet used MOVES3, if they are modeling hotelling emissions at the default scale, or if they are modeling nonroad particulate matter emissions. Otherwise, MOVES3 users can continue to use [MOVES3.0.1](#) or, in many cases, MOVES3.0.0. For more information about regulatory uses of MOVES, see the [MOVES3 Policy Guidance](#) which applies to all versions of MOVES3. This update does not substantially change onroad criteria pollutant emission rates in MOVES3 at the county or project scales, and it is not considered a new model for State Implementation Plan (SIP) and transportation conformity regulatory purposes. Any questions about MOVES3.0.2 or the potential impacts of the new patch may be directed to [Chris Dresser](#) with the FHWA Resource Center Air Quality Team.

GAO Proposes Options to Enhance Resilience of Federally Funded Roads and Reduce Fiscal Exposure

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviewed FHWA's climate resilience efforts for federally funded roads and provided recommendations on how to enhance the current efforts. [The GAO website includes highlights as well as a full report on this effort.](#)

NCHRP Synthesis 576: Practices for Project-Level Analysis of Air Quality

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program released [Practices for Project-Level Analyses for Air Quality](#). This study examined practices and procedures at departments of transportation (DOTs) for conducting project-level air quality analyses. DOTs may be required to conduct these analyses to meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) transportation conformity regulation, or both.

Welcome to Suraiya Motsinger

Suraiya Motsinger, AICP, has joined FHWA's Sustainable Transportation and Resilience Team to work on climate change resilience, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and sustainability issues. Ms. Motsinger comes to FHWA from a consulting firm where she worked as a transportation planning project manager in areas such as multimodal network planning, infrastructure

resilience, and planning for underserved populations. Ms. Motsinger previously worked as a senior transportation planner for the Wilmington, NC, Metropolitan Planning Organization.



Events

FHWA Webinar: Framework for Health in Corridor Planning

November 9, from 1- 2:30 PM (ET). FHWA's updated the [Framework for Integrating Health Considerations into Transportation Corridor Planning](#) and developed 6 new case studies of MPOs, State DOTs and other transportation providers who've used the Framework, and is hosting a webinar. Participants will hear from transportation professionals on their use of the Framework tools and information to conduct community engagement, forge partnerships, leverage resources, and garner support for investments that support healthy outcomes for their community. Please [click here to register](#) to attend this event. Contact Victoria Martinez, 787-771-2524, or victoria.martinez@dot.gov for more information.

International Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience of Road Networks

December 6-8, 6:00-9:00AM (ET). [This seminar](#), organized by the World Road Association and the Uganda National Road Authority, aims to share ways in which transportation agencies are making infrastructure and operations more resilient to climate change and other hazards. Sessions and presentations include: assessing roadway risk and resilience to climate change and other hazards, example resilience assessments, a focus on capacity building, and development of tools and methods for assessing resilience and planning for adaptation. [Registration](#) is free.



Resources

CMIP Climate Data Processing Tool Version 2.1 Training Webinar Recording

This [90 minute training webinar](#) introduces users to the recently updated CMIP Climate Data Processing Tool. It provides background information on climate projections for temperature and precipitation for the contiguous 48 States; introduces the source of projections the tool uses; and walks through the process of downloading the data, uploading it into the tool, and using the tool to calculate a range of variables for use in regional vulnerability assessments and transportation project analyses. It also presents an example of calculating a climate factor and using it to

calculate future AEP precipitation depths. The CMIP tool is available through FHWA's [Climate Change Adaptation Tools webpage](#).

FHWA Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team Training Activities

FHWA's Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team is available to offer MOVES and other trainings. Please contact [George Noel](#), for additional information or to discuss scheduling a training.

FHWA Web-Based Transportation Conformity Training

Several web-based transportation conformity training opportunities are available on-demand from [FHWA's conformity training website](#) (under "Web-based Training"). 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](#).

FHWA CMAQ 101 Training

FHWA posted a [22-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. For more information about the CMAQ program, please contact [Mark Glaze](#).

FHWA NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects

The FHWA Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team periodically conducts a series of training sessions on National Environmental Policy Act (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. If you are interested in this training, please contact [George Noel](#).

FHWA Web-Based TNM Training

FHWA has created a [Traffic Noise Model \(TNM\) Playlist on its YouTube Channel](#). These short-format videos demonstrate how to install TNM, complete basic tasks in the software, and provide details on specific features. Additional videos will be added throughout the year. Additional TNM Training materials are available on the [FWHA Noise Training Website](#). For technical assistance with TNM please contact TNMHelp@dot.gov.

NHI No Cost Highway Traffic and Construction Noise Course

FHWA's Planning, Environment, and Realty office and the National Highway Institute (NHI), in cooperation with the Resource Center and Division Offices, have updated and launched a web-based Traffic Noise Training Course. This on-demand, web-based training was a previously multi-day, instructor-led course. This course is now available on the NHI website at no cost and provides a comprehensive overview of all aspects of the highway traffic noise program. The courses are available on the [NHI website](#) by searching for "highway noise" and locating course codes 142086 – 142094.

NHI No Cost Air Quality Planning Web Course

The NHI Air Quality Planning web-based training series is designed for transportation practitioners. It includes four modules: Clean Air Act Overview (FHWA-NHI-142068), 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 with any questions or comment



Contact Us

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

Past issues of the Air Quality and Sustainability Highlights are available on

FHWA's [Air Quality website](#) and [Sustainability website](#)

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