



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Air Quality + Sustainable Transportation Highlights



Prepared by the Office of Natural Environment

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Announcements

FHWA Releases New Guidance and \$6.4 Billion to Help States Reduce Carbon Emissions Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) will fund a wide range of projects designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources — from installing infrastructure to support the electrification of freight vehicles or personal cars, to constructing bus rapid transit corridors, to facilitating micromobility and bicycling. Under the CRP, States must also develop carbon reduction strategies. For more information about the new Carbon Reduction Program and guidance, please visit FHWA's [website](#) to access the [program guidance](#) and [fact sheet](#). The five-year funding table for total estimated CRP state-by-state funding for Fiscal Years 2022-2026 is [available here](#).

USDOT Announces New Vehicle Fuel Economy Standards for Model Year 2024-2026

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced new standards to require fleet average of 49 mpg by 2026, and designed to save consumers money, advance U.S. energy independence, and reduce transportation emissions. The new standards for model year 2024-26 will reduce fuel use by more than 200 billion gallons through 2050, as compared to continuing under the old standards. To see the Corporate Average Fuel Economy rule, [please click here](#).

MOVES3 Updates to the CMAQ Toolkit

FHWA updated the CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit to the newest version of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES), MOVES3. Tools updated with MOVES3 emissions rates may exhibit changes in emissions reductions for some pollutants as compared with MOVES2014b-based tools. EPA updated the input activity distributions in MOVES3, including speed, age, and road type of on-road vehicles to better reflect operating conditions. This has resulted in changes to the output inventories, from which the emissions rates used in the CMAQ Toolkit are derived. Please visit the [CMAQ Toolkit website](#) to download MOVES3-updated tools.

Construction and Intermodal Equipment CMAQ Tool

The FHWA released a new addition to its CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit. The new tool, entitled “Non-Road Equipment: Construction & Intermodal Equipment Engine Retrofit and Replacement” will bring to 14 the number of spreadsheet tools available on the FHWA/CMAQ website [CMAQ - Air Quality - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#). This tool estimates emission reductions for CMAQ eligible projects that reduce non-road construction equipment emissions by implementing diesel engine retrofitting or engine repowering and/or replacement. This tool may only be used for CMAQ eligible construction and intermodal applications (e.g., marine ports and railyards). For more information about the CMAQ Emissions Toolkit contact [Mark Glaze](#).

Ozone Maps Updated

The 2015 ozone maps have been updated to reflect revised Air Quality Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These revised designations were in response to a July 2020, D.C. Circuit Court remand and EPA’s taction to review the original designations for 16 counties for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The 2015 ozone maps have been updated to reflect the revisions and are posted on the [FHWA HEP AQ Website](#).

CMAQ Applicability Table Fact Sheet

The [CMAQ Applicability Tables Fact Sheet](#) has been posted. It contains second performance period background and summary information on the CMAQ related performance measures for traffic congestion and on road mobile source emissions, including State DOT’s and MPO’s applicability.

FHWA Announces 2022 Environmental Excellence Award Winners

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is excited to announce the [2022 Environmental Excellence Award \(EEA\) recipients](#)! The biennial EEA program recognizes outstanding transportation projects, processes, and partners that used FHWA funding sources to go above and beyond compliance to achieve environmental excellence. The program features a range of human and natural environment categories designed to highlight best practices across the Nation. The winning projects and programs exemplify FHWA’s priorities of climate change and sustainability, equity and environmental justice, complete streets, economic strength, and safety for all road users. Some of the winning projects and programs for 2022 are: Advancing Science to Better Consider the Ability of Nature Based Solutions to Protect Transportation Infrastructure from Sea Level Rise and Flooding (Alabama, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire), Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation (Minnesota), Gleason Beach Roadway Realignment Project (California), and The Frontier MPO: Using Innovations from the FHWA Framework for Incorporating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning to Advance Health and Equity in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

FHWA Office of Natural Environment Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Kathryn (Katy) Maher is joining the Sustainable Transportation and Resilience Team. Prior to joining FHWA, Katy served as a Program Manager for Resilience Planning at Dewberry where she led the Resilience Planning Program, managing resilience planning and policy staff, and leading projects related to resilience for various clients, including FEMA and State and local government agencies. Katy also has notable experience in the research and non-profit sectors, working for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

Neelam Patel is also joining the Sustainable Transportation and Resilience Team. Neelam previously worked for the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality. She led implementation of the State's climate policy with the Delaware Department of Transportation and other State agencies and led workgroups and the development of the first Climate Adaptation Plan for the State. Neelam also has served as a Senior Climate Policy Analyst and the National Heat Island Reduction Program Manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

David D'Onofrio is also joining the Sustainable Transportation and Resilience Team. Before this, David led climate, greenhouse gas, and resilience training and technical assistance on the FHWA Resource Center's Air Quality Team. Prior to joining FHWA, David worked for the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), where he led activities to analyze greenhouse gas emissions and reduction strategies and integrate resilience in the transportation planning process.

The Resource Center Air Quality Team Welcomes New Staff

Kamala Joy is joining the Resource Center's Air Quality Team. Kamala is currently employed with the Shift Network and has headed her own private consulting company, Earth Matters, Inc. for over 20 years. Kamala has provided both training and technical assistance services to MPO's across the nation on the Clean Air Act's requirements related to highway transportation including performing air quality analyses for transportation projects and plans. She has been instrumental in the development and assessment of emission reduction and control measures for over a dozen air quality non-attainment areas throughout the nation.

Toolkit on Innovative Finance Strategies to Accelerate Bicycle and Pedestrian (Active Transportation) Project Delivery

FHWA released the [Toolkit on Innovative Finance Strategies to Accelerate Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Delivery](#) which builds on [Strategies for Accelerating Multimodal Project Delivery](#) to compile, analyze, and document best practices for innovative finance strategies to accelerate bicycle and pedestrian project delivery. The research highlights innovative finance approaches for implementing active transportation projects in various community contexts.

FHWA Office of Planning, Environment and Reality Virtual Booth

FHWA released a new [Virtual Booth](#) that features multiple resources including five research fact sheets, banners that connect to research programs including Alternative Fuel Corridors, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program links, and the INVEST course program. This is a great way to quickly connect to the latest Environment, Planning and Reality research.



Events

TRB Conference on Sustainability and Emerging Transportation Technology

The [TRB's Conference on Sustainability and Emerging Transportation Technology](#) will address questions around how policy makers, the private sector, and others can work together to support transportation innovations in ways that promote sustainability and benefit all users of the transportation system particularly in terms of public health, equity, and accessibility. The conference will be held on May 31 - June 2, 2022 in Irvine, CA and [registration is open](#). (There is a fee)



Resources and Training

Coastal Adaptation Training Course

NOAA Office of Coastal Management is offering an interactive course designed for coastal management practitioners who are just starting to address the challenges resulting from climate change. Participants will learn the foundational concepts of a five-step adaptation-planning process. The entire course is conducted online and includes a self-guided training component along with two live instructor-led sessions on May 17, 2022 and May 19, 2022. To register for the is training, please register using this form by May 6. Contact [Gwen Shaughnessy](#) with questions.

National Highway Institute (NHI) Resilience Training Courses

The National Highway Institute (NHI) recently released four one-hour web-based courses focused on resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. The four courses provide an introduction to past and expected future environmental conditions, future sea levels, climate datasets and modeling tools for temperature and precipitation change, system level vulnerability assessment, and methods for conducting project-level resilience assessments. The target audience includes engineering, project planning and environmental staff; the series is also relevant to regional planners, asset managers, and others seeking to integrate climate change considerations into their practices.

- [FHWA-NHI-142081 Understanding Past, Current and Future Climate Conditions](#)
- [FHWA-NHI-142082 Introduction to Temperature and Precipitation Projections](#)

- [FHWA-NHI-142083 Systems Level Vulnerability Assessments](#)
- [FHWA-NHI-142084 Adaptation Analysis for Project Decision Making](#)

Training Available for PM Hot-spot Analysis

The FHWA Resource Center has developed a training course to cover the PM hot-spot requirement under the transportation conformity rule. This three-day course provides detailed, hands-on instruction on how to complete a quantitative PM hot-spot analysis in accordance with EPA's guidance. The course is geared towards state and local agency staff who will be completing these analyses, as well as those who may be reviewing, approving, or otherwise assessing hot-spot analyses. Previous modeling experience is not necessary, although familiarity with MOVES and air quality dispersion modeling may be helpful. The course includes class discussion and numerous hands-on exercises, including a hypothetical project that will be carried through the course as an example of a quantitative PM hot-spot analysis. Courses dates are TBD and will be announced as they are scheduled beginning this summer. Contact [Chris Dresser](#) for additional information.

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's Resource Center (RC) has also formed the Climate Resilience Interdisciplinary Team (CRIT) to prioritize and address climate and extreme weather-related impacts on transportation systems. Through training, technical assistance, and technology, CRIT will help you adapt your transportation system to prepare for changing climate conditions and withstand and quickly recover from disruptions. Download the CRIT Team Brochure or contact David D'Onofrio to learn more.

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"). This page includes a new webinar recording for "Introduction to MOVES3 for Non-Modelers." 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.



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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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