



prepared by the Office of Natural Environment

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Announcements



Proposed Greenhouse Gas Emission Performance Measure

FHWA announced a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) for States and municipalities to track and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) makes available more than \$27 billion in federal funding to help State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) meet their declining GHG targets. The new rule would take two important steps to combat climate change:

1. Establish a national framework for tracking state-by-state progress by adding a new GHG performance management measure to the existing FHWA national performance measures to help states track performance and make more informed investment decisions.
2. Create a flexible system under which State DOTs and MPOs would set their own declining targets for on-road greenhouse gas emissions from roadway travel on the National Highway System.

USDOT Announces Proposed Minimum Standards and Requirements for National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

FHWA announced a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) on proposed minimum standards and requirements for projects funded under the [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\)](#) Formula Program and projects related to the construction of publicly accessible EV chargers. The proposed rule would establish the groundwork for states to implement federally funded charging station projects across a national EV charging network, an important step towards making electric vehicle charging accessible to all Americans. Comments on the proposed standards and requirements are requested and must be received by August 22nd.

Round 6 Alternate Fuel Corridors Designations

FHWA announced the latest round of Alternative Fuel Corridor designations. With this announcement, Alternative Fuel Corridor designations are now found in all 50 states, as well as Washington DC and Puerto Rico. For a full list of designated Alternative Fuel Corridors and designated corridors by State, please visit FHWA's Alternative Fuel Corridors web page. Please contact Elizabeth Habic with any questions:

- [Moving from Resilience Pilot to Broad Implementation: Minnesota Department of Transportation](#)
- [Incorporating Resilience into Agency Initiatives: Vermont Agency of Transportation](#)
- [Implementing Regional Resilience Projects: New Hampshire Department of Transportation](#)
- [Integrating Resilience into Agency Operations: Colorado Department of Transportation](#)

Nevi Program FAQs Released

The Federal Highway Administration released a document with answers to a set of frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)) regarding the [NEVI Formula Program](#). This set of FAQs covers topics to include general questions, eligible expenditures, operation and maintenance costs, program administration costs, utility planning, public engagement, equity considerations, permitting and environmental review, and technical assistance. The FAQs also include [a link to a new resource](#) to help States, particularly rural States, evaluate the best locations for charging stations when it may not be possible to provide charging stations at the required 50-mile intervals.

Freight Resilience State of the Practice Report

State DOTs and MPOs are required to carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive statewide and metropolitan [transportation planning](#) process that provides for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services for people and freight. The latest report, "[Freight Resilience Planning in the Face of Climate-Related Disruption](#)", provides a summary of current practices, methods, and gaps in freight resiliency planning to inform the development and improvement of freight resiliency planning to address climate change and extreme weather risks. Climate change is causing more frequent and more severe extreme weather events. In 2021 alone, the U.S. experienced 20 separate billion-dollar weather and climate change-related disaster events and the cumulative costs of these disasters between the years 2016 and 2021 exceeds \$742 billion dollars, which is more than one-third of the total cost of the previous 42 years combined. Resiliency can be integrated into State and

local freight planning across many different planning processes, documents, and programs and this report highlights different ways states organize and communicate their freight resiliency planning and operations efforts.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Guide for State DOTs

The [National Cooperative Highway Research Program](#) (NCHRP) [published a guide](#) to help State departments of transportation (DOTs) reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector. The guide is intended to support DOTs at all levels of GHG engagement, from agencies with no experience to highly experienced agencies. It may also provide a useful reference for other transportation agencies, such as regional planning agencies, transit agencies, and county or municipal DOTs. The guide includes 19 sections, four appendices, and a list of direct links to self-assessments, which are grouped under five general areas—Background, Framework, Functional Areas, Implementation, and Resources.

HEI Systemic Review and Meta Analysis of Selected Health Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution

The [Health Effects Institute](#) (HEI) published a new report, [*Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Selected Health Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution*](#) as an update to the 2010 the Special Report 17, [*Traffic-Related Air Pollution: A Critical Review of the Literature on Emissions, Exposure, and Health Effects*](#). Since the 2010 Special Report many additional studies investigating the health effects of exposure to Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) have been published, and regulations and vehicular technology have advanced significantly. In addition, there is a better appreciation that, beyond air pollution, traffic can be a source of other forms of pollution, including noise. In the latest report, HEI conducted an updated literature review including 353 case studies. The researchers found a high or moderate-to-high level of confidence in an association between long-term exposure to TRAP and the adverse health outcomes and given the large number of people exposed to TRAP that this remains an important public health concern and deserves greater attention from the public and from policymakers.

National Highway Institute Resilience Training Courses Available

The National Highway Institute had a recent announcement of four one-hour web-based courses focused on resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. Target audiences can [search for courses](#) based on delivery type, program area, or to find upcoming trainings in their state or territory. Read more about the recent courses in the Resources and Training section below.

FHWA Office of Natural Environment Welcomes New Staff Member

EVA BIRK joined the Sustainable Transportation and Resilience Team. Prior to this, she served as an Environmental Protection Specialist in FHWA's Maine Division Office where she led resilience-related research and coordination activities. Her previous work with Maine DOT includes accommodating climate change, sea level rise and storm surge on bridge, highway and culvert projects and creating new hydraulic design standards. Eva and is based in Augusta, ME.

Resources and Training



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 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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