



Prepared by the Office of Natural Environment

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Announcements



New Minimum Standards for Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a set of [minimum standards](#) for federally funded EV infrastructure. The final minimum standards for federally funded EV charging infrastructure projects, (along with the newly published implementation [plan for EV charging Build America, Buy America requirements](#)) positions all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico with every tool needed to build EV charging stations pursuant to their approved state charging plans developed under the [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Formula Program](#).

FHWA and the Joint Office also recently hosted a set of recorded webinars providing information about these minimum standards. The recordings of these webinars can be found [here](#).

Please contact Gary Jensen (Gary.Jensen@dot.gov) or Dawn Horan (Dawn.M.Horan@dot.gov) with any questions about these minimum standards.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

Initial [funding of up to \\$700 million](#) will be available to deploy EV charging infrastructure and other alternative fueling infrastructure projects in urban and rural communities in publicly accessible locations through the CFI Discretionary Grant Program. The CFI Discretionary Grant Program was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will provide up to \$2.5 billion over five years to a full range of applicants, including cities, counties, local governments, and Tribes. This round of funding opened on March 14 with applications due by May 30, making \$700 million available to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and other fueling infrastructure projects.

Please contact CFIgrants@dot.gov with any questions on this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2023 Carbon Monoxide Categorical Hotspot Finding

The FHWA recently released its updated [2023 carbon monoxide \(CO\) categorical hot-spot finding](#). This 2023 CO categorical hot-spot finding updates the finding to MOTO Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest version of the MOVES emissions model, and supersedes the 2017 finding. The updated finding also makes several enhancements to allow for application of the finding to project scenarios varying by road grade and truck percentages. Project sponsors may be able to rely on the categorical hot-spot finding in place of doing an independent CO hot-spot analysis as part of a project-level conformity determination in CO maintenance areas outside of California.

The 2023 CO categorical hot-spot finding includes a new spreadsheet tool, which is one of two options for applying the finding. This spreadsheet tool replaces the previous web-based tool and will make it easier for users to apply the finding. Please note that project sponsors must rely on the 2023 CO categorical hot-spot finding based on MOVES3 after January 9, 2023, if they choose to use the finding to satisfy the hot-spot analysis requirements for a project-level conformity determination. For more information, contact [David Kall](#), (202) 366-6276.

Update to the Interim Guidance on Mobile Source Air Toxic Analysis

This update informs FHWA Division Offices on when and how to analyze Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process for proposed highway projects. In 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released MOVES3, the latest major update of the MOTO Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) vehicle emissions model.

The updated Interim Guidance supersedes the October 2016 Interim Guidance and should be referenced in NEPA documentation. The updated MSAT guidance memorandum and all the appendices, as well as the Frequently Asked Questions for conducting MSAT quantitative analysis are available on the [MSAT website](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Victoria Martinez](#).

CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit received a DOT Secretary's Award

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program ([CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit](#)) was presented a DOT Secretary's Leadership in Sustainability and Climate Award at the Secretary's 55th Annual Award Ceremony on January 26th, 2023. The CMAQ toolkit was recognized "for providing simple, practical solutions for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Stakeholders." Congratulations to the CMAQ toolkit development team for a job well done! For more information, contact [Mark Glaze](#), (202) 366-4053.

Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST) Sustainable Transportation Webinar

The Teaching Sustainable Transportation with FHWA-INVEST Webinar was held on February 23, 2023. This webinar informed participants about the INVEST curriculum, designed to help educate the next generation of transportation professionals. The webinar showcased INVEST and how the curriculum can be integrated into new or existing sustainability or transportation planning and engineering courses.

FHWA created INVEST for voluntary use by transportation agencies to assess and enhance the sustainability of their projects, plans, and programs. It is a free, web-based self-evaluation tool comprised of voluntary sustainability best practices, called criteria, which cover the full lifecycle of transportation infrastructure, including system planning, project planning, design, and construction, and continuing through operations and maintenance.

Visit the [INVEST website](#) to access valuable resources and learn more about the tool and the curriculum. If you have additional questions about the webinar and the INVEST tool and curriculum, please contact [Connie Hill](#), 804-775-3378.

National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on the Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has released interim guidance to assist agencies in analyzing greenhouse gases (GHG) and climate change effects of their proposed actions under NEPA. The [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Guidance on the Consideration of Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Emissions and Climate Change](#) is effective immediately for agencies to use while CEQ seeks public comment.

If you have any questions on the guidance and implementation, please contact the following FHWA staff: [James Gavin](#) in the Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, or [Mike Culp](#) or [Becky Lupes](#) in the Office of Natural Environment.

EPA Proposed Revisions of PM_{2.5} Annual Standard

On January 27, 2023, EPA published in the [Federal Register](#) a proposed rule to revise the current national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for the particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from an annual primary standard of 12 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) to a more stringent standard within the range of 9.0 to 10.0 ug/m³. EPA proposed to not change the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard or the PM₁₀ standard. The public comment period is open from January 27 to March 28. To learn more visit the EPA's site on [National](#)

[Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM](#). For more information, contact [Karen Perrit](#), (202) 366-9066.

Final EPA Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles

The EPA finalized a rule that sets stronger emissions standards to further reduce air pollution from heavy-duty vehicles and engines starting in model year 2027. This final rulemaking is the first of three major actions being taken under EPA's Clean Trucks Plan. In the coming months, EPA intends to release the proposed "Phase 3" greenhouse gas (GHG) standards for heavy-duty vehicles beginning in Model Year 2027, as well as the proposed multipollutant standards for light- and medium-duty vehicles beginning in Model Year 2027. More information is available on [EPA's website](#).

TRB Annual Meeting

FHWA's Office of Natural Environment attended the [2023 TRB Annual meeting](#). Here are a couple of key highlights from this year's TRB: [Katy Maher](#) moderated the Navigating the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program and the Development of Resilience Improvement Plans podium session, with [Rob Kafalenos](#) from FHWA and other DOT and Metropolitan Planning Organization representatives. Elizabeth Habic presented Extreme Event Impacts: Flooded Roadways workshop to discuss the implications, ramifications, threats, and opportunities associated with flooded roadways, pavements, subgrades, and embankments. [Victoria Martinez](#) from the Air Quality & Transportation Conformity Team and [John Davies](#), of the Sustainable Transport Team are members of the Air Quality & GHG Mitigation Committee meeting.

The Office of Natural Environment had a table at the [TRB Exhibit Hall](#) where the FHWA offices spoke with hundreds of TRB attendees in which 226 signed up to receive FHWA [Research Review](#), of which 67 were university contacts interested in the [INVEST program / webinar](#). The next TRB 103rd Annual Meeting is scheduled in Washington, DC on [January 7–11, 2024](#).

Resources and Training



Understanding the Uniform Guidance Requirements for Federal Awards

The new NHI web-based training (WBT) series entitled [Understanding the Uniform Guidance Requirements \(2 CFR 200\) for Federal Awards \(NHI 231034\)](#) is comprised of seven self-paced modules, NHI 231034 contains updated information on the Uniform

Guidance within 2 CFR Part 200 and reflects changes from the Office of Management and Budget's latest update to 2 CFR Part 200. The target audience for this new WBT series includes FHWA, Federal Transit Administration, State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and other transportation agency staff that expend or administer Federal-aid funds.

For FHWA Planning and Research Grant Administration and Management, [NHI 231034](#) supersedes and replaces two previously-available NHI WBT courses: 151058 (FHWA Planning and Research Grants: The Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) - Part 1) and 151059 (FHWA Planning and Research Grants: The Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) - Part 2). However, [NHI Course 151057 \(FHWA Planning and Research Grants: Program Administration \(23 CFR Part 420\)\)](#) still remains relevant and available to also address training needs on FHWA Planning and Research Grant Administration and Management.

For questions about these NHI WBT courses, please contact [Larry Anderson](#), [Theresa Hutchins](#), or [Andy Edwards](#).

Air Quality Courses:

NHI Free Air Quality Planning Web-based Course

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 with any questions or comments.

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 Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team Training Activities

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

Training Available for PM Hot-spot Analysis

The FHWA Resource Center has developed a training course to cover the Particulate Matter (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. Contact [Chris Dresser](#) if you would like to register for the Colorado training or have questions related to this training course.

Resilience Courses:

National Highway Institute (NHI) In-Person Resilience Course

NHI recently posted a new in-person course focused on planning and designing highway projects to be more resilient to changing climate conditions. It is a 2.5 day course in inland areas, or 3 day course in coastal areas, and includes material on climate science, tools and methods for assessing future conditions and addressing them in project development, and consideration in a range of engineering disciplines: inland flooding, coastal hydraulics, pavements and geohazards. 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. Fees related to the course would be eligible under the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Formula Program. For more information about the NHI In-Person Resilience Course, please contact [Robert Kafalenos](#).

In-person course: [Addressing Climate Resilience in Highway Project Development and Preliminary Design \(NHI 142085\)](#)

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. Virtual courses (free):

- [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](#)

Traffic Noise Courses:

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 [FHWA 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.

CMAQ Course:

FHWA Web-Based Training on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program

Several web-based CMAQ training opportunities are available on-demand on [FHWA's CMAQ training website](#). This page includes CMAQ program training such as CMAQ Overview, the CMAQ Transportation Performance Measures and the CMAQ Annual Reporting/Public Access System. Training Information for CMAQ Emissions Calculator

Toolkit such as available tools and their associated webinars along with CMAQ Toolkit Video Series are available on the [CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit website](#). For questions, please contact [Mark Glaze](#), [Karen Perritt](#) or [Eddie Dancausse](#).

Conformity Course:

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](#).

Contacts



FHWA Headquarters, Air Quality and Transportation Conformity (and Noise) Team

Cecilia Ho, Team Leader, (202) 366-9862, Cecilia.Ho@dot.gov

Edward Dancausse, (919) 747-7026, Edward.Dancausse@dot.gov

Mark Glaze, (202) 366-4053, Mark.Glaze@dot.gov

David Kall, (202) 366-6276, David.Kall@dot.gov

Victoria Martinez, (787) 771-2524, Victoria.Martinez@dot.gov

Karen Perritt, (202) 366-9066, Karen.Perritt@dot.gov

Aileen Varela-Margolles, (305) 978-7780, A.Varela-Margolles@dot.gov

FHWA Headquarters, Sustainable Transportation Team

Mike Culp, (202) 366-9229, Team Leader, Michael.Culp@dot.gov

John Davies, (202) 366-6039, JohnG.Davies@dot.gov

David D'Onofrio, (202) 981-2815, David.D'onofrio@dot.gov
Connie Hill Galloway, (804) 775-3378, Connie.Hill@dot.gov
Suraiya Motsinger, (202) 366-4287, Suraiya.Motsinger@dot.gov
Mary Kay Murray, (202) 366-2066, Mary.Murray@dot.gov
Neelam Patel, (248) 602-7454, Neelam.Patel@dot.gov
Will Stein, (651) 291-6122, William.Stein@dot.gov
Diane Turchetta, (202) 493-0158, Diane.Turchetta@dot.gov

FHWA Headquarters, Resilience Team

Becky Lupes, (202) 366-7808, Team Leader, Rebecca.Lupes@dot.gov
Eva Birk, (207) 512-4921, Eva.Birk@dot.gov
Emily Cline, (503) 316-2547, Emily.Cline@dot.gov
Elizabeth Habic, (202) 366-1701, Elizabeth.Habic@dot.gov
Zoë Johnson, (202) 366-4649, Zoe.Johnson@dot.gov
Rob Kafalenos, (202) 366-2079, Robert.Kafalenos@dot.gov
Katy Maher, (202) 366-6799, Kathryn.Maher@dot.gov

FHWA Resource Center Air Quality Team

Michael Roberts, (404) 895-6224, Team Leader, Michael.Roberts@dot.gov
Chris Dresser, (202) 385-4357, Christopher.Dresser@dot.gov
Kamala Joy, (707) 867-6009, Kamala.Joy@dot.gov
George Noel, (978) 758-5824, George.Noel@dot.gov
Leigh Oesterling, (614) 601-3273, Leigh.Oesterling@dot.gov

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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