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## Announcements

### Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program Grant Recipients

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program awarded approximately \$148.8 million in grant funding to 24 applicants to repair or replace broken or non-operational electric vehicle charging ports to improve the reliability of existing charging infrastructure. The 24 awards are located in 20 States and were awarded to 14 State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) and 10 local entities.

Read more in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [press announcement](#) and connect to the full list of grant recipients on the [FHWA website](#). Learn more about the [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Program](#) that provides dedicated funding to States to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability.

### FHWAs Traffic Noise Model (TNM) version 3.2

FHWA released the Traffic Noise Model (TNM) version 3.2 that greatly increases the functionality compared to the current TNM 3.1. For this release, FHWA integrated the TNM 3.1 software structure with the Roadway Construction Noise Model acoustics from the e National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 25-49. Although the underlying roadway traffic acoustics remain the same as in TNM 3.1, this updated version of TNM now includes point source acoustics and directivity for a variety of construction equipment types.

State DOTs and project sponsors should transition to the latest version of TNM as soon as possible to take advantage of the many improvements and expanded capabilities included in TNM 3.2. The model and associated documentation (TNM Fact Sheet, Getting Started Guide, Frequently Asked Questions, Change Log, User's Guide/Help Menu, File Format Reference Manual, and portions of the Technical Manual) are available for download on the [TNM 3.2 homepage](#).

The TNM 3.2 webinar training webinar recording from February 7, 2024 will be posted to the [Training page of the Noise website](#) as they become available. Additional training opportunities are noted in the Traffic Noise Courses section below.

## [FHWA Will Not Seek to Enforce the Deadline for Greenhouse Gas Targets until March 29, 2024](#)

FHWA [announced](#) that it will not seek to enforce the February 1, 2024 deadline for States to submit their initial targets for the [greenhouse gas performance measure](#) until March 29, 2024. FHWA nevertheless encourages States to submit initial declining targets and reports as soon as possible. Earlier initial target and report submittal allows States more time to consider amendments to their initial targets based on updated information for the next performance reports that are due on October 1, 2024. MPOs must establish targets no later than 180 days after their State DOT establishes its target. For information on implementation of the GHG measure final rule, please contact [John Davies](#) at (202) 366-6039 or [Alexis Kuklenski](#) at (202) 689-9229. For legal questions, please contact Lev Gabrilovich at (202) 366-3813.

## [The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement \(CMAQ\) Program Emissions Calculator Toolkit Telework Tool](#)

FHWA posted the [Telework Tool as part of the CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit](#). This new Tool is designed to provide estimates of emission reductions for CMAQ-funded projects that encourage employees to switch to a hybrid or fully remote work schedule. Additional emission benefits may come from shifts in commuting patterns to other forms of travel, such as carpooling, transit, biking, or walking due to the increased flexibility introduced by telework programs. For help using this tool or to provide feedback, please email: [CMAQ Toolkit Help@dot.gov](mailto:CMAQ_Toolkit_Help@dot.gov).

## [Integrating Green House Gas \(GHG\) Emissions into Planning Website Launched](#)

A new FHWA website is available that will host products from the Every Day Counts (EDC) Integrating (GHG) into Planning initiative. The website will host recordings of webinars, case studies, fact sheets, reports and links to other helpful resources.

On February 27th, FHWA kicked-off the EDC Integrating (GHG) Emissions into Planning webinar series. This webinar series will focus on steps agencies can take to integrate GHG emissions into their transportation planning process.

Please follow the link below and check back over the coming weeks to see a recording of this webinar and what's new!

### [Transportation Capacity Building – Integrating GHG into Planning Website](#)

## [FHWA Report on Freight Resiliency for Climate-Related Disruptions](#)

FHWA published a new report on [National Freight Resiliency for Climate-Related Disruptions](#). This report summarizes the key takeaways from the National Peer Exchange on Freight Resiliency for Climate-Related Disruptions. The Peer Exchange

convened State DOTs, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and local agencies to discuss how to approach freight resiliency and learn about current practices in freight resiliency across the country.

### [The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) finalizes stronger standards for National Ambient Air Quality Standards \(NAAQS\) for Fine Particulate Matter \(PM<sub>2.5</sub>\)](#)

The EPA announced a [final rule to tighten the annual NAAQS](#) for PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 12.0 to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), averaged over three years. Additionally, the final rule retains: the primary 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, the primary 24-hour NAAQS for coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and the secondary NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (15 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) and PM<sub>10</sub> (150 µg/m<sup>3</sup>). EPA projects more than 99 percent of counties would meet the revised standard and released [maps](#) and [tables with concentrations](#).

### [The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator \(MOVES\) MOVES4 Mobile Source Emissions Model Patch](#)

EPA posted a "patch" to MOVES4 that includes a variety of small improvements. The patched model, designated MOVES4.0.1, includes new code and a new default database, MOVESDB20240104. This update does not substantially change onroad criteria pollutant emission rates in MOVES4 at the County or Project scales, and it is not considered a new model for State Implementation Plan (SIP) and transportation conformity regulatory purposes.

- For additional technical details on these changes, see the MOVES4.0.1 milestone on the [MOVES GitHub site](#)
- MOVES4.0.1 is [available for download](#)

It is recommended to download this new version if you have not yet used MOVES4, you are modeling GHG emissions using the Default Scale, you are applying temporal pre-aggregation at County Scale, or you need to generate speciated air quality inputs for multiple counties. Otherwise, MOVES4 modelers can decide whether to download the new version or continue to use MOVES4.0.0. For more information about regulatory uses of MOVES, see the [MOVES4 Policy Guidance](#) which applies to all versions of MOVES4.

### [The Transportation Research Board \(TRB\) Announces the Transportation Symposium on Environment, Energy, and Livable Economies – August 25 – 28, in Denver, Colorado](#)

Participants and speakers will evaluate the latest developments in transportation issues related to:

- Air quality and greenhouse gas mitigation
- Resource conservation and recovery
- Transportation energy
- Alternative fuels and technologies

- Economic development and land use

The [call for abstracts](#) is open until April 15, 2024

[The Symposium on Environment, Energy, and Livable Economies](#) is organized by the TRB Standing Technical Committees within the Transportation Sustainability Section.

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## Resources and Training

### Air Quality Courses:

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

The FHWA Resource Center recently put on a webinar called “Introduction to Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) for Non-Modelers.” A recording of the webinar is available the [FHWA Conformity Training webpage](#) under “Web-based Training.” The webinar provided an overview of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) MOVES vehicle emissions model for managers and other non-modelers. It also covered when and how MOVES is used, updates included in the recent MOVES4 release, and differences between MOVES4 and MOVES3. Please contact [Chris Dresser](#) with any questions.

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

#### 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](#).

#### 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 have questions related to this training course.

#### CMAQ Course:

##### FHWA Web-Based Training on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement 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 webinar recording for "Introduction to MOVES for Non-Modelers." The target audience for these training materials are FHWA staff and State and local transportation partners (Metropolitan Planning Organizations and State Departments of Transportation) who are either new to or would like a refresher training on the conformity process. For questions, please contact [David Kall](#).

## Resilience Courses:

### National Highway Institute (NHI) In-Person Resilience Course

NHI posted an 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, costal 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:

### TNM 3.2 Instructor-led Training Course

FHWA is working on updates to the Instructor-led TNM course. This course is offered in-person and virtually by the Resource Center. It focuses on TNM 3.2 and how to use

the software. For questions on scheduling a course in your area please contact the [Resource Center's Air Quality](#) team.

For policy background information please see the NHI's Highway Traffic Noise Course modules, which are available online free of charge at the NHI website or via our Training webpage. For any questions, please contact [Aileen Varela-Margolles](#).

#### FHWA Web-Based TNM Training

FHWA 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](mailto: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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Past issues of the Air Quality and Sustainability Highlights are available on

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

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