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## Announcements

### **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program Awards**

The [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#) [announced](#) \$829.6 million in grant funding to 80 recipients to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system. The awards are located across 37 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and include seven Tribal projects. The [full list of grant recipients](#) includes information on project descriptions, funding amount, and grant types (Planning, Resilience Improvement, Community Resilience & Evacuation Route, At Risk Coastal Infrastructure). The [PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program](#) is a new competitive grant program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system.

### **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Rule Remanded**

On March 27, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas vacated and remanded the GHG emissions measure Final Rule to the Department of Transportation (DOT), in effect nullifying the rule nationwide. Consistent with the Court's decision, States and MPOs are not required to submit initial targets and reports at this time. The FHWA will provide more information as it examines next steps. FHWA's [Final Rule](#) had required State DOTs and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to establish declining carbon dioxide targets for the GHG measure and report on progress toward the achievement of those targets.

### **FHWA Designation of Freight Electric Vehicle (EV) Corridors**

FHWA designated [Freight EV Corridors](#) that identify the location of EV charging infrastructure to support freight and goods movement at strategic locations along major national highways, the National Highway Freight Network, and goods movement locations including ports, intermodal centers, and warehousing locations. Designation of these corridors is required by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation has also released the [National Zero-Emission Freight Corridor Strategy](#) which includes a phased approach for advancing a zero-emission

(electric and hydrogen) freight network. For questions, please contact [Will Stein](#) or [Diane Turchetta](#).

### **FHWA Releases Updated Version of DANA Tool that Incorporates TNMAide**

The FHWA recently released Version 2.1 of the Database for Air Quality and Noise Analysis (DANA) tool on its [website](#). The DANA 2.1 release includes an installer, user guide, and fact sheet. DANA is a tool created by FHWA to process historical traffic data. The tool combines traffic data from existing data sources into a single database. It then processes the combined data into properly formatted inputs for EPA's Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model and for the newly integrated Traffic Noise Model Aide (TNMAide) Tool, which was previously a separate spreadsheet tool. Other improvements for Version 2.1 include improved data-filling algorithms, accounting for traffic volume variations by month and weekday/weekend, and reduced memory requirements. Please contact [DANAhelp@dot.gov](mailto:DANAhelp@dot.gov) with questions about the DANA tool.

### **Resilience Improvement Plan Showcase: Completed Plans and Best Practices Webinar**

FHWA is hosting a webinar on May 29, 2024 1:30 PM ET to showcase completed State DOT and MPO Resilience Improvement Plans under the [Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation \(PROTECT\)](#) program. This webinar will highlight benefits and necessary steps to complete a Resilience Improvement Plan from a practitioner perspective. This webinar is intended for a broad range of audiences, including State DOTs, MPOs, and consultants. The PROTECT Program is intended to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters. State DOTs and MPOs can develop a Resilience Improvement Plan to improve transportation system resilience and reduce the non-Federal share required for use of PROTECT funding. Register for the [webinar here](#).

### **TNM 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Public Roads Magazine Article**

FHWA celebrated 25 years of the Traffic Noise Model (TNM) and was highlighted in the [Public Roads Magazine Spring edition](#). FHWA shared accomplishments on the [TNM Anniversary website](#) that contains a brief history of FHWA processes and methods for calculating noise levels, a TNM timeline, and an informational brochure. State DOTs use FHWA's noise modeling software to determine whether there are noise impacts on a highway project and to evaluate the acoustic effectiveness of noise mitigation options. Learn more about the [TNM program](#) and connect to [resources and research](#), [trainings and webinars](#), as well as access different models and tools. For more information on the TNM program, contact <mailto:TNMHelp@dot.gov>.

## **Making Sense of Air Pollution Data to Inform Decisions in Underserved Communities Overburdened by Air Pollution Exposures Funding Opportunity**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is [requesting proposals](#) for research to inform underserved communities with science-based information, tools, and approaches to use air and related environmental data to engage with decision-makers and take actions to address community-identified air pollution concerns associated with criteria air pollutants or hazardous air pollutants. This research solicitation supports the Administration's priorities to address environmental justice. Applications are due by June 26, 2024: 11:59:59 pm ET. The [funding announcement](#) includes information on the funding overview, eligibility, application and submission, award administration and contacts. Opportunities are also available to potentially serve on the external scientific Peer Review Panel, rather than applying. Interested parties can send contact information and a resume to [Mirtha Cápiro](#).

## **Final Rule: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles – Phase 3**

The [EPA announced a final rule](#), “Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles – Phase 3,” that sets stronger standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heavy-duty (HD) vehicles beginning in model year (MY) 2027. The new standards will be applicable to HD vocational vehicles and tractors. The standards are technology-neutral and performance-based, allowing each manufacturer to choose what set of emissions control technologies is best suited for them and the needs of their customers. Additional information about the Gas Emissions Standards for HD Vehicles final rule includes the [rule summary](#), [rule history](#), and access to [resources](#).

## **Final Rule: Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles**

On March 20, 2024, EPA announced a final rule, [Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles](#), that sets new, more protective standards to further reduce harmful air pollutant emissions from light-duty and medium-duty vehicles starting with model year 2027. The final rule builds upon EPA's final standards for federal greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks for model years 2023 through 2026 and leverages advances in clean car technology to unlock benefits ranging from improving public health through reducing smog- and soot-forming pollution from vehicles, to reducing climate pollution, to saving drivers money through reduced fuel and maintenance costs. More information about the phase in of standards over model years 2027 through 2032 is [available on EPA's Webpage](#).

## **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 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 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 a 3-day course in coastal areas. Courses include material on climate science, tools and methods for assessing future conditions, and project development. Courses also will cover a range of engineering disciplines such as inland flooding, coastal hydraulics, pavements and geohazards. The target audience includes engineering, project planning and environmental staff. The series may also be of interest 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 (PROTECT) 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 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 may be of interest 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 an 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 and 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 previously a 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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## **Contacts**

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Please e-mail [Victoria.Martinez@dot.gov](mailto: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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