

INTER AGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
East-West Gateway Board Room

Members Present:

Michael Coulson, Chair - East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Joe Winkelmann - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Mike Henderson - Missouri Department of Transportation
Jim Stack - Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8
Betsy Tracy - Federal Highway Administration, Illinois
Mike Rogers - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Christopher Schmidt - Illinois Department of Transportation
Bruce Carmitchel - Illinois Department of Transportation
Steven (Cody) Brown - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 (telephone)

Others Present:

Joe Gray - Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8

Staff:

Jason Lange Carol Lawrence

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Inter Agency Consultation Group (IACG) was called to order by Mike Coulson, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG).

2. Conformity Determination for Amendment to FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program - Schedule and Regional Emissions Analysis Assumption
 - East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Conformity Determination for the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is underway. Staff began working on the regional emissions analysis in February by running the Mobile6.2 emissions model. Ms. Shoab continues to do sensitivity runs with the Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) model for Missouri ozone and Missouri-Illinois PM2.5. It is possible that MOVES could be used for all tests but may go back with the approach used in the previous Conformity Determination. As soon as EWG decides which approach to follow, will send out information on model inputs. TIP applications from local sponsors for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds and STP-S funds were due March 8. Transportation staff are currently evaluating these proposals. In April, the list of proposed projects will be presented to the Missouri and Illinois Transportation Planning Committees (TPCs). A preview draft of the Conformity Determination should be available at the end of April.

3 Semi Annual Conformity Determination Policy
- Mike Coulson, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

EWG staff has developed a Semi Annual Conformity Determination Policy. The memo to the EWG Board of Directors sent out to the IACG. The EWG Board will act on this policy at their meeting Wednesday. Staff is proposing that, if needed, a second Conformity be performed in a year. This is one of the recommendations which came out of the 2011 Baseline Assessment Review (BAR). The idea is to clean up the Conformity schedule and avoid years like 2009 with three Conformity Determinations.

Mr. Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), observed that 2009 was an anomaly with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) program.

Ms. Tracy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Illinois, expressed hope that the Board members understand that EWG staff does not want to run Conformity Determination more often than what is presented. Hopefully the State DOT policy people understand what this means. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that this issue has been discussed at MoDOT and with this policy, know that have two times a year to place a regionally significant project into the TIP. He added that if another round of ARRA came around, that would be a different story. Mr. Stack, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), said that this policy should not be a problem. Mr. Coulson, EWG, observed that EWG staff would prefer Conformity Determination one time a year.

4 Missouri Department of Transportation Hot-Spot Checklist
- Mike Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation

In February received comments on the draft CO or PM_{2.5} "Hot-Spot" Analysis Considerations for Project Sponsors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 7 and the Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) in Ann Arbor. Their comments were incorporated into the March version presented today. The biggest comment was to separate the discussion on carbon monoxide (CO) and fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) considerations as they are different. The IACG does need to discuss the thresholds (annual average daily traffic, percentage of diesel truck traffic, number of trucks) to use and decide as a group what to use. The numbers shown in Questions 1 and 2 at the bottom of page 1 were suggestions from USEPA.

Question 1 - What is the annual average daily traffic (AADT) of the affected roadways? If greater than 125,000 total AADT and at least 10,000 of that AADT is diesel truck traffic consult with IACG.

Question 2 - What is the percentage and AADT of diesel truck traffic of the affected roadways? If diesel truck traffic constitutes greater than 10% of total AADT or at least 10,000 trucks consult with IACG.

Mr. Coulson, EWG, asked about the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and University of Illinois project to develop a PM_{2.5} Hot-Spot modeling tool. Mr. Rogers, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), said that they continue to work on that model. He suggested that the IACG move forward with this checklist as the IDOT model may be Illinois-specific. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that the checklist could always be revisited. Mr. Coulson, EWG, added that the checklist could be revised if the IDOT model proves to be effective.

Mr. Stack, IDOT, made a motion that the IACG accept this CO or PM_{2.5} "Hot-Spot" Analysis Considerations for Project Sponsors document. Mr. Winkelmann, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) seconded the motion.

The motion was then discussed. Mr. Rogers, Illinois EPA, said that the PM_{2.5} bullet points are setting the case about what type of projects are going to be important and then it comes down to the questions. If a project meets any of the bullet points, then the questions are the real threshold.

Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that the IACG has to adopt what they want the thresholds to be and that the thresholds are the most effective way to weed out what projects do not need to be considered for hot-spot analysis. The level of truck traffic is important, not necessarily the overall AADT. The 10,000 diesel trucks threshold might be seen around major transfer centers. For any of the interstates unsure if the percentage of truck traffic would ever be more than ten percent. Might need to identify major transfer centers as the type of projects supposed to identify are those that might increase truck traffic to a transfer station. It was his opinion that the numbers in Question 2 are good numbers to use and that few roadways will have a 125,000 AADT. These questions should at least be addressed in the NEPA analysis. Mr. Stack, IDOT, added that when IDOT performed a qualitative hot-spot analysis for the New Mississippi River Bridge these were the only threshold numbers given.

Mr. Rogers, IEPA, said that Question 2 serves as a backup if a project does not reach 125,000 AADT threshold in Question 1 then Question 2 answers that. He added that at the work group meeting for the IDOT model project, FHWA is asked for their view. FHWA is the agency to approved the NEPA document. Need input from FHWA on what these thresholds should be for St. Louis (MO-IL). Ms. Tracy, FHWA IL, said that a combination is needed so that threshold is not set so high that is never met.

Ms. Tracy, FHWA IL, asked how this information will be conveyed to project sponsors. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that once it is adopted, MoDOT Jefferson City will share this document with the District offices at their quarterly meetings. Mr. Stack, IDOT, said that a similar process will occur in Illinois.

Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that there was a motion on the floor. The motion carried and the IACG accepted the CO or PM_{2.5} "Hot-Spot" Analysis Considerations for Project Sponsors document. (This document was sent out to the IACG).

5 Update on Draft Conformity Users Guide
- East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that staff has emailed four documents that will make up the Conformity Users Guide. The Users Guide is another recommendation from the 2011 BAR. The documents sent out included: Draft Users Guide; Missouri St. Louis Area Transportation Conformity Requirements; Draft Checklist for Conformity Determination Document; and table delineating Roles and Responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Transportation and Air Quality Agencies in Transportation Conformity and SIP Development (found in FHWA Transportation Conformity: A Basic Guide). IACG has the other items to be part of Guide including; February 2012 Regionally Significant Project Screening Criteria; March 2012 BAR report; and December 2012 BAR recommendations/action/status report spreadsheet. Staff continues to work on the Users Guide as it is to be finished by the end of June 2013.

Ms. Tracy, FHWA IL, asked about distilling the Users Guide into some form of primer to convey requirements. Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that the FHWA Roles and Responsibilities table will be useful for people new to conformity. He said that the deadline for comments on the draft and/or suggestions for additions/subtractions will be April 23

6 Other Business

Mr. Lange, EWG, said that Transportation staff are reviewing project applications and should be making recommendations to the MO and IL Transportation Planning Committees (TPCs) in mid-April. Once receive IDOT and MoDOT programs will work with modelers to get these projects into our Travel Demand Model. EWG has forwarded the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) applications to FHWA MO and FHWA IL. They will review to make sure that project scopes are eligible for CMAQ funds. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, asked to be sent a copy of the transmittal letter.

Mr. Carmitchel, IDOT, said that there is a federal and IDOT funded research project underway examining how to integrate the whole NEPA process with IDOT and Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) planning processes in order to get things accomplished faster. The University of Illinois is conducting the study. Researchers will be surveying every MPO in the state, including EWG.

The next meeting of the IACG will be on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.