

INTER AGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
East-West Gateway Board Room

Members Present:

Michael Coulson, Chair - East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Mike Henderson - Missouri Department of Transportation
Joe Gray - Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8
Mike Rogers - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Telephone)
Mark Leath - Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Telephone)

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. Status Report FY 2015 - 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Jason Lange, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

An update on the TIP development process was given. EWG has received applications for local projects to be funded through the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program. CMAQ project applications have been forwarded on to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review of eligibility. EWG is processing and evaluating project applications. Staff is identifying the air quality status of each project application to determine whether it is regionally significant, not regionally significant but not exempt or exempt from Conformity Determination's regional emissions analysis. Next month will send a project air quality classification table to the IACG for review. Once recommendations are made on which projects should be funded, based on availability of funding, then the project application list will be cut back. This information will be passed on to the EWG modeling section.

In January, EWG sent a request to their partner agencies (Missouri Department of Transportation or MoDOT, Illinois Department of Transportation or IDOT, METRO and Madison County Transit or MCT) for their programs for the next four years for inclusion in the TIP. The deadline is April 4. Once these programs are received, staff will review them and see if there are any new projects or major changes to projects in their existing programs. EWG staff will look at their air quality conformity status and include, if necessary, in list to be sent to IACG.

A tentative list of Conformity Determination/TIP open house meeting dates were distributed. Meetings have been scheduled around the region. Starting in May, information will be posted on the EWG website and publicized in the electronic Local Government Briefings. The Tip/Conformity schedule was reviewed. Everything is to be presented to the EWG Board of

Directors at the end of May. The public comment period will occur in June and early July. It will run at least 35 days. It is anticipated that the Board will approve the Conformity Determination and FY 2015-2018 TIP at their July meeting.

3. Status Report Conformity Determination

- Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Progress continues on preparing the Conformity Determination document (Overview section and Appendices). Before, the Overview section had separate Missouri and Illinois write-ups on the Ozone Conformity Determination process. Because EWG is using the same analysis years for each state's regional emissions analysis and the Missouri and Illinois budgets were developed using MOVES, the ozone discussion will be consolidated. This should cut down some of the redundancy in the Overview section. It was pointed out that the regional emissions analysis tests for Missouri and Illinois will remain separate.

Also, Jersey County IL is not going to be part of this Conformity Determination process now and in the future. Jersey County along with Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Counties was part of the non-attainment area for the 1997 ozone standard. In June 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated these counties as being in attainment of the 1997 standard and approved their Maintenance Plan. In July 2012, USEPA designated Madison, Monroe and St. Clair Counties as non-attainment for the 2008 ozone standard. Jersey County was found to be in attainment. Transportation Conformity requirements for counties like Jersey (maintenance for 1997 and attainment for 2008 standard) ended on July 20, 2013. These counties are excluded from the Conformity Determination process for the 2008 standard. Jersey County will not be addressed in the Overview section or the Appendices.

Mr. Rogers, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) asked if this had been approved by USEPA. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that this approach was set forth in the USEPA's Transportation Conformity Guidance for 2008 Ozone Nonattainment Areas, July 2012.

Mr. Lange, EWG, asked how a CMAQ project in Jersey County which has not been built yet would be affected. It was funded four to five years ago. Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that this would only affect projects going forward. Mr. Lange, EWG, said that staff is considering revisiting projects over five years old and give sponsors a year to complete or money will go back.

4. Federal Highway Administration Policy - Carbon Monoxide Hot-Spot Categorical Finding

- Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Mr. McMahon of FHWA MO provided information on this action via e-mail in February. FHWA, in consultation with USEPA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), has developed an approach for project-level conformity on some projects in carbon monoxide (CO) non-attainment and maintenance areas. Project sponsors may be able to rely on this categorical

hot-spot finding in place of doing their own CO hot-spot analysis as part of project level conformity determinations in CO maintenance areas. FHWA has assembled guidance material, modeling files and a web-based tool sponsors can use to determine if they can rely on the categorical finding. This information is available on the following website:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/policy_and_guidance/cmcf/.

Mr. Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), observed that as go through checklist, can check with the FHWA guidance. Mr. Coulson, EWG, stated that the CO maintenance area is within I-270 in St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis.

5. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting of the Inter Agency Consultation Group was adjourned.