

INTER AGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP
Tuesday, March 24, 2015
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
Joe Gray - Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8
Heather Hamilton - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Mike Rogers - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Telephone)
Christopher Schmidt - Illinois Department of Transportation

Others Present:

Curtis Jones - Illinois Department of Transportation

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski 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 - Conformity Determination for Connected 2045: Long Range
 Transportation Plan for the St. Louis Region
 - Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Staff expects to release the draft Conformity Determination for Connected 2045: Long Range Transportation Plan for the St. Louis Region (Connected2045) and draft Connected2045 in early April. Staff continues to fine tune the draft Conformity Determination document for Connected2045. The Regional Emissions Analysis test results were positive. At the March EWG Board of Directors meeting, the Board will approve the release of the draft Conformity Determination and draft Connected2045 for public comment. Right now, the length of the comment period is anticipated to be 60 days. There will be a mix of public open-house meetings and online chat room events. The EWG Board will action on the Conformity Determination and Connected2045 at their June meeting.

Ms. Lewandowski, EWG, asked if a draft Conformity Determination document will be available at the April Board meeting. Mr. Coulson, EWG, replied that the draft Connected2045 has a Conformity Determination chapter but there is not a separate Conformity Document at this time. Staff has reviewed and updated this chapter.

Mr. Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), asked if the model had been run. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that staff is doing quality assurance.

Ms. Hamilton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7, asked what the schedule would be for the OneDOT letter. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that the EWG Board will act on Connected2045 at the June 24 Board meeting. Shortly after that the Conformity Determination and Connected2045 will be transmitted.

Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that MoDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) may need to meet to discuss Conformity process for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Hamilton, EPA Region 7, pointed out that need to have a final long range transportation plan before can amend TIP. Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that the TIP will be amended into the Plan.

- 3 Status Report - Conformity Determination for FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program and Related Amendments to Connected 2045: Long Range Transportation Plan for the St. Louis Region
- Jason Lange, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Local transportation project proposals are under review by EWG staff. April 3 is the due date for the programs from Metro, Madison County Transit, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to be submitted to EWG. EWG staff will prepare a table of all of the new to the TIP local projects and the state and transit programs with an Air Quality Classification of either Regionally Significant, Not Regionally Significant or Exempt. In mid to late April, EWG will send IACG this table and will ask for their concurrence on the Air Quality Classification. The final local sponsors program in the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will only contain those projects recommended for funding by the Missouri and Illinois Transportation Planning Committees. This should happen in April. These projects will be added to the travel demand model and then the MOVES model will be run, starting in mid-April.

In early May, a draft for preview Conformity Determination document will be transmitted to the IACG. The Board of Directors will release the draft TIP and draft Conformity Determination for public comment at their May 27 meeting. The comment period (minimum 30 days) is expected to start at the end of May and run until early July. EWG is planning to post information on their website, to hold several traditional open-house meetings and an on-line open house. The Board will act on the Conformity Determination and the FY 2016-2019 TIP at their July meeting. These documents will then be sent to MoDOT and FHWA.

Ms. Hamilton, EPA, asked when the next Conformity Determination would take place. Mr. Lange, EWG, responded with 2016. The schedule is set for two a year but the Mid-Year Conformity Determination is only conducted if needed. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, added that out of the Baseline Assessment Review, it was decided that instead of asking for a Conformity Determination anytime, would just have two opportunities. Mr. Lange, EWG, added that in October staff will ask MoDOT and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) if there are any new regionally significant projects. Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that usually the annual conformity process starts in January.

4 Other Business

A. MOVES2014 Discussion

Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that Ms. Shoaib was unable to attend the meeting today but she wanted to suggest that the IACG have a discussion about MOVES2014, and model inputs. Want to make sure that Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and EWG are in sync in using this model.

B Missouri Items

Mr. Winkelmann, MoDNR, remarked that at the last meeting there were questions about conformity revocation and what the status of the Kansas City area. Kansas City area was a non-attainment area for the one-hour ozone standard but it is now in attainment (maintenance area). That standard has been revoked by EPA so transportation conformity does not have to be done. Kansas City is a legacy maintenance area and is addressed in the state plan. The Kansas City area does have to continue to make sure that the area does not backslide with regards to air quality. He added that the St. Louis area no longer has to do Conformity for the 1997 ozone standard as the Missouri counties have been redesignated as being in attainment of this standard. Since the 1997 standard has been revoked, do not have to do a second 10-year maintenance plan.

In regards to the 2006 PM_{2.5} standard, Missouri has been working on a redesignation to attainment request and Maintenance Plan based on clean data. MoDNR has revised the State Implementation Plan (SIP) to address interstate transport provisions which had been litigated. But now there is a hold-up with St. Louis area being redesignated to attainment of the 2006 standard because do not know if Missouri has or has not contributed to violations at Illinois monitors due problems in the past with the lab analysis of Illinois PM_{2.5} monitoring data. The redesignation request and Maintenance Plan is on hold until there is three years of clean PM_{2.5} data (2015-2017). As plan would be submitted in 2018, it is likely that the 10-year out date in the Maintenance Plan will have to be revised from 2025 to 2028. Also, there were motor vehicle emission budgets in the Maintenance Plan developed with MOVES2010b. The question came up whether Missouri should go through the process to have these budgets found adequate for conformity purposes by EPA, even though the plan is not approvable at this point. It is the consensus of EPA Region 7, EPA Headquarters, MoDOT, EWG and MoDNR that Missouri does not ask for those PM_{2.5} budgets to be found adequate and instead wait for Maintenance Plan approval in a couple of years. EPA Region 7 consulted with EPA headquarters.

Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that for PM_{2.5} will continue to use the 2002 baseline/action regional emissions analysis test. This decision will be helpful as MOVES2014 will be implemented and states will be able to develop budgets using MOVES2014.

Mr. Winkelmann, MoDNR, said that there seems to be justification for this method in EPA's Sites memo from the 1990s. MoDNR has used this memo with regards to non-attainment area

and redesignation issues. The memo seems to indicate that if a plan is not approveable a state can withdraw the budgets. There is no impetus to move forward with adequacy, just to have set budgets. It is appropriate to wait until approvability issues are resolved. Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that Ms. Shoaib was updated on this situation and she agreed with this approach.

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