

INTER AGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP
Tuesday, July 28, 2015
East-West Gateway Board Room

Members Present:

Michael Coulson, Chair - East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Stacy Allen - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Mike Henderson - Missouri Department of Transportation
Joe Gray - Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8
Brad McMahon - Federal Highway Administration, MO
Heather Hamilton - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Chris Schmidt - Illinois Department of Transportation

Others Present:

Curtis Jones - Illinois Department of Transportation
Wesley Stephen – Missouri Department of Transportation

Staff:

Lubna Shoab 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. Information on September 2015 Introduction to Transportation Conformity Course
 - Lubna Shoab, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

With the upcoming change to the ozone standard, there may be a lot of areas new to the Conformity Determination process. The National Transit Institute (NTI) agreed to conduct their Introduction to Conformity course here in St. Louis. The course will be offered September 9-11 in EWG's board room. It will be led by Sarah Siwek. For more information or to register, go to www.ntionline.com.

3. MOVES2014 Input Files Review
 - Lubna Shoab, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

EWG is transitioning from MOVES2010 to MOVES2014. EWG is working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to make sure have the correct input files. EWG has separate MOVES input files for Missouri and Illinois. While waiting for additional information from the states, EWG is updating the data files used with MOVES 2010 and will use model defaults. But as data becomes available, will use local information. As part of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) technical assistance project greenhouse gas estimate using MOVES technical assistance project, have begun running MOVES for 2015, 2025, 2035 and 2045 model analysis years.

Ms. Allen, MoDNR, said that their I/M electronic data management contractor has started to work on decoding the vehicle identification numbers (VIN) for 5.2 million model year 2014 and older cars/trucks in Missouri. This information will be used to develop input tables for vehicle classes present and the age distribution of vehicles. In September 2014 there were a couple of thousand 2016 model year cars already registered. Staff is considering how to incorporate these 2016 vehicles into the 2014 registration year. MoDNR is planning to get additional information from the Department of Revenue on the number of alternative fuel vehicles (i.e., electric, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas). Every year an alternative fuel vehicle owner has to purchase and display an alternative fuel decal in lieu of paying motor fuel tax. With this data, MoDNR will be better able to examine the MOVES default inputs and see how representative they are for Missouri and then make better assumptions about vehicle trends.

Mr. McMahon, FHWA MO, asked when the transition will be complete. Ms. Shoaib, EWG, said that the use of MOVES2014 is not required until after October 2016. Missouri and Illinois are developing updated files which EWG is required to use. She asked who in Illinois would be a good contact for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) information. Mr. Schmidt, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), suggested that since the retirement of Mike Rogers of Illinois EPA, Darwin Burkhardt would be the conformity contact at Illinois EPA. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that Mr. Rogers had indicated that Kevin Greene would be a contact person. Mr. Burkhardt was Mr. Rogers' supervisor.

4. Conformity Determination in Calendar Year 2016 – What should be First Analysis Year for Regional Emissions Analysis
- Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The analysis years for this last ozone Regional Emissions Analysis (REA) were 2015, 2025, 2035 and 2045. 2015 was used because the Missouri Early Progress Plan for 2008 eight-hour ozone standard contained 2015 motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEBs) which were found adequate for use in Conformity Determination. In addition, 2015 is the attainment year for marginal ozone non-attainment areas. There were 2025 MVEBs in the approved Illinois eight-hour ozone maintenance plan for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard. 2035 is an intermediate analysis year, as there can be no more than ten years between analysis years. 2045 is the horizon year of the long range transportation plan. It was decided to use the same set of analysis years for the PM_{2.5} REA.

Analysis years in REA have to include attainment year, years with adequate/approved MVEBs, horizon year for long range transportation plan and, if needed, intermediate analysis year(s) so analysis years are no more than ten years apart. As the St. Louis area is still under interim Conformity requirements for PM_{2.5}, the first REA analysis year can be no more than five years from the year the REA is being performed.

When the Conformity Determination occurs in 2016, a new first analysis year will be needed. One extreme option would be to have different first analysis years for the ozone and PM_{2.5} REAs. For ozone, the analysis years could be 2025 (year with MVEBs and nine years from 2016), 2035 (intermediate year) and 2045 (horizon year). For PM_{2.5}, the analysis years could be 2021 (five years from 2016), 2025 (intermediate year), 2035

(intermediate year) and 2045 (horizon year). A more reasonable option would be to use the same analysis years for both the ozone and PM_{2.5} REAs. The years would be: 2020 (four years from 2016, satisfying the PM_{2.5} conformity requirement); 2025 (Illinois ozone MVEBs and intermediate year for PM_{2.5}); 2035 (intermediate year); and 2045 (horizon year). The group was asked for feedback.

Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that staff is leaning toward using the same set of analysis years for ozone and PM_{2.5}. It would be easier for modeling and analysis and for those people looking at the Conformity Determination.

Mr. McMahon, FHWA MO, asked if there was a downside to going with the reasonable option. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that it was better to be conservative and hopefully, the analysis years would be set for several years. Ms. Shoaib, EWG, added that consistency in the analysis years would make modeling easier.

Mr. McMahon, FHWA MO, made a motion that 2020, 2025, 2035 and 2045 be used as analysis years in the Conformity Determination. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schmidt, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Mr. Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). Motion stands as duly entered.

5. Other Business

Ms. Hamilton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7, asked when could EPA expect to receive the Conformity Determination for the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and related amendments to Connected 2045: Long Range Transportation Plan for the St. Louis Region (Connected2045). Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that the Board will act on the Conformity Determination and TIP at its meeting on Wednesday (July 29). The documents will be transmitted soon after that. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, observed that EWG usually sends those documents to him on that Thursday and he will send out them in the next week. Mr. McMahon, FHWA MO, added that Mr. Henderson will send the TIP to the Governor's office and the Conformity Determination to FHWA. FHWA will then send the Conformity Determination on to EPA requesting concurrence with the finding in it. FHWA will wait to issue a concurrence finding (OneDOT letter) until after the TIP leaves the Governor's office.

Mr. McMahon, FHWA MO, reported that FHWA has received a concurrence letter from EPA concerning the Conformity Determination for Connected2045. FHWA had decided to hold off and wait for the concurrence letter from EPA concerning the Conformity Determination for the FY 2016-2019 TIP and then will issue a single OneDOT approval letter covering both Conformity Determinations.

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