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
Betsy Tracy - Federal Highway Administration, IL
Heather Hamilton - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Christopher Schmidt - Illinois Department of Transportation
Cody Brown - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 (telephone)

Others Present:
Curtis Jones - Illinois Department of Transportation

Staff:
Lubna Shoalb                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). As Mr. Lange has to attend another meeting, the agenda items have been flipped.

2. Status Report - Conformity Determination

   A. FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program and Related Amendments to Connected2045
      - Jason Lange, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The draft Conformity Determination and draft Connected 2045: Regional Transportation Plan for the St. Louis Region (Connected2045) are out for public comment until May 29. Staff has also been developing a draft Conformity Determination and draft FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In April, the IACG was sent a list of potential projects to be included in the Conformity modeling for their concurrence on Regionally Significant classifications. Earlier in May, the IACG was sent the Draft for Preview Conformity Determination. On May 15, EWG staff sent the IACG information on the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects to be included in the TIP. IDOT had provide EWG staff with information about these projects. They were included in the modeling but EWG could not release any information about them until the Illinois Governor publicly did so. The IDOT projects are listed in the draft Conformity Determination and draft TIP documents which are going out for public comment.
The public comment period for the draft Conformity Determination and the draft FY 2016-2019 TIP starts on May 29 and runs through July 6. Information will be posted on the EWG home page and there will be five open house public meetings (4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.) throughout the region. From noon to 1:00p.m. on June 25 EWG will have an online open house chat room which can be accessed at www.ewgateway.org. The EWG Board of Directors will act on the Conformity Determination and the FY 2016-2019 TIP at their meeting on July 29.

Mr. Coulson, EWG, observed that there was not much difference between the regional emissions analysis for Connected2045 and the regional emissions analysis for the FY 2016-2019 TIP.

B. Connected2045
- Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The public comment period for the draft Conformity Determination and draft Connected2045 ends on May 29. Earlier this month, two public open house style meetings were held, one in Missouri and one in Illinois. Two open house chat rooms were also held. Transcripts of these meetings are available. The main themes of the comments were: lack of investment in transit and other alternative modes of transportation; and a large group of people in St. Charles County calling for the widening of Route N near Lake St. Louis. The comment period will run for 33 days. There was a lot of work to get the draft Connected2045 done. The Conformity Determination and Connected2045 will be presented to the Board for adoption at their June 24 meeting. The Conformity Determination and Connected2045 will be transmitted shortly after that.

Mr. Coulson, EWG, said that as soon as the Board action takes place, EWG will transmit them, usually in the next day or two. Ms. Hamilton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7, asked about transmission. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that we would need to talk with Mr. Koeppel about the schedule. Mr. Henderson, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), said that once he receives the documents, he will distribute them. Ms. Hamilton, EPA Region 7, said that she will wait for FHWA MO to request concurrence and then will act.

3. MOVES2014 Implementation Considerations
- Lubna Shoaib, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

EWG has until October 2016 to begin using MOVES2014 in Conformity Determinations. EPA released this version in October 2014. We are not required to use MOVES2014 until after October 2016. During this transition period, EWG is working closely with Stacy Allen of Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) and Chuck Gephardt of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) so there is consistency in what will be used for the emissions analysis. This update has a number of changes to the MOVES model. EWG and the states are trying to take advantage of this lead time to make sure everything is ok. It will be necessary to do a model run and summarize output to see if everything is consistent. EWG anticipates completing a first cut model run by the end of 2015/beginning of 2016.
As part of Connected2045 work, EWG has updated its travel demand model with land use information from the Census. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) projections will change a little bit. Also, the way the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) collects data on VMT changed. Regulations state that model is to use HPMS as the standard. If different data is used, then have to insure that a factor is applied. Reason for requirement is that HPMS is a nationwide program using the same methodology. FHWA wants to make sure there is a level playing field. With the changes in the HPMS data collection methodology and changes to MOVES, was to make sure everything (inputs, etc.) is consistent between EWG and the states.

Ms. Allen, MoDNR, said that MoDNR staff pulled the 2011 emissions data which was run with MOVES2010b. The intent is to take the 2011 inputs (as much as possible) and use them in a MOVES2014 model run and see what emission rates and emissions output look like. EPA has given the states an indication that some areas of the country may have higher oxide of nitrogen (NOx) emissions with the new model formulation and other areas lower. By running the 2011 inputs will be able to do an early comparison which will help inform the transition to the MOVES2014 model formulation.

Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, asked if HPMS data always has to be used and what about VMT information from MoDOT. Ms. Shoaib, EWG, said that the regulations say that HPMS data is to be used and if want to use something else, then have to go through interagency consultation and make sure everyone is on board with the decision. Also, HPMS is essentially what MoDOT reports to them, so it becomes a circular process. There have been some changes to the network like the completion of the Page Avenue extension so decided to stick with HPMS. The number of vehicle source types in MOVES2014 is 14, a reduction from the 25 in MOVES2010b. Ms. Allen, MoDNR, added that in MOVES2014 light duty cars and light duty trucks have been combined into a light duty passenger vehicle classification.

Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that it would be interesting to see how the St. Louis area does. Ms. Allen, MoDNR, said that EPA has done a number of presentations on MOVES2014 but output is always presented for Sample City A, Sample City B and Sample City C. So there is no idea what geographic, climate or meteorological influences impact model output. Ms. Shoaib, EWG, said that EPA has updated the emission rates built into MOVES2014 so it is hard to say where the St. Louis area will fall with two states each with their own input files.

Ms. Tracy, FHWA IL, asked if EWG was working with anyone at Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) concerning the HPMS data. Ms. Shoaib, EWG, replied that the HPMS collection methodology has changed and MOVES model is being adapted to the HPMS changes. The previous six vehicle types are being compressed.

Mr. Brown, EPA Region 7, said that the MOVES team is getting ready to release another version of MOVES in October 2015. Many of the updates deal with: the non-road portion of the model; model suite installation; and revisions to the query browser used after MOVES is run.

4. Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting of the IACG was adjourned.