Members Present:
Carol Lawrence, Chair - East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation
Mike Henderson - Missouri Department of Transportation
Tom Caldwell – Illinois Department of Transportation
Stacy Allen - Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Telephone)
Buzz Asselmeier – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Telephone)

Staff:
Mary Grace Lewandowski    Jason Lange    Jennifer Vuitel    Josh Schwenk    Maureen McCarthy

1.  Call to Order
    - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

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

2.  Update on Mid-Year Conformity Determination for Amendment to FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program
    - East-West Gateway Council of Governments

A Mid-Year Conformity Determination was needed because the Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) included: the Illinois Department of Transportation’s (IDOT) Capital Improvement program which was not released until October 2019; one regionally significant project submitted by Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT); and a regionally significant project submitted by Troy IL.

The Conformity process began in October. From November through early January, staff developed transportation networks, conducted modeling and prepared the Conformity Determination document. Regional emissions analysis was conducted for both the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone standards. The eight county region (MO-IL) is in attainment for the 2008 eight-hour ozone standard (maintenance). Five counties and Boles Township in Franklin County are in non-attainment for the 2015 eight-hour ozone standard. The remainder of Franklin County and Jefferson and Monroe Counties are classified as in attainment of this standard.

Regionally significant projects in the Amendment to the TIP are to be analyzed to show conformity with state plans. Regional emissions analysis has to demonstrate that for each state and for specific analysis years emissions resulting from implementation of projects contained in the Amendment to the TIP would be less than the motor vehicle emission budgets established by Missouri and Illinois for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (precursors of ozone formation). The regional emissions analysis was passed for both standards.
Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, asked if these budgets will be used for the next Conformity Determination. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, replied they would be as well as the same analysis years. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, then asked if the budget will remain the same even after the State Implementation Plan (SIP) submission in August 2020. Ms. Allen, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR), said that the budgets will remain the same in Missouri.

A Conformity Determination for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard only has to be performed if there is/are regionally significant project(s) in Jersey County IL like IDOT’s U.S. Route 67 Delhi Bypass project. As inter agency and public consultation is taking place and IDOT demonstrated fiscal constraint, this project has been found to conform with the 1997 ozone standard. Since the Illinois State Implementation Plan for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard did not contain transportation control measures, two additional criteria do not have to be satisfied.

The public comment period is underway and ends February 13. TIP and Conformity Determination is available on-line. A copy of the draft was sent to the IACG. Today, January 28, is the deadline to submit a request for an open house to take place during the comment period. Since there is a condensed time frame, the EWG Board is going to act on the Conformity Determination and Amendment to the TIP at their January 29 meeting. Approval will be pending no adverse comments received by the end of the comment period. Anticipated that the Board approved Mid-Year Conformity Determination and Amendment to FY 2020-2023 TIP will be transmitted to MoDOT and IDOT on February 14.

Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, asked if there had been communication with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Missouri (MO) about U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 concurrence process. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that on January 21 EWG sent the Presented for Approval version to FHWA MO and informed them that it could be shared with EPA Region 7. Mr. Henderson, MoDOT, said that he will talk to FHWA MO and observed that lately EPA not taken the full 30 days to review the Conformity Determination and inform FHWA of their concurrence with the findings. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, pointed out that the Board Approved Conformity Determination and TIP will not be sent out until after the end of the comment period on February 13. Anticipate that one paragraph in the Consultation and Public Participation section of the Conformity Determination document will be revised to say whether a public open house was held and if any comments received resulted in substantial changes to the document.

3. **Conformity Determination for FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program**

   - East-West Gateway Council of Governments
     - Draft Schedule
     - Regional Emissions Analysis
     - Date Conformity Begins

Mr. Lange, EWG, said that the call for local program project applications for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Suballocated (STP-S) and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds went on line in November. Workshops for local project sponsors were held in Missouri and Illinois. One-on-one meetings with interested project
sponsors and EWG staff took place in January. Applications are due February 13, 2020. Staff will then begin to evaluate project applications and look at air quality status (regionally significant, exempt, etc.) and emission reduction benefits for CMAQ projects proposals. MoDOT, IDOT, Metro, Madison County Transit District (MCT) and St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD) programs is to be provided to EWG by April 3. This is not a hard deadline. IDOT information may come in later because they cannot publicly release their program until the Governor announces it. Staff will continue evaluation and look at air quality status (regionally significant, exempt, etc.). In early May the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) will be presented the evaluated local projects and TPC will recommend projects to be included in the TIP. This list of projects will be presented to the Board at their May meeting. The Draft TIP will be presented to the EWG Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) and Board in June. It will then go out for public comment. Final Board action will occur in August.

The schedule for the Conformity Determination matches up with the TIP schedule. Staff will begin in March to work on the document. Anticipate sending the IACG the list of new projects and their air quality classification in early May for concurrence with the classification. It is expected that travel demand and emissions modeling effort will start in late April and be completed in early June. When the modeling is done, then the regional emissions analysis can be completed and that information placed in the draft Conformity Determination document. After that, a Preview draft is to be sent to the IACG. The Draft Conformity Determination as well as the Draft FY 2021-2024 TIP will be presented to the EAC and Board in June. The public comment period will run from June 30 through August 5. Dates and locations of the open house meetings are still to be determined. In mid-August a copy of Presented for Approval (final) Conformity Determination will be sent to FHWA MO. FHWA MO can then send it to EPA Region 7. Board action will take place at the end of August. The Board approved Conformity Determination document and TIP then will be transmitted to MODOT and IDOT.

Copies of the Regional Emissions Analysis tables were distributed. The same mobile source emissions budgets and analysis years utilized in the Mid-Year Conformity Determination are going to be used. Conformity tests again will be performed for the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone standards. If there is/are new regionally significant project(s) in Jersey County IL, conformity for the 1997 ozone standard will have to be conducted.

A motion was made by Mr. Henderson of MoDOT that the Conformity Determination for the FY 2021-2024 TIP begins on January 28, 2020. Mr. Jemison of IDOT seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Adjournment

The next meeting of the IACG will be on March 24, 2020. There being no other business, the meeting of the Inter Agency Consultation Group was adjourned.