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Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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AGENDA
INTER AGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK, EAST-WEST GATEWAY'S OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

You can listen/talk and/or view the meeting via:
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1. **Call to Order**
   - Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

2. **Update FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Development**
   - East-West Gateway Council of Governments

3. **Conformity Determination for FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program**
   - **Schedule**
   - **Regional Emissions Analysis**
   - **MO I/M Inputs for MOVES Model**
   - **Date Conformity Determination Begins**

   - East-West Gateway Council of Governments

4. **Other Business**

5. **Adjournment**

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Meeting Minutes
Inter Agency Consultation Group
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Members
Carol Lawrence – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation
Christopher Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation
Mike Henderson - Missouri Department of Transportation
Steven King – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Jed Wolkins – EPA Region 7
Betsy Tracy – Federal Highway Administration, Illinois
Mark Leath – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Francisco Cortalezzi – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Matthew Harrell – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Staff
Mary Grace Lewandowski, Jason Lange, Amir Poorfakhraei, Rachael Pawlak, Brad Williams, Jim Wild, Maureen McCarthy

1. Call to Order

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

2. FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program and Conformity Determination

- East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The call for local project applications is still out. Once the application process closes in February staff will evaluate those projects and present them to the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) for recommendations for funding in May. In early April partner agencies (Missouri Department of Transportation [MoDOT], Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT], METRO and Madison County Transit District) will be submitting their programs and staff will evaluate those as well. EWG will send a listing of the new projects and partner programs to the IACG for concurrence on air quality classifications. Air quality classifications will be assigned to the projects to indicate which ones are regionally significant, not regionally significant, or exempt. Please note that EWG can not include any information about the IDOT program for public release until the Governor of Illinois officially releases it. IDOT does provide information that EWG can use in its modeling process.

Transportation and emissions modeling will start in April and usually takes four to six weeks. The goal is to have the modeling done by early June and have the draft Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD) document completed later in June. The draft Transportation

Improvement Program (TIP) will also be available at that time as well. Both draft documents will be presented to the EWG Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) and Board of Directors at their June meetings. The public comment period for the Conformity Determination will be July 1st to August 4th. After the comment period closes EWG will summarize the comments received and include those in the final TIP and AQCD. The final version of the documents will be presented for approval to the Board and EAC at the end of August. The AQCD schedule should be finalized by the March IACG meeting.

It is assumed that the Regional Emissions Analysis (REA) will use the same analysis years and the same motor vehicle emission budgets for the conformity determination for the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards as did for the last one. There will be a clearer idea on this in March and EWG will seek the input of the IACG.

If the Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) approves the Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) rule revision this week the change will become effective on July 1st, 2022. The change of I/M requirements would only be in Franklin County. EWG is aware of this potential change and how it would affect the emissions modeling inputs. Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) and MoDOT informed the IACG that a bill was pre-filed which would remove Franklin, Jefferson and St. Charles Counties from the I/M program (same language as in 2021). They (and EWG) are going to track it and keep the IACG informed.

IDOT stated that there would not be any regionally significant projects in Jersey County which would need a conformity determination.

3. Missouri and Illinois Proposed Maintenance Plans for the 2015 Ozone Standard, Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets, and Future Conformity Determinations

- General Discussion

The MoDNR and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) have been coordinating on what emissions budget years (2019 and 2035) were going to be included in the proposed maintenance plans. Illinois EPA is continuing to work on preparing their motor vehicle emissions budgets. MoDNR and Illinois EPA have been sharing information and coordinating their efforts.

The earliest that MoDNR could submit their Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request could be March 31st, 2022, but it will most likely be submitted in the first week of April. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could approve the whole plan/request all at once, in which case the budgets in the plan would become effective. The EPA can also approve the plan in two parts where they find the budgets adequate for use in conformity before the maintenance plan is approved. At the moment the process is still being discussed at EPA Region 7.

EWG staff working on the AQCD are hoping to not be surprised late in the conformity process by any actions that would mean a change to the modeling and a delay in producing the AQCD. Additional discussions may be needed.

When the emission budgets for 2019 and 2035 are found adequate/approved they will be used in the 2015 ozone standard REA. It has not been decided if those budgets can also be used for the 2008 standard REA. Jed Wolkins, EPA Region 7, said he will check with the internal EPA conformity group to get a clearer answer for the 2008 standard. Another consideration is that the budget for the 2015 standard does not cover all of Franklin County.

Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis Counties and the City of St. Louis should be assumed to be part of I/M program from 2030 onward until at such time the MACC makes a rule revision to remove I/M. The process to remove I/M in Franklin County began last year and the rule revision will be effective later this year. The removal of the Missouri I/M program will affect the emissions modeling in the future. It was pointed out that next year EWG will have to do conformity for both the TIP and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

There have been discussions about how approval of the redesignation requests and maintenance plans will affect EWG and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding. If the region is redesignated to attainment that means the area will be in a 20-year maintenance period. Being in a maintenance period makes the area eligible for CMAQ funding and continue to receive the same level of funding that the area has now.

The Missouri Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request is being presented tomorrow at the EWG Board of Directors meeting and staff will be requesting that the Executive Director be authorized to send a letter of support to MoDNR.

4. Other Business/Adjournment

The next meeting of the IACG will be on March 29, 2022 and will be virtual. There being no other business, the meeting of the Inter Agency Consultation Group was adjourned.