

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Notes

March 14, 2013

Attendees

Gregory Becoat, EPA
Deanna Cucinnello, DNREC
Marc Dixon, FHWA
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Mike DuRoss, DelDOT
James Galvin, D/KC MPO
Jay Gerner, DelDOT
Tamika Graham, WILMAPCO
Asrah Khadr, EPA
Adam Kinzex, UD
Martin Kotsch, EPA
Joe Lunny, Proterra
Owen Robatino, NCC
Thomas Shipman, UD
Howard Simons, MDOT
Cathy Smith, DTC
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Steve Waters, Proterra
Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO
J. Zhang, UD

Acceptance of the Notes from the January 10 Meeting

- The notes were accepted, with one grammatical change.

FY 2012 TIP amendments

- Mr. Dunigan provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Draft Resolutions, SR 1/I-95 interchange amendment, Paving and Rehabilitation amendment, Preventative Maintenance and Miscellaneous Equipment (Cecil County transit) amendment.*
- The AQS was agreement that these amendments did not trigger a revised conformity analysis.

FY 2014 TIP and Amended 2040 RTP Conformity

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Final drafts of the conformity analysis for New Castle County and Cecil County*
- Mr. Swiatek noted that the conformity analyses were out for public comment for over 30 days. A couple of comments skirted around air quality, but none were specifically tied to the determination.
- Mr. Wheeler stated that DNREC cannot concur with the analysis. DNREC has requested more information regarding why VMT is projected to increase through 2040 in New Castle County in the travel demand model, and that information has not been provided.
- Mr. Swiatek said that Mr. DuRoss is working on this, and will get back to the committee. The group discussed possible reasons why VMT is projected to increase. Mr. DuRoss felt that the projected sprawl was the culprit. Mr. Wheeler said that the TIP and RTP projects reflect adaptations to the sprawl, which only encourages more of it. None of the projects in the WILMAPCO plans help to reduce VMT in any concrete way.
- The majority of the AQS recommended approval of the conformity determinations. DNREC voted "no."

Format of the NCC Conformity Document

- Mr. Swiatek and Mr. DuRoss provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Mr. DuRoss mentioned that it would be helpful if the NCC conformity document matched up with the Dover/Kent MPO's document, and if both looked more professional. The group discussed this briefly, and decided to use the Cecil County document as a template for both Delaware MPOs.

Presentation: Electric Buses

- Mr. Lunny, Proterra, provided a presentation on the company's electric buses. It is available on the subcommittee homepage.

Other

- Mr. Wheeler expressed concern that the Murphy Marine CMAQ project was not included in the FY 2014 TIP. Ms. Dunigan said that this project was prioritized, but that did not make it into the TIP due to funding reductions. There are already

CMAQ eligible projects in the TIP with limited funding so WILMAPCO was not in a position to add funding for a new project. Mr. Wheeler felt it would make more sense to give funding to projects that score high on the priority list first, even if they are not in the TIP. Ms. Zegeye said that the projects in the TIP must be completed first. Mr. Wheeler said that this was the first project that would reduce diesel emissions specifically, which is a new requirement. Moving forward, he would like to have a dialogue with WILMAPCO and DelDOT regarding the process as the projects that are selected year after year are not the most beneficial for air quality.

- Mr. Swiatek thanked Mr. Kotsch, who is set to retire in May, for his 30+ years of service to the government and valuable contributions to the AQS.