

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Notes

September 12, 2013

Attendees

Gregory Becoat, EPA (teleconference)
Kevin Black, FHWA (teleconference)
Deanna Cucinnello, DNREC
Marc Dixon, FHWA
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Mike DuRoss, DelDOT
Morgan Ellis, DNREC
James Galvin, D/KC MPO
LaTonya Gilliam, DelDOT
Valerie Gray, DNREC
Jay Gerner, DelDOT (teleconference)
Tamika Graham, WILMAPCO
Mike Koontz, FHWA (teleconference)
Owen Robatino, NCC
Molla Sarros, MDE (teleconference)
Howard Simons, MDOT
Cathy Smith, DTC
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO

Acceptance of the Notes from July 18

- Ms. Sarros spotted a pair of minor errors. Mr. Simons last name was misspelled, and EPA staff were not listed as present at the meeting.
- The notes were accepted with these modifications.

Review of Street Sweeper Eligibility for CMAQ

- Mr. Dixon provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *none*
- Mr. Dixon reviewed some follow-up questions from Mr. Wheeler about street sweeper eligibility in the CMAQ Program. Specifically, he wondered why only an alternative fuel sweeper would be eligible for CMAQ, and not a cleaner diesel sweeper.

- Mr. Koontz reviewed FHWA policy regarding street sweeper use for CMAQ. He said in a PM2.5 area without dust controls in the SIP the benefit is the controls that an alternative fuel vehicle would provide. There would be incremental participation (FHWA funding) based on the emissions reduction provided.
- Mr. Wheeler again asked why a new diesel vehicle would not qualify, as it would be cleaner. Mr. Koontz said this is spelled out in the 2011 guidance. Such sweepers would only qualify dust control areas – which New Castle County is not.
- Ms. Gilliam reminded the group that DelDOT would be focusing on additional sweeping in dusty areas, such as around the seaport in Wilmington, even though dust is not in the SIP.
- Mr. Koontz asked if the vehicles were registered. Ms. Gilliam said yes. Mr. Koontz said that may change things, and DelDOT could simply couch the submission as a standard diesel retrofit.
- Mr. Swiatek said then that it looked like DelDOT does have another option for funding cleaner diesel sweepers via CMAQ. He suggested that Ms. Gilliam work with Mr. Dixon on the particulars.

Proposed CMAQ Amendments for the New Castle County FY 2014 TIP

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *July 1 letter to Tigist Zegeye (WILMAPCO) from Earle Timpson (DelDOT) regarding DelDOT's federal funding programming for FY 2014; revised FY 2014 obligation plan for STP and CMAQ*
- Mr. Swiatek noted that a few aspects of the ITMS program identified for CMAQ spending (\$4 million) were ineligible, and that WILMAPCO requested a revised obligation plan which reflected CMAQ eligibility. This information was not available at the TAC meeting. That group recommended approval contingent upon AQS review and approval. Updated information came through from DelDOT yesterday and this morning, and Mr. Swiatek passed this around.
- Mr. Swiatek also said that there was some question involving the breakdown of bicycle and pedestrian improvement spending (\$1.25 million).
- Ms. Zegeye noted that a breakdown of nonmotorized spending is unavailable, but is really not necessary. It will be spent on the First State Trails and Pathways Program in New Castle County.

- The AQS was comfortable with the CMAQ information, as presented and recommended TAC and Council approval.

Discussion of Potential Conformity Analysis for the New Castle County FY 15 TIP

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *State of Delaware Department of Transportation Capital Transportation Program, FY 2015 – FY 2020 (excerpt); Draft – Projects Modeled in Fall 2013 (2040 RTP/FY 15 TIP); Draft – WILMAPCO FY 2015 – 18 TIP and 2040 RTP Air Quality Conformity, Detailed Timeline*
- Mr. Swiatek said that a conformity analysis was likely needed for the New Castle County portion of the region in step with at least one or two regionally significant project additions to the TIP. New projects to be redefined or resurrected in the TIP and model include:
 - o SR 299, SR 1 to Catherine Street (2020)
 - widening in Middletown
 - o Elkton Road, Maryland State Line to Casho Mill Road (2030)
 - potential future widening
 - o SR 1: C&D Canal to Tybouts Corner (2030)
 - lengthening of current widening project in TIP south to Canal
 - o SR 4 (Christiana Parkway): SR 2 to SR 896 (2030)
 - two lanes in each direction
- After a back-and-forth with EPA via e-mail, Mr. Swiatek said that a conformity analysis in Cecil County was determined unnecessary because it has a separate budget from New Castle County.
- Mr. Swiatek reviewed the draft timeline for conformity. Results are expected by November 14, a public comment period is set to run between January and March with a public workshop in February. Council Adoption is expected March 13.
- The AQS determined the need for a revised conformity analysis, and accepted the timeline and project modeling list as presented.

Presentation: Delaware Clean Cities Coalition

- Ms. Ellis provided a presentation on the activities of the Clean Cities Coalition. Presentation link: <http://wilmapco.org/aqs>

Other

- Ms. Zegeye noted that the STAQS conference will be held on September 23rd and 24th via an online webcast.