

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Notes

March 13, 2014

Attendees

Gregory Becoat, EPA (teleconference)
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Marc Dixon, FHWA
Mike DuRoss, DelDOT
Morgan Ellis, DNREC
Devin Gladden, DNREC
Jay Gerner, DelDOT (teleconference)
Tamika Graham, WILMAPCO
Valerie Gray, DNREC
Kathy Harris, UD
Willet Kempton, UD
Asrah Khadr, EPA (teleconference)
Randi Novakoff, WILMAPCO
Owen Robatino, NCC
Molla Sarros, MDE (teleconference)
Howard Simons, MDOT (teleconference)
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO

Acceptance of the Notes from December 19th

- The notes were accepted.
- Ms. Sarros asked if she was on the TAC as well. Ms. Zegeye replied that MDE does have a seat on the TAC.

Draft FY 2015 New Castle County TIP Conformity Analysis

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination for the FY 2015 TIP and 2040 RTP; February 21, 2014 letter from Ronald A. Amirikian (DNREC) to Tigist Zegeye (WILMAPCO) regarding increasing VMT*
- Mr. Swiatek reviewed the air quality conformity document, and thanked everyone for helping to put it together.

- One public comment related to the conformity determination was submitted by DNREC. Mr. Wheeler reviewed that comment. He said that DNREC will not be approving the conformity determination until more is understood about why Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is projected to increase faster than population growth in Delaware. This was an issue that was brought up during the previous conformity analysis, and WILMAPCO has not yet satisfactorily addressed it.
- Mr. Swiatek said that this was an important issue, and pointed to the projected rise in emissions during the 2030s as a result of this VMT increase. He said that this would be best addressed with the update to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. DuRoss will be providing a presentation at this meeting on DelDOT's work to date on this issue.
- Mr. Wheeler reiterated it was important to understand why VMT appears to be growing faster than expected, along with the drivers and sensitivities that are leading to increases in VMT in the model.
- Ms. Zegeye noted that this issue did not affect the current determination.
- The group recommended Council adoption – with DNREC abstaining.

Air Quality Partnership of Delaware Update

- Ms. Novakoff provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *none*
- Ms. Novakoff said most of the Partnership's recent work has been in developing a mascot for public outreach efforts. His name is Tropo (derived from troposphere) and comes from a planet with air quality problems that were resolved. Tropo is a furry and colorful creature with wings. Tropo will make his first appearance during Earth Day activities in Wilmington this year.
- Besides the mascot, the group will be promoting Air Quality Awareness Week (April 28 – May 2) along with a pledge to not drive a private vehicle one day during that week.
- Ms. Novakoff said that a survey is also being developed to gauge the effectiveness of outreach efforts among schoolchildren.
- Ms. Novakoff noted that creating bylaws have been discussed, along with the rotation of chairs for the Partnership.
- Outreach will be conducted at Blue Rocks baseball games, including appearances by Tropo.

VMT Update

- Mr. DuRoss provided a presentation on DelDOT's work to date with understanding the projected increases in VMT.
- This presentation is available on the subcommittee homepage:
<http://www.wilmapco.org/aqs>

EV Stations in Delaware

- Ms. Ellis and Dr. Kempton provided a presentation on a joint project between DNREC and the University of Delaware to develop a structure of electric vehicle charging stations in Delaware.
- This presentation is available on the subcommittee homepage:
<http://www.wilmapco.org/aqs>

Other

- Mr. Swiatek noted that a FY 2014 TIP amendment for transit vehicle replacement (\$32.8 million) came in late. The group found that this amendment did not trigger a revised conformity determination.