

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Notes

September 11, 2014

Attendees

Deanna Cuccinello, DNREC
Marc Dixon, FHWA
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Mike DuRoss, DelDOT
Jim Galvin, D/KC MPO
Jay Gerner, DelDOT (teleconference)
Tamika Graham, WILMAPCO
Valerie Gray, DNREC
Alex Krempasanka, MDE
Molla Sarros, MDE
Howard Simons, MDOT
Cathy Smith, DTC (teleconference)
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Rachel Yocum, DNREC
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO

Meeting Notes

- The AQS accepted the notes from the July 17 and August 14 meetings.

Proposed FY 2015 CMAQ Spending

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *September 3 e-mail from Drew Boyce (DelDOT) to Tigist Zegeye (WILMAPCO) regarding Delaware's proposed CMAQ spending; Proposed CMAQ spending in Delaware packet, including: July 10, 2014 letter to Tigist Zegeye (WILMAPCO) from Bill Geronimo (DelDOT) regarding proposed STP, FTA Urbanized Area, CMAQ, 5310, and Transportation Enhancement Program funding; FY 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 Spend Plan for Nonmotorized Projects; ITMS FY 2015 Obligation Plan; 2015 Scope of Services: Rideshare Program*
- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of developments since the last AQS meeting. DelDOT has accepted that ITMS had ineligible CMAQ activities: "ITMS Planning and Engineering," "ITMS TMC Systems," and "ITMS field device support – civil air patrol". Funding for these programs will be switched from CMAQ to STP.

- DelDOT also acknowledged that "Project Management" under the Rideshare Program is ineligible for CMAQ, and CMAQ dollars will not be applied to that portion.
- Ms. Gray was concerned that updated funding amounts were not provided to reflect this, and that specific projects within the programs to be funded by CMAQ are still not being detailed. Ms. Zegeye said that it does not matter which specific projects they are, since the program they fall under is eligible. Ms. Gray replied that without specific details, quantification of the emissions benefits was impossible. Mr. Dixon said that Mr. Donaldson (DelDOT) will begin working towards showing the emissions benefits for the ITMS projects.
- The group reviewed a separate series of handouts, which included much of the CMAQ material presented at the previous AQS meeting, along with a detailed scope of the 2015 Rideshare Program. Ms. Gray was troubled that the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Obligation Plan for ITMS spreadsheet was not updated to reflect the removal of the three projects from CMAQ consideration. Mr. Dixon noted that his understanding is that only a portion of the funding for "ITMS Planning and Engineering," and the "ITMS TMC Systems," would be removed – there are some CMAQ eligible elements within those projects.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the need in future to quantify the emissions benefits of projects being considered for CMAQ spending. Mr. Simons felt that this could be done through Baker's AQONE Model. Ms. Zegeye said that WILMAPCO has considered purchasing the software, but has hesitated due to software transitions, costs relative to benefits, and questions about who will run the program. Ms. Dunigan also said that the model's assumptions are at the county level – which does not reflect nuanced development patterns across New Castle County. The group was in agreement, however, that utilizing the AQONE model was still in Delaware's best interests.

2040 RTP/FY 2016 TIP Conformity Analysis

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Detailed Air Quality Conformity Timeline (9/4/14); New Castle County emissions results July 2014 and September 2014.*
- Mr. Swiatek said that the scenario analyses for the RTP have delayed the conformity results for New Castle County, forcing a revision of the conformity timeline. The new timeline is presented on the following page.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Begin conformity analysis	8								
Conformity Results Due, Presented to AQS			10						
Conformity Results Presented to Council			10						
Conformity Results Presented to TAC			17						
Our Town Public Meeting					3				
AQS Recommends Release of Conformity Documents for Public Comment						9			
TAC Recommends Release of Conformity Document for Public Comment						16			
Council Releases Conformity Document for Public Comment							13		
Formal Public Comment Period							Nov. 17 - Jan. 5		
AQS/TAC Recommends Adoption								18	
Council Adoption									8
Formal Submission to Federal Agencies									9

- Mr. DuRoss reviewed updated conformity results for New Castle County, which showed a drop in all emissions and all years tested. These figures should not be considered final, however, until additional quality checks are completed. Mr. DuRoss estimated that this should be done by early October.
- The group was comfortable with the revised conformity timeline, along with the updated conformity analyses for New Castle County.

Air Quality Technical Prioritization

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *WILMAPCO Prioritization Process: Air Quality Scoring Criteria; Air Quality Technical Scores (September 2014); Project Descriptions*
- Mr. Swiatek said air quality technical scores are needed for several projects associated with the 2040 RTP. He then reviewed the scoring methodology of the air-quality portion of the project prioritization process. The group scrutinized, but ultimately accepted all of the draft scores, with one revision. A final listing is provided on the following page.

PROJECT	AQ Score	
	Draft	Final
MD 272 Bridge over Amtrak	1	1
MD 272: US 40 to Lums Rd.	-3	-3
Cavaliers Mitigation	0	0
SR 896 at N54 & N396 Intersection, Including Howell School Road to SR 71	0	1
Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Preliminary Engineering	1	1
Elkton Bus Service Circulator	1	1
MARC Maintenance Facility	0	0
Maryland Commuter Rail: Perryville to Elkton (MARC extension)	3	3
I-95 / MD 222 Interchange	-3	-3
I-95: Susquehanna River to DE Line	-3	-3
MD 213 / US 40 Intersection Improvements	-3	-3
MD 222, Perryville/Bainbridge Rd: US 40 to MD 276	-3	-3
SR 896 at Bethel Church Rd Interchange	-3	-3

- There was a general discussion about the difficulty in scoring these projects using the current methodology.

Other

- Mr. Swiatek said WILMAPCO received a proposed amendment to the FY 2015 TIP on September 3, 2014, "MARC Maintenance and Layover Facility." The group reviewed the amendment and found that it did not trigger a revised conformity analysis.
- Mr. Simons asked if Delaware have any bad air quality days this past summer. Ms. Gray replied that she believed there were three ozone exceedances.