

Meeting Notes

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS)

September 13, 2018

Attendees

Gregory Becoat, EPA (teleconference)
Kevin Black, FHWA (teleconference)
Alex Brun, MDE (teleconference)
Lauren DeVore, DNREC (teleconference)
Lindsay Donnellon, FHWA (teleconference)
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Jim Galvin, D/KC MPO (teleconference)
Jay Gerner, DelDOT (teleconference)
Gary Greening, MDOT (teleconference)
Reed Macmillian, D/KC MPO (teleconference)
Jolyon Shelton, DNREC (teleconference)
Cathy Smith, DTC (teleconference)
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO

Acceptance of the notes from the July 16 and August 30 meetings

- The notes from both meetings were accepted without any corrections or clarifications.

CMAQ Performance Plan

- Mr. Swiatek reviewed the timeline for the Performance Plan. It is due to be submitted by the State DOT to FHWA on October 1.
- Mr. Swiatek said that a conference call took place between WILMAPCO and MDOT after the special AQS meeting on August 30. There was agreement upon the WILMAPCO methodology and targets for on road mobile source emissions for Cecil County. Some of the descriptive text in the Plan was revised, based on MDOT's request.
- Mr. Swiatek said the timeline calls for AQS endorsement of the Plan today. He understands the AQS got a very late review of the plan. This could not be helped, as all figures from DelDOT used in setting the New Castle County baseline and targets were only received yesterday morning. The TAC is set to act on the Plan next Thursday, according to schedule. WILMAPCO plans to submit the

document to DelDOT (who will turn around and submit to FHWA) on September 24.

- Mr. Swiatek noted some questions to FHWA about the performance plan were resolved last week. These were: WILMAPCO does not have to show a PM2.5 emissions target for Cecil County in the Performance Plan; and, as a bi-state MPO, WILMAPCO should only formally submit the Performance Plan to one of the State DOTs.
- Mr. Swiatek reviewed the contents of the Performance Plan. He said there seemed to be good agreement already with much of the document, save for the New Castle County on road mobile source emissions targets.
- For New Castle County, WILMAPCO is proposing to adopt the Delaware statewide targets and methodology that DelDOT submitted to FHWA as part of a performance management submission in May 2018. In addition, yesterday, DelDOT provided data showing PM2.5 emissions reductions, using the same methodology and projects. This was missing from the May submission. Finally, DelDOT also provided a baseline of emission reductions from year 2017. Data from previous years were unavailable.
- Mr. Swiatek asked if a baseline figure from just 2017 was acceptable. Ms. Donnellon said she would investigate it with staff at FHWA headquarters.
- Mr. Swiatek reviewed potential CMAQ project lists for both Cecil County and Delaware statewide, and their potential to reduce emissions and traffic. In Cecil County, the 10 unfunded pedestrian and bicycle projects used to set the targets were listed. In Delaware, the projects used to set the targets were listed, in addition to the (grouped) Transportation Management Improvements project. This ITS project is set to receive CMAQ funding over the next several years, but DelDOT has not yet worked out how to quantify its emissions benefits.
- The group decided to show the emissions benefits of potential CMAQ projects in Delaware within the Rideshare and Bike/Ped categories as the median of emissions benefits over the projected funding period, not the sum of benefits during that period.
- Circling back, Ms. DeVore asked why projects outside of New Castle County were used to calculate the targets. Mr. Gerner said he would have to defer to Mr. DuRoss (who was not on the call). Mr. Swiatek said that DelDOT had to submit their own targets back in May, which had to be statewide. WILMAPCO is proposing to simply adopt the statewide targets. If just a New Castle County targets were pursued WILMAPCO would need to propose a new target, as in Cecil County. This is something the MPO was trying to avoid. Ms. Zegeye said that this adoption of a statewide target has precedent, as WILMAPCO has adopted statewide targets before for other measures.

- Mr. Swiatek asked if the AQS was comfortable making a recommendation to approve the plan. Ms. DeVore said that DNREC feels that insufficient time was provided to review the data and cannot provide a favorable vote at this time.
- The group decided to delay the vote and review the methodology and process offline. Coordination and talks will occur between DNREC and DelDOT on the Delaware methodology. An email vote would then take place next week to make a recommendation to the TAC by their meeting next Thursday. Ms. Zegeye asked that DNREC send all the specific questions about the methodology to WILMAPCO and that WILMAPCO would then coordinate a response/meeting with DelDOT to have them answered.

2050 RTP Conformity

- Mr. Swiatek said that both DelDOT and MDOT are working to complete the conformity analysis for the 2050 RTP. October 11 is the deadline for that analysis to be completed.

Other Business

- No other business was discussed.