

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS)

June 13, 2019

Attendees

Ian Beam, MDOT (teleconference)
Greg Becoat, EPA (teleconference)
Cooper Bowers, DelDOT (teleconference)
Alex Brun, MDE (teleconference)
Kelicia Dix, WILMAPCO
Gary Greening, MDOT (teleconference)
Jolyon Shelton, DNREC (teleconference)
Cathy Smith, DTC (teleconference)
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Colleen Turner, MDOT (teleconference)

Acceptance of the notes from the February 14, 2019

- The notes were accepted without any corrections or clarifications.

New CMAQ Technical Scores – *B. Swiatek*

- Mr. Swiatek begins by reminding everyone how we prioritize Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects in New Castle County. CMAQ-eligible projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are identified. Next, they are ranked by an emissions cost-benefit analysis. Finally, they are submitted to DelDOT for consideration. Mr. Swiatek says DelDOT Finance takes a hard look at what we submit and tries to fund projects from the top down, plugging CMAQ dollars in where necessary.
- The primary ranking a project receives is based on its project type. FHWA has analyzed hundreds of CMAQ projects across the country and has determined which project types have the best emissions cost benefits. We consider the emissions cost benefits related to: PM2.5, VOC, and NOx.
- Next, projects are sorted within their type by a secondary ranking. The current system utilizes a qualitative index, based on the project's perceived ability to reduce VMT, its cost, and lifespan. Unfortunately, this index has proven ineffective. Too often, projects are tied in their scores. Mr. Swiatek says that WILMAPCO has a proposal for a new way secondary scores are given. After projects are first ranked by their type, they will be sorted within those types first by their air quality technical score in the overall project

prioritization process, then, secondly, by their overall technical score in the overall project prioritization process. The result is a simpler and much more effective way to rank projects (only one tie).

- Mr. Swiatek then briefly reviews how the projects fared on page 6 of the meeting packet. Then, he informs the group that the in-depth description of projects are on pages 7-12 of the packet.
- Mr. Swiatek asks if everyone is in favor of the new prioritization system. Mr. Bowers says he is in favor.
- Mr. Shelton questions where the overall project prioritization scores could be found.
- Mr. Swiatek states they are developed with each new TIP and RTP.

The AQS was in agreement with the change to the CMAQ project prioritization process and the results presented today.

Other Business

- Mr. Swiatek reminds the committee that there is a STAQS conference coming up in Louisville in August. He encourages those with questions to contact Kevin Black.
- No other business was discussed.