

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Notes

December 13, 2007

Attendees

Terri Brixen, DNREC
James Brunswick, DNREC
Tashia Clemons, FHWA
Deanna Cuccinello, DNREC
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Mark Glaze, DelDOT
Martin Kotsch, EPA
Tamika Odrick, WILMAPCO
Owen Robatino, NCC
Howard Simons, MDOT
Cathy Smith, DTC
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Jim Wilkinson, MDE

Acceptance of Meeting Notes from the November 8th Meeting

- The meeting notes were accepted.

FY 2009-12 Transportation Improvement Program

- Ms. Dunigan provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Comparison of the FY 2008-11 TIP and the draft FY 2009-12 TIP; Draft FY 2009-12 TIP, New Castle County element; FY 2008-11 TIP vs. Draft FY 2009-12 TIP: Horizon Year Issues; Christina River Crossing Project (page 125 from the FY 2008-13 DelDOT CTP); Selected Notes: July 19, 2007 Joint TAC/AQS meeting*
- Ms. Dunigan said that staff has compared the current FY 2008-11 TIP and the draft FY 2009-12 TIP. Overall, most of the changes are minor--mostly shifting funding amounts year-to-year. Three new projects can be found (two bridges and one interstate maintenance project) but these are exempt from conformity.
- Ms. Dunigan reviewed a list of six total projects that staff has identified as possibility warranting inclusion or a change in their horizon year in the model. Projects include:

- **Christina River Crossing:** Construction funding identified
 - **Road A / SR 7:** Construction funding identified
 - **U.S. 301: MD Line to SR 71:** Construction funding identified
 - **SR 72: McCoy Road to SR 71:** Project scope changed
- Based on the available maps and data, the **Christina River Crossing** project was determined to be regionally significant. It connects U.S. 13 (an arterial) to the Wilmington Riverfront activity center and sports complex. Mr. Glaze said that this project has been modeled and it alleviates capacity. Mr. Simons and Mr. Wheeler felt that as a new model was being constructed, this project should be added. The AQS was in agreement.
 - Mr. Glaze said that there is still not sufficient definition to model the **Road A / SR 7** project. Ms. Zegeye replied that while that may be the case, PE and construction funding has been identified, forcing inclusion. Mr. Glaze will discuss this project with other DelDOT representatives to see if funding could be shifted to prevent its inclusion in the model.
 - The AQS was in agreement that at least three projects, **Christina River Crossing**, **U.S. 301: MD Line to SR 71**, and **SR 72: McCoy Road to SR 71**, do trigger a conformity determination and the model should be revised for their inclusion. The **Road A / SR 7** project's status will be updated within the week by DelDOT and may or may not be included. Until this project's status is determined, the model run will be on hold. (NOTE: It was subsequently agreed in the days following the AQS meeting to include the **Road A / SR 7** in the model as a new 2 lane roadway, in-service by 2020.)
 - The two other projects identified by staff, **SR 4: Elkton Road to SR 896** and **U.S. 301: Middleneck Road to Peterson Road**, were looked at as having a potential shift in horizon years. The AQS decided that instead of using the last year of identified construction funds being the opening year (the current method used by staff to determine a project's horizon year) that the year after the last of a project's construction funds are programmed will be the in-service year. Using this revised method, both projects will continue to be in-service by 2020.
 - Mr. Glaze also agreed to supply WILMAPCO with a list of projects that were included in the last model run for New Castle County.

Addressing Climate Change at WILMAPCO

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Summary of Selected Regional Climate Change Efforts; ENERGY STAR Challenge literature; "Green-TEA . . . a legacy for the planet?" (article from the Center for Clean Air Policy)*

- With the absence of federal greenhouse gas regulations, Mr. Swiatek asked the subcommittee for guidance on how best WILMAPCO can address climate change. He gave an overview of other regional efforts underway across the U.S.
- Mr. Swiatek noted that while WILMAPCO does not today explicitly identify any of its policies with helping to check climate change, many of its existing plans and policies do. These include WILMAPCO's advocacy to reduce VMT, promote walking/transit and transportation choice, and infill development.
- Ms. Zegeye noted that recently there was a two-day workshop at the DVRPC on greenhouse gas reduction. She thinks that partnering with DVRPC or BMC at a regional level would be wise. Ms. Brixen, who also attended this workshop, said the DVRPC felt MPOs could help look at greenhouse gas reduction at the local (city/town) level.
- Mr. Wheeler noted that DNREC is developing a greenhouse gas inventory. He felt any way WILMAPCO could work to reduce VMT and promote fuel efficiency would lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ms. Brixen said that Delaware is a participant state in RGGI, or the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI is a cooperative effort by states in our region to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. RGGI will be the first mandatory cap-and-trade program in the U.S. aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The effort will initially be aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions from power plants in participating states, while maintaining energy affordability and reliability.
- Mr. Simons said the State of Virginia has developed a draft greenhouse gas reduction plan. Maryland is forming a climate change commission, which boasts a number of elected officials.
- The AQS felt that WILMAPCO could use its website to raise awareness about climate change and how members of the public could help.

PRESENTATION: Delaware's Asthma Action Project

- Mr. Brunswick provided a presentation on the Delaware Asthma Action project.
- The presentation is available on the AQS homepage:
<http://www.wilmapco.org/aq/subcommittee.htm>

Other

- Mr. Wheeler said that there looks to be some problems surrounding the PM_{2.5} budget, to be submitted to the EPA in April 2008. He said that according to a

model run, PM2.5 emissions do not decrease to any great degree through 2030. In some cases, the results show PM2.5 emissions 11 tons/year higher than the budget. Mr. Wheeler stressed that these were draft numbers and the inputs need to be straightened out with DeIDOT. There will be a meeting of the Delaware's ITCCWG to discuss the issue further. Mr. Simons said that during the upcoming run, it would be wise if the projected emissions for PM2.5 pass both the 2002 inventory and the draft PM2.5 budget.

- Mr. Kotsch said that he expects the 2008 ozone budgets in place in early May.
- Mr. Swiatek invited members of the AQS to the WILMAPCO holiday party on December 20, following the TAC meeting.