# Appendix 9.18 

TERMs

## TERMs (Transportation Emission Reduction Measures)

Programs to achieve reductions in mobile source emission reductions have been characterized in numerous ways such as TCMs (Transportation Control Measures), TSM (transportation systems management), TDM (travel demand management) and others. TERMs are projects that are either TCMs or VMEPs (Voluntary Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Program).

The term TCM combines elements of (TSM) and transportation demand management (TDM). Broadly, TSMs are programs that seek to increase the efficiency of existing transportation facilities and would typically include measures such as parking management, traffic flow improvements, HOV lanes or park-and-ride lots. Frequently, TSM projects will assist TDMs, which seek to manage and reduce travel demand by increasing carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting, compressed work weeks and similar programs. There is much overlap between the two terms; clearly providing park and ride lots will help encourage carpooling, for example.

The term TCM refers to transportation control measures. Sixteen broad categories of TCMs are listed in section 108f of the Clean Air Act. Examples include programs for improved public transit; restriction of certain lanes for HOVs; traffic flow improvement programs, employer-based transportation management plans, and others. Broadly, TCMs are measures that reduce vehicle use or change traffic flow in ways that reduce emissions. Measures aimed at controlling the emission rates of vehicles, such as tailpipe standards, inspection and maintenance requirements, or clean fuel technologies are not considered TCMs.

The Texas Guide to Accepted Mobile Source Emission Reduction Strategies (TTI, 2003), more commonly known as MOSERs, suggests a new term to encompass TCMs and VMEPs: TERM. It makes a clear distinction between TCMs and VMEP, saying that TERMs encompass both.

H-GAC has been implementing a number of programs as VMEP for some time, such as the Clean Cities Program, Scrappage program and others. In 2004, more than 1,500 traffic signals were improved and optimized in Harris County. These programs have resulted in significantly reduced congestion and travel times. Traffic flow improvements, such as traffic signalization programs, are listed as TCMs in the Clean Air Act and are considered TERMs distinct from the VMEP program.

## Emission Reductions from the 2004 Traffic Signalization Program

The attached tables present a list of 1,540 traffic signalization projects in Harris County that were completed in 2004. The total emission reductions resulting from these projects vary by year. The emission reductions are a result of increased speeds and lowered congestion at the affected intersections and along the affected corridors.

The reductions were estimated by obtaining the average daily traffic volumes along the corridors affected by the improvements from the City of Houston. Lengths of the affected
corridors, links and intersections were estimated using GIS information maintained by H-GAC. Average daily volumes were multiplied by corridor lengths to obtain affected VMT. The volumes were assume to be the same for every year since these volumes are observed volumes, and there is no data upon which to base estimates of altered volumes that could result from changes in speed.

The MOSERs (TTI, 2003) methodology for traffic signalization improvements along corridors documented on page B.7.5 was applied to estimate emission reductions. However, the emission factors listed in MOSERs were substituted for more recently developed emission factors for Harris County using the MOBILE6 model. Factors representative of light-duty gasoline vehicles traveling on major arterials were used. Emission factors for other vehicle classes are higher and the use of light-duty vehicle factors alone lent conservatism to the analysis, since higher emission factors would lead to higher estimates of emission reductions. Please note, that if 2005 emission factors had been used for 2007, a higher emission reduction estimate of 0.448 and 0.356 instead of 0.379 and 0.327 would have gotten.

The MOSERs guide presented an example traffic signalization calculation on page A.11.6 that used emission factors for before speeds of 28 mph and after speeds of 33 mph . A review of some before-and-after speed studies of signalization projects performed for the City of Houston showed that speed improvements of 25-30 mph were somewhat typical. A speed improvement of $25-30 \mathrm{mph}$ is consistent with H-GAC's long-standing approach to estimating traffic signalization improvements and other field experience that a roughly 20 percent improvement in speed would be a typical effect of a signalization project. Therefore, emission factors representative of 25 and 30 mph were used to evaluate the emission reductions associated with these projects.

## Speed and Emission Factors

The reason emissions can change even when miles traveled does not is that emissions vary by the travel speed of the vehicle. The figure on the next page shows how emissions vary with differing travel speeds. It can be seen that VOC emissions per mile for light-duty vehicles decrease with higher speeds, although after 15-20 mph, the change is subtle. NOx emissions per mile decrease with increasing speeds until speeds at or above 50 mph . At higher speeds they increase, although the increase predicted by the MOBILE6 model is almost invisible. Since traffic signalization projects tend to increase speeds, they decrease emissions per mile traveled. Projects that increase highly congested speeds where vehicles are initially traveling $5-15 \mathrm{mph}$ and can subsequently travel at 20 or more miles per hour would experience dramatic decreases in emissions. For example, if all before-signalization speeds are 15 miles per hour and all after-signalization speeds are 20 mph , VOC emissions would decrease by 1.06 tons per day and NOx would decrease by 1.37 tons per day. However, based on available data and the desire to express reductions in conservative terms, more representative speed changes were considered.

Emission Factors by Travel Speed for Light Duty Vehicles


Speed Range

## References

TTI, 2003. The Texas Guide to Accepted Mobile Source Emission Reduction Strategies. Prepared by the Texas Transportation Institute in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation, and in association with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. August 2003.

2007 AD


| Arterial / Area | Project Description | Affected Traffic Signals | 24- Hr <br> Volumes | Lanes | Volume per lane | Length | $\begin{gathered} \text { VOC } \\ \text { Reduction } \\ \text { (tpd) } \end{gathered}$ | NOx Reduction (tpd) | Notes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N. Victory | COH-WA\#2 (KLOTZ) | 7 |  |  |  | 3.7 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| W. Little York |  | 10 |  |  |  | 3.9 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Galveston |  | 18 |  |  |  | 10.85 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Mykawa |  | 5 | 12,000 | 4 | 3,000 | 2.1 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |
| Hammerly |  | 14 | 22,000 | 4 | 5,500 | 5.8 | 0.005 | 0.005 |  |
| Kempwood |  | 19 |  |  |  | 9.25 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Studewood |  | 10 |  |  |  | 3.15 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Yale |  | 15 | 18,000 | 4 | 4,500 | 4.82 | 0.003 | 0.003 |  |
| Heights |  | 8 | 15,000 | 4 | 3,750 | 2.15 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |
| Irvington |  | 13 | 17,000 | 4 | 4,250 | 4.45 | 0.003 | 0.003 |  |
| Jensen |  | 13 | 12,000 | 4 | 3,000 | 6.5 | 0.003 | 0.003 |  |
| Lyons |  | 12 | 10,000 | 2 | 5,000 | 1.75 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |
| Elysian |  | 12 |  |  |  | 2 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Hirsch |  | 15 | 10,000 | 4 | 2,500 | 6.65 | 0.003 | 0.003 |  |
| Mesa |  | 6 |  |  |  | 2.8 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Wallisville |  | 8 |  |  |  | 4.55 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Hempstead |  | 18 |  |  |  | 8.5 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Will Clayton |  | 5 | 31,500 | 4 | 7,875 | 3.1 | 0.004 | 0.004 |  |
| W. Tidwell |  | 17 |  |  |  | 7.8 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  | 225 |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Bissonnet | COH-WA\#2 (BROWN \& GAY) | 9 | 35,000 | 4 | 8,750 | 4.15 | 0.006 | 0.006 |  |
| Westview |  | 5 |  |  |  | 4.25 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Beechnut |  | 9 | 34,500 | 4 | 8,625 | 10 | 0.014 | 0.013 |  |
| Beechnut 2 |  | 14 | 12,000 | 4 | 3,000 | ? | 0.000 | 0.000 | Not on map, so zero credit taken for conservatism. |
| Stella Link |  | 8 | 12,000 | 4 | 3,000 | 2 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |
| Memorial |  | 7 | 40,000 | 6 | 6,667 | 2.3 | 0.004 | 0.004 |  |
| Washington |  | 10 | 20,000 | 4 | 5,000 | 3.1 | 0.002 | 0.002 |  |
| S. Cullen |  | 12 | 21,000 | 4 | 5,250 | 4.55 | 0.004 | 0.004 |  |
| Scott |  | 22 | 18,000 | 6 | 3,000 | 6.95 | 0.005 | 0.005 |  |
| Fuqua |  | 5 | 10,000 | 4 | 2,500 | 1.45 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |
| W. Fuqua |  | 5 | 10,000 | 4 | 2,500 | 2.95 | 0.001 | 0.001 |  |
| Telephone |  | 22 | 27,000 | 6 | 4,500 | 7.6 | 0.008 | 0.008 |  |
| Griggs |  | 14 | 46,500 | 6 | 7,750 | 3.32 | 0.006 | 0.006 |  |
| MLK |  | 15 | 25,000 | 4 | 6,250 | 5.8 | 0.006 | 0.006 |  |
| Dowling |  | 19 |  |  |  | 3 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| S. Main |  | 21 |  |  |  | 13.25 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Clay |  | 10 |  |  |  | 4.8 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Clinton |  | 10 |  |  |  | 5.2 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| Market |  | 8 |  |  |  | 2.55 | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  | 225 |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  | 450 |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TMC | TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER (TMC) | 90 | na |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  | COH - Optimized Timing |  |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  | 90 |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
| (1UPTOWN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $50 \% \mathrm{COH}$ funded |  |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  | 50\% Uptown Management funded |  |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  | 35 |  |  |  |  | 0.000 | 0.000 |  |
|  |  | 1540 |  |  |  |  | 0.377 | 0.366 |  |






City of Houston
Bill White
Public Works and Engineering Department

Mayor
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March 18, 2005

Mr. Alan Clark
Director of Transportation
Houston-Galveston Area Council
P. O. Box 22777

Houston, Tx 77227
Dear Mr. Clark:
Enclosed is a list of traffic signal locations that have been retimed and coordinated by the City of Houston in 2004 as part of the City's comprehensive signal retiming program to improve mobility and air quality.

Please advise if you need additional information.
Sincerely,


Hugo A. Malang, P.E.
Deputy Director
Traffic and Transportation Division

HAM:mn
c: David Worley

City of Houston Traffic Signal Timing Optimization Plan
Begin January 2004 - Complete January 2005

| Color Code | Phase | Arterial / Area | Project Description | Affected Traffic Signals | Implementation Schedule | Stage* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | I-A | Downtown | Downtown - Install/Repair Interconnect Cable | 200 | May 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | I-B | Downtown | Downtown - East of Austin St. Install/Repair Interconnect Cable | 85 | May 1, 2004 | Complete |
| B | II-A | Midtown | Midtown - East/West Timing | 30 | January 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | II-B | Midtown | Midtown - Install/Repair Interconnect Cable | na | May 1, 2004 | Complete |
| Subtotal |  |  |  | 315 |  |  |
| Orange | III - A | Bellaire | COH - RCTSS Optimized Timing | 16 | February 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - B | Gulfton |  | 7 | March 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - C | Woodway |  | 11 | March 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - D | Hillcroft / Voss |  | 19 | April 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III-E | Fondren |  | 23 | April 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - F | Montgomery |  | 8 | May 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III-G | San Felipe |  | 12 | May 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III-H | Harrisburg |  | 13 | June 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - I | Fountainview / Renwick |  | 14 | June 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - J | S. Post Oak |  | 13 | July 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - K | Chimney Rock |  | 17 | July 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III-L | Crosstimbers |  | 20 | August 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | III - M | Westheimer |  | 27 | August 15, 2004 | Complete |
| Subtotal |  |  |  | 200 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green | IV-A | Richmond | Spur 527 Mitigation Area Timing |  | February 13, 2004 | Complete |
|  | IV-B | Westheimer |  |  | February 13, 2004 | Complete |
|  | IV-C | West Park |  |  | February 13, 2004 | Complete |
|  | IV - D | West Alabama |  |  | February 13, 2004 | Complete |
|  | IV-E | Bissonett |  |  | February 13, 2004 | Complete |
| Subtotal |  |  |  | 99 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Purple | V-A | N. Cullen | COH - CMAQ WA \# 2 (PBS\&J) | 6 | February 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | $V-B$ | Airport |  | 5 | March 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-C | McCarty / Beaumont |  | 7 | March 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V -D | Bissonnet / Braeswood |  | 31 | April 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-E | El Camino Real |  | 6 | April 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  |  |  |  | 55 |  |  |
|  | V-F | N. Shepherd | COH - CMAQ WA \# 2 (KLOTZ) | 15 | February 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-G | S. Shepherd |  | 14 | March 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | $\mathrm{V}-\mathrm{H}$ | Antoine |  | 9 | March 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-I | Ella |  | 5 | April 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-J | Longpoint |  | 12 | May 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-K | N. Gessner |  | 12 | May 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | V-L | Aldine-Bender |  | 2 | June 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | $\mathrm{V}-\mathrm{M}$ | Barryknoll |  | 2 | June 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  |  |  |  | 71 |  |  |
| Subtotal |  |  |  | 126 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Orange | VI | Barker Cypress | COH - RCTSS Optimized Timing | 2 | May 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Waugh / Commonwealth |  | 9 | June 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Shepherd / Durham |  | 17 | June 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Almeda |  | 7 | July 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Federal |  | 8 | July 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Wheeler |  | 8 | August 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Airline |  | 22 | August 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Bellfort |  | 36 | September 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | W. Gray |  | 9 | September 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Allen Pkwy |  | 4 | September 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Broadway |  | 18 | October 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Navigation |  | 11 | November 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Wayside |  | 18 | November 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | S. Gessner |  | 19 | December 1, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Lockwood |  | 29 | December 15, 2004 | Complete |
|  | VI | Almeda-Genoa |  | 8 | December 31, 2004 | Complete |
| Subtotal |  |  |  | 225 |  |  |

City of Houston Traffic Signal Timing Optimization Plan
Begin January 2004 - Complete January 2005


