

TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, April 16, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Fort Bend County – Perri D’Armond
METRO – David McMaster
TxDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
Air Alliance – Bakeyah Nelson
H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis
Port Houston – Ken Gathright
City of Friendswood – Morad Kabiri
Exxon Mobil – Sherman Hampton
West Houston Association – Auggie Campbell

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Adam Beckom

ALTERNATES PRESENT

TxDOT Houston – Brenda Bustillos
METRO – Edmund Petry
H-GAC – Sandra Holliday

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with action items; a series of information items were delivered; and the meeting concluded with no agency reports or member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

ITEM 1. Call to Order

Members introduced themselves.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 2A. Approval of Meeting Summary

Chairman Perri D’Armond entertained a motion to pass the TAQ Subcommittee Meeting Summary for (August 7, 2019 and October 2, 2019).

Meeting summaries were approved

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. CMAQ On Road Mobile Emissions Performance Measure: Biennial Performance

Report (Andrew DeCandis)

Andrew DeCandis gave the committee some background on the MPO’s that receive Congestive Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, they must work with the state department of transportation to develop performance measure targets for any CMAQ funded projects within their particular region. This applies to any region which violates one or more of the five NAAQS criteria pollutants. Since our region is in nonattainment for ozone, we are required to develop and submit a performance measure plan every four years for projects funded using CMAQ dollars. This is a process that all MPO’s have to go through. The purpose is to help MPO’s collaborate with each other and their state departments of transportation in order to set targets based on existing and planned projects, to document these efforts, and track emissions reduction progress.

The types of projects that are funded: projects managed by H-GAC and direct partners, travel demand management, commute outreach programs, regional vanpool, transit pilot projects, construction projects funded through transportation improvement program (TIP), bike and pedestrian projects, trails, intelligent transportation system, road projects that decrease congestion and improve air quality sidewalks and turning lanes. There are many projects that can be funded under this banner.

The initial emission reduction target performance plan was developed by H-GAC staff in 2019 in coordination with TXDOT and other nonattainment area MPO's in Dallas and El Paso. We used 2018 TIP estimates based on the existing projects in the TIP at the time to come up with a set of two- and four-year targets for the emission reduction as a result of anticipated CMAQ funded projects.

As part of this process, after you submit that initial performance measure report you are required to examine how successful you were at meeting your two-year targets as well as giving you the opportunity to revise your four-year targets if necessary.

For the baseline that was developed in 2018, we estimated for the first two years of TIP 2019 and 2020. CMAQ would reduce NOx emissions within the region by 1,419.426 kilograms per day and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) by 169.301 kilograms per day. Over the entire four-year period, we anticipated that NOx emission reductions would total to 1,883.294 kilograms of NOx per day by 2022 and 200.809 kilograms per day of VOCs by 2022.

At the beginning of the current year's reassessment, it was found that the emissions reduction target for projects implemented within the region fell short of these targets. Rather than the anticipated 1,419 kg/day regional projects totaled to 158 kg/day. Similarly, rather than totaling 169 kg/day, actual projects totaled 52 kg/day. These shortfalls occurred for several reasons, including projects letting outside of the analysis time period (either before or after) or due to project cancellations. This resulted in a not meeting the stated targets. Additionally, because of these reductions, it is unlikely that we will be able to meet our previously stated four-year. As a result, H-GAC staff anticipates requesting a revision to our four-year targets to revise them downward from 1,883 kg/day to 1,429 kg/day for NOx and from 200 kg/day to 131 kg/day for VOCs.

Staff discussed how to implement the next steps, we can discuss them here and take your responses back and discuss them and come back with responses or changes. We anticipate there will be additional presentation with TAC and TPC to try and develop a public involvement process with all other performance measures sometime in the month of August. Finally, to request approval of numbers with TPC, so we can meet our October 2020 deadline to submit our analysis and revise targets to TXDOT. Discussion ensued from the committee members, if this will be an ongoing process. Andrew notified the members; this will be an ongoing process. Every four years this will be done again. The process is to develop performance targets, two years later revise them, and develop an additional set of targets again in 2023 thru 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 4A. Agency Announcements

No announcements

ITEM 4B. Member Announcements

No announcements

Next Meeting: August 5, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:51pm