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## TWG Meeting Summary

March 06, 2025

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

### Follow-up Actions from THIS MEETING

- **Anna Fildes** will prepare a summary of this meeting.
- **Madhu Venugopal** to confirm the SIP 101 training available on the [TX AQ Portal](#) is current.
- **Venugopal** will work with **Tim Wood** and other interested members to develop a Regional and Project-level workgroup meeting.
- **Venugopal** will schedule a Conformity Modeling Inputs Workgroup starting with the registration data topic.
- **Fildes** will look into the option of recording the future Conformity Modeling Inputs Workgroup meeting.
- **Wood** to reach out to **Doug Booher** regarding ENV info/summary.

### Next Meeting

- TWG Advisory Meeting - Thursday, **April 10, 2025** (tentative)
- TWG Quarterly Meeting - Thursday, **June 12, 2025** (tentative)

### Participants

About 58 TWG participants attended via Microsoft TEAMS.

**Venugopal** led the meeting and began by welcoming attendees.

### Updates and Introductions

**Venugopal** stated prior action items were completed. Participants are requested to respond to the [TWG Input Survey](#) sent out on 2/27/25 as the feedback will help guide future quarterly meetings and training.

### Primary Discussion Item

**Hua Yang** (NCTCOG) presented on [MPO's perspective on How Induced Traffic is Handled in Travel Models](#).

**Jackie Nolasco** (NCTCOG) presented on [State Legislative Session Update](#) – what's been submitted that's relevant to the TWG.

**Venugopal** led discussions on:

- ENV streamlining process for HOTSPOTS (suggested by **Tim Wood**)
  - Regional and project-level workgroup needed. The following expressed

interest in participating: Barbara Maley (FHWA), Jeff Riley (EPA), Sarah Thomas (NCTCOG), Claudia Valles (EPMPO), Vivek Thimmavajhala (NCTCOG), and Andrew DeCandis (H-GAC). Tim Wood is interested in sitting in but would not chair the work group.

- Compare and Contrast Ozone Conformity and PM2.5 Conformity
- Updates on Pending Conformity Determinations (recurring)
  - **Barbara Maley** shared the following:
    - The EPMPO regional conformity is ongoing.
    - We are amid the sharing of comments/responses as well as follow-ups.
    - The AAMPO regional conformity is next in the queue.
    - The NCTCOG regional conformity pre-analysis consensus plan (PACP) meeting is slated towards the end of March.
    - As way of reminder, the FHWA-PPD-AQ Team consists of: Jose Campos and Barbara Maley.
    - Jose and Barbara cover conformities (regional, project-level) as well as Projects of Air Quality Concern (POAQC).
    - Also, as way of reminder, we suggest MPOs, etc. refresh themselves re. (past) guidance that may impact the timing of their regional conformities
    - e.g., metropolitan transportation plan (snippet below).

⦿ **§ 450.324 Development and content of the metropolitan transportation plan.**

- (a) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall include the development of a transportation plan addressing no less than a 20-year planning horizon as of the effective date. In formulating the transportation plan, the MPO shall consider factors described in § 450.306 as the factors relate to a minimum 20-year forecast period. In nonattainment and maintenance areas, the effective date of the transportation plan shall be the date of a conformity determination issued by the FHWA and the FTA. In attainment areas, the effective date of the transportation plan shall be its date of adoption by the MPO.

## Agency Information & Updates

### EPA, Jeff Riley

#### **Executive Order: Regulatory Freeze Pending Review**

On January 20th, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO) titled "Regulatory Freeze Pending Review" ([Executive Order](#)), and the memo was published in the Federal Register January 28th (FR). The EO is not exclusive to EPA, it affects all executive departments/agencies of the federal government, establishing a 60-day review period for regulatory activities. The EO instructs departments/agencies to not propose or issue any rule until the newly appointed head of the department/agency reviews and approves the rule. The EO also postpones the effective dates of rules already published in the Federal

Register as of January 20th and instructs departments/agencies to withdraw any rules submitted to the Office of the Federal Register for publication but not published as of January 20th.

The EO also contains language directing department/agencies to consider, where appropriate and consistent with applicable law, opening a comment period to allow interested parties to provide comments about issues of fact, law, and policy raised by the rules postponed under the EO, and to consider re-evaluating pending petitions involving such rules.

Issuance of this 60-day regulatory freeze pending review is consistent with past changes of administrations. For EPA, we anticipate more clarity on the agency's path forward for air quality rulemakings and related matters once the 60-day review period concludes and policy/regulatory briefings for new agency leadership are completed.

### **TCEQ, Sarah Thomas**

**Sarah Thomas** shared the following updates:

The following projects are currently scheduled for the commissioner's agenda on March 13, 2025.

- Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Moderate Area Attainment Demonstration (AD) State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)
- Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Moderate Area SIP Revision for the 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS
- DFW and HGB Moderate Areas Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) SIP Revision for the 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS
- Bexar County Moderate Area RFP SIP Revision for the 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS
- Bexar County Moderate Area AD SIP Revision for the 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS

**Janie Temple** encouraged participants to send any questions, general or specific about SIPs, to **Fildes** and we will work on getting answers or pointing you to existing training.

### **MPOs (For those in attendance) – Status & Updates**

**Travis Nedrich** – The AAMPO boundary adjustment was sent to the Office of the Governor this morning.

**Bob Dickinson** – Thanked TPP, especially Casey Wells and Phillip Tindall for their assistance. An amendment to our current TIP and 2050 MTP is in progress for funding increases and date changes (no additions to the documents).

**Casey Wells** shared via chat: In addition to Enyu joining a future TWG meeting, I'll share that all of these ongoing updates are shared through the TEMPO meetings, quarterly TxDOT TP&D meetings, and ongoing STIP stakeholder workshops.

**Claudia Valles** - El Paso MPO is working on the amendment for the RMS 2050. Continuing the TDM process and will have our new TDM scheduled for the summer. Finally, we will be presenting our new MTP in early 2026.

**Andrew DeCandis** – H-GAC is working on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant effort and an introductory zero emissions vehicle study.

**Vivek Thimmavajjala** – NCTCOG is working on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and work has started on the May 2025 TIP modification.

## **TxDOT TPP**

**Field representative updates: Raymond Sanchez (AAMPO), Phillip Tindall (El Paso), Shannon Hawkins (NCTCOG), Mansour Shiraz (Houston and Beaumont)**

**Raymond Sanchez** was unable to attend.

**Phillip Tindall** was unable to attend.

**Shannon Hawkins** was unable to attend.

**Mansour Shiraz** had no additional comments.

**Casey Wells** – The Systems Planning team is developing two Handbooks: MPO Planning and Programming and TIP/STIP.

TIP timeline to be aware of include: MPOs and Districts are currently addressing FHWA's comments from the November Revision. Moving forward, the next Revisions will follow our traditional schedule, with STIP Revisions in May, August, and November. TPP is rolling out a new timeline for 2027-30 TIP, which will begin with draft TIPs due in February 2026. Second draft will be due later in the spring. Final TIP will be due in May 2026.

## **FHWA, Planning and Program Development (PPD)**

**Barbara Maley** had the following updates:

- There have been FHWA-Texas Division, FTA-Region 6 staffing changes e.g.,
  - Mike Leary, FHWA-Texas Division (retired)
  - Lynn Hayes, FTA-Region 6 (retired)
- The November 18-20, 2025 PM Hot Spot Training is still on the FHWA training calendar.

## **TxDOT Updates**

**Janie Temple** - MPOs should look at the portal and share schedule updates with TTI. If

there's anything you'd like shared with the group, send it to **Fildes** with a Cc to **Laura Norton**. **Fildes** will ensure the information is distributed to the TWG listserv.

**Tim Wood** - PM Hot Spot Training is November 18-20, 2025 at TxDOT Stassney Campus.

## **TTI, Madhu Venugopal**

**Fildes** encouraged visitors to utilize the new feedback form if they have any suggestions or bugs to report on the portal site.

**Venugopal** shared a slide on the Texas DMV data. A separate DMV meeting will be held to showcase the registration progress. The following are interested in participating in the meeting: **Vivek Thimmavajjala, Barbara Maley, Heng Wang, Travis Nedrich, Claudia Valles, Andrew DeCandis, Qing Li, and Jose Campos**.

**Nancy Peron** asked if the DMV meeting would be recorded. **Temple** asked **Fildes** to look into this.

**Venugopal** shared that TTI is working on:

- Conformity Modeling Inputs – streamlining, future proofing, and consensus on activity and emissions inputs development.
- TDM QA Tool
- TX AQ Portal – MPO input & changes, cloud database, and MOSERS improvements

The portal was updated with the latest Pre-Analysis Consensus Template and the Conformity Documentation Template should be finalized and posted to the portal soon.

Finally, participants are encouraged to reach out to **Fildes** or **Venugopal** if they have something to present or share that would benefit TWG participants.

## **(Meeting Concluded)**