

**AIR QUALITY PRACTITIONERS' MEETING
NOVEMBER 17– 20, 2008
ALBANY, NEW YORK**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 2:00 - 5:00 pm **Registration**
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm **Welcome Reception**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- 7:00am - 5:00pm **Registration**
- 7:00 - 7:50am Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:30am **Opening Session**
- 8:30 – 10:15am **Climate Change – Setting the Stage and Accounting for
Greenhouse Gas Emissions at the Regional Level**

Overview:

This session will set the stage for accounting for greenhouse gas emissions, discuss what many States are doing to fight global warming, and how regional transportation planning efforts can establish a framework for reducing transportation's "carbon footprint".

- 10:15 - 10:30am Break
- 10:30 – Noon **Climate Change – Project Level Analyses and Emission
Reduction Strategies.**

Overview:

This session will discuss how some State Departments of Transportation are handling this issue in project level approvals and environmental analyses. It will provide an overview of potential strategies to reduce GHG emissions and the cost-effectiveness of such strategies.

- Noon – 1:00pm Lunch

1:00 – 3:00pm

Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs)

Overview:

This session will include a summary of the recent Health Effects Institute’s recent research report entitled, “Mobile-Source Air Toxics: A Critical Review of the Literature on Exposure and Health Effects”. It will also include a discussion of the FHWA guidance document and the NCHRP report for conducting MSAT analyzes at the project level, the lack of science to determine the health effects of various toxics concentration levels, and current State practices for incorporating highway and transit MSAT analyses into NEPA documents. It is also intended to provide some directions for future research and project-level analysis activities.

3:00 – 3:15pm

Break

3:15 – 5:00pm

MOVES Model

Overview:

This session will present an overview of the new emissions model, describe differences between the new model and MOBILE6.2 and present experiences of using the model to date. The session will be technical in nature.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00 - 7:50am

Breakfast

8:00 - 9:45am

Project Level Modeling Issues: PM/CO

Overview:

This session will present an overview of CO and PM modeling techniques, inputs, and issues. It will also include a discussion of mitigation strategies and best practices for reducing localized CO and PM concentration levels. FHWA will present the new Conformity Best Practices website that includes examples of PM10 and PM2.5 hotspot analysis.

9:45 - 10:00am

Break

10:00 – Noon

How Air Quality Connects with NEPA/NEPA Challenges

Overview:

This session will identify key areas where analysts may evaluate air quality and identify examples of trigger hot buttons in some states as a result of conformity requirements, input during public scoping, threat of lawsuits, level of environmental document (like an EIS), potential odors or dust, high percentages of diesel trucks, etc. The session will also discuss potential air quality study needs to address NEPA, the relationship with cumulative effects section of NEPA documents, quantitative vs. qualitative evaluations, and a legal overview of smoothly flowing controversial projects vs. projects gone awry.

Noon – 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00 – 3:00pm

CMAQ

Overview:

This session will lead off with FHWA presenting the Federal perspective of the CMAQ Program. It will then transition to the State's perspective and include an overview of how States focus project selections so the most effective/cost-beneficial CMAQ projects that address PM 2.5 and ozone are selected, how the DOTs involve the State Air Agencies and how/if these projects indirectly/directly address climate change. It will provide a discussion of how/if State DOT's CMAQ funding priorities have been altered/impacted due to budgets being strained/limited/reduced at the Federal and local levels. The last part of this session will allow participants to discuss how States have developed consistent emissions measurement requirements and what the State DOT's role is in the CMAQ Process.

3:00 – 3:15pm

Break

3:15 – 5:00pm

Conformity

Overview:

This session will cover various conformity related topics including latest rulemaking and guidance activities; conformity requirements under the revised PM2.5 daily and 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); experience of implementing the conformity changes in SAFETEA-LU; an update on the hotspot

categorical finding in CO; transition from MOBILE6 to MOVES; and the upcoming reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:00 - 7:50am Breakfast

8:00 - 9:45am **State DOT Practices**

Overview:

This session will give States the opportunity to share examples of how they are addressing some of the challenges air quality compliance poses from increasingly sophisticated outside agencies, interest groups and citizens. With the lack of formal NAAQS standards for a large number of pollutants, States are often left to responding to comments on a wide variety of air quality matters with little to no legal footing. The goal of this session is to help share innovative strategies States have developed to tackle some of these difficult issues.

9:45 - 10:00am Break

10:00 – Noon **State DOT Roundtable (State DOTs' Only Session)**

Overview:

This session will be for State DOT Practitioner's only. The session will be an open discussion format and will permit participants to exchange information on experiences, State practices, controversial issues, mitigation strategies, etc. It will also provide participants the opportunity to further discuss the issues raised during the meeting and to develop suggested Action Items, Next Steps and possible Research needs that would assist them in their future work activities. The information from this session will be sent to AASHTO's Air Quality, Climate Change, and Energy Subcommittee for consideration and follow-up.

Noon – 12:30pm **Closing – Adjourn Practitioner's Meeting**