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# Air Quality and Sustainable Transportation Highlights

Prepared by the Office of Natural Environment  
Federal Highway Administration



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

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## Announcements and Recent Events

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### U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Availability of \$60 Million for Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Grants

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for States, cities, and other agencies to compete for \$60 million in Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program (ATCMTD) grants to fund new technologies that improve transportation efficiency.

In this fourth round of ATCMTD grants, FHWA is interested in projects that bring data together from different systems, such as integrated corridor management, real-time traveler information, traffic data collection and dissemination, and other multi-modal intelligent transportation system technologies. The program has so far provided \$163 million to 28 projects in 19 States.

State departments of transportation (DOTs), local governments, transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and other eligible entities are invited to apply under the program. The full NOFO is available [here](#), and more information on the program is available [here](#).

### FHWA Releases New Tools for the CMAQ Emissions Modeling Toolkit

The *Traffic Flow Improvement* and *Advanced Diesel Technologies Tools* were updated. FHWA is working to extend the Project Evaluation Years to 2030, as some of the earliest tools Project Evaluation Years are currently end at 2020. We expect this update of the Project Evaluation Year to be completed for the remaining tools by the end of the calendar year. The toolkit is accessible [here](#).

### US Department of Energy: Advancing Affordable, Domestic Transportation Fuels and Technologies across the Country

The US Department of Energy published [a recent report](#) highlighting how a coordinated group of nearly coalitions work in communities across the country to help local decision makers and fleets understand and implement alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, new mobility choices, and emerging transportation technologies. The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE)

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Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy facilitates national coordination of the coalitions through its Technology Integration Program.

At the national level, VTO's Technology Integration Program offers technical assistance, information resources, online training, and an array of data and analysis tools. At the local level, coalitions leverage these resources to create networks of community stakeholders and provide hands-on technical assistance to fleets. After a quarter century, coalitions have garnered the respect and trust of fleets and industry alike by providing objective data and real-world lessons learned to smooth the transition to alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies. More information about the program is available via the Department of Energy [here](#).

### **TRB Publishes New Report on Truck Activity Data for Emissions Modeling**

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) [Research Report 909: Guide to Truck Activity Data for Emissions Modeling](#) explores methods, procedures, and data sets needed to capture commercial vehicle activity, vehicle characteristics, and operations to assist in estimating and forecasting emissions from goods and services movement.

Recent growth in freight traffic is contributing to urban congestion, resulting in hours of delay, increased shipping costs, wasted fuel, and greater emissions of pollutants. The limited national data on urban goods movement are insufficient for a thorough understanding of the characteristics of the trucks operating in metropolitan areas and the complex logistical chains that they serve. NCHRP Research Report 909 enumerates various sources of truck data and how they can be obtained and used to support emissions modeling.

In addition, the report includes a number of additional resources, including [NCHRP Web-Only Document 210: Input Guidelines for Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator Model](#) (guidance on developing local inputs to the MOVES mode); [NCHRP Web-Only Document 261](#), which contains seven case studies that serve as the basis for much of the research report; and three MS Excel files that contain data from the case studies.

## **Meetings, Conferences, and Workshops**

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### **Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit (STAQS), August 20-21, 2019**

The FHWA Resource Center and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 4 and 6 have announced registration for the Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit (STAQS 2019). This year, STAQS is being sponsored by the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency (KIPDA) and will be held on August 20-21, at the Muhammad Ali Center in downtown Louisville, KY.

While the STAQS 2019 Summit registration is now open. Please visit [the STAQS website](#) for additional information and the latest updates.

### **TxDOT Environmental Conference and TRB's Environmental Analysis in Transportation (ADC10) Committee Meeting, September 10-12, 2019**

The TxDOT Environmental and TRB Environmental Analysis Committee invite you to attend and participate in the TxDOT 2019 Environmental Conference, in Austin, Texas. This year's conference will consist of a half day general session, and two and a half days of breakout sessions designed to assist you in navigating the environmental process for transportation projects. Please visit the [registration site](#) for more information.

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## **US EPA Conference on Air Quality Models, October 2-3, 2019**

Please save the dates for the 12th Conference on Air Quality Models, to be held October 2-3, 2019, on the EPA Campus in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. A Federal Register notice will be available with more conference information by August. For more information, see the EPA's Support Center for Regulatory Atmospheric Modeling (SCRAM) [website](#).

## **FHWA, AASHTO and TRB Conference on Transportation System Resilience, November 13-15, 2019**

FHWA, AASHTO and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) are sponsoring the [2nd International Conference on Transportation System Resilience to Natural Hazards and Extreme Weather](#) from November 13-15, 2019, at the National Academies Building in Washington, DC. The conference is designed to provide transportation agencies with information, research results, and example practices to assist in their ability to anticipate and adapt to the potential impacts of extreme weather events. Registration is now available. See the [conference website](#) or contact Heather Holsinger at [Heather.Holsinger@dot.gov](mailto:Heather.Holsinger@dot.gov) for more information.

## **TRB Conference on Health and Active Transportation, December 11-12, 2019**

TRB is sponsoring the [Conference on Health and Active Transportation](#) on December 11-12, 2019 in Washington, DC. This conference will explore opportunities in quantifying the health effects of transportation policies, infrastructure, and travel behavior. It also intends to raise awareness of opportunities to integrate health and health equity into transportation planning across all levels (including planning for active transportation). Contact Bernardo Kleiner at [BKleiner@nas.edu](mailto:BKleiner@nas.edu) or Gary Jenkins at [GJenkins@nas.edu](mailto:GJenkins@nas.edu) for more information.

## **Training Opportunities**

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### **Introduction to Transportation Conformity: In-Person Trainings**

The National Transit Institute (NTI) is offering in-person training opportunities covering its "Introduction to Transportation Conformity" course. This 2.5 day course will present basic information about conformity requirements and the relationship of the transportation and air quality planning processes in order to prepare agency staff (federal, state and local) to participate in interagency consultation and work effectively in resolving conformity issues. For more information, please visit [the NTI registration website](#).

### **FHWA Resource Center Training Activities**

FHWA's Resource Center Air Quality Technical Services Team is available to offer MOVES and other trainings. More information about Resource Center training opportunities is available at the [Resource Center website](#).

### **Project Level Training for Quantitative PM Hot-Spot Analyses**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a three-day training course on completing quantitative PM hot-spot analyses according to EPA's "[Transportation Conformity Guidance for Quantitative Hot-spot Analyses in PM2.5 and PM10 Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas](#)" (PM Hot-spot Guidance). This course is geared towards state and local agency staff who will be completing these analyses, as well as those who may be reviewing, approving, or otherwise assessing hot-spot

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analyses. Previous modeling experience is not necessary, although familiarity with MOVES and air quality dispersion modeling may be helpful. There is no registration fee for this course. Details are available on [the EPA website](#).

### **Additional Web-Based Transportation Conformity Training**

As a reminder, several web-based transportation conformity training opportunities are available on-demand from [FHWA's conformity training website](#) (under "Web-based Training"). These training opportunities range in level of detail from a short 27-minute video providing a high-level basic overview of transportation conformity to a detailed set of 32 self-directed training modules. Recordings of two webinars were added recently: basic transportation conformity overview (June 12, 2018, 70 minutes) and basic MOVES emissions model training (June 18, 2018, 42 minutes).

The target audience for these training materials are FHWA staff and State and local transportation partners (MPOs and State DOTs) who are either new to or would like a refresher training on the conformity process. For questions, please contact David Kall, at [david.kall@dot.gov](mailto:david.kall@dot.gov), or 202-366-6276.

### **CMAQ 101 Training**

The FHWA posted a 27-minute YouTube video on the CMAQ program. The video provides a basic introduction to the program, how CMAQ funds are distributed to states, and the types of projects eligible for the CMAQ program. The training is available via the [FHWA's YouTube channel](#). For more information about the CMAQ program, please contact Mark Glaze at [mark.glaze@dot.gov](mailto:mark.glaze@dot.gov) or (202) 366-4053.

### **FHWA NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects**

The FHWA Resource Center Planning and Air Quality team will be conducting a series of training sessions on NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects. The training includes sessions on project-level applications appropriate for managers and practitioners, as well as hands-on sessions intended for modelers. Please note this is not a general MOVES training course, but is focused on project-level applications. It is not intended to address regional applications, such as SIP emissions inventories or regional (plan and TIP) conformity analyses. If you are interested in this training, please contact Michael Claggett at [michael.claggett@dot.gov](mailto:michael.claggett@dot.gov).

### **MySQL Training for MOVES Model Users**

Two MySQL training opportunities are available for MOVES model users. A three-hour webinar provides an introduction to MySQL Query Browser and MOVES interface. A six-hour training over two days will enable users to do MySQL programming and to write their own MySQL scripts and to manipulate MySQL databases including MOVES input and outputs. For more information or to schedule training, please contact Michael Claggett at [michael.claggett@dot.gov](mailto:michael.claggett@dot.gov).

### **Air Quality Planning Web Course Available at No Cost**

The National Highway Institute (NHI) Air Quality Planning web-based training series is designed for transportation practitioners. It includes four modules: Clean Air Act Overview (FHWA-NHI-142068), State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Transportation Control Measure (TCM) Requirements and Policies (FHWA-NHI-142069), SIP Development Process (FHWA-NHI-142070), and Transportation Conformity (FHWA-NHI-142071). All courses are free. For more information, visit the [NHI website](#) and search "Air Quality Planning," or look for the specific course number. Please contact Karen Perritt at (202) 366-9066, or [Karen.Perritt@dot.gov](mailto:Karen.Perritt@dot.gov) with any questions or comments.

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## Reminders

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- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Emission Reductions Calculator.** The FHWA is continuing to develop a series of tools to provide technical support for the implementation of the CMAQ Program. This CMAQ Emission Reductions Calculator is offered as an additional resource to assist DOTs, MPOs, and project sponsors in the project justification process. All modules are available on the FHWA [CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit](#) webpage. For more information, please contact Mark Glaze ([Mark.Glaze@dot.gov](mailto:Mark.Glaze@dot.gov) or 202-366-4053).
- **Computation Procedures for Non-SOV and Total Emissions Reduction Performance Measures.** FHWA has released two public documents, [FHWA Computation Procedure for Travel Time Based and Percent Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle \(non-SOV\) Travel Performance Measures \(May 2018\)](#), and [Computation Guidance for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement \(CMAQ\) Program Total Emissions Reduction Measure](#) to provide transparency in its calculations and to give State DOTs a frame of reference when establishing their targets through the FHWA Performance Management Form (PMF). A companion to the total emissions reduction document is also a [new reporting tool](#) in the CMAQ Public Access System.
- **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Designations for 2015 Ozone NAAQS.** Initial transportation conformity determinations for the 2015 ozone NAAQS are due one year from the effective date of the nonattainment designations, which is August 3, 2019 for most areas (see final rule [here](#)) and September 24, 2019 for the San Antonio, TX area (see final rule [here](#)). EPA released updated [Transportation Conformity Guidance for 2015 Ozone NAAQS Nonattainment Areas and updated the Green Book for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS](#).
- **2018 Alternative Fuel Corridor Designations.** The FHWA Office of Planning, Environment and Realty, recently completed the third round of designations for the Alternative Fuels Corridor program, as required by the FAST Act. The new designations and updated corridor maps have been posted on the [FHWA Alternative Fuels Corridor webpage](#).
- **NCHRP Guidebook for Communications between Transportation and Public Health Communities.** The goal of the final Guidebook, entitled [Connecting Transportation and Health: A Guide to Communication and Collaboration](#) and produced under [NCHRP 25-25 Task 105](#), is to provide an accessible, practitioner-ready communications guidebook and set of tools and resources that help public sector transportation professionals achieve successful policy, planning, and project outcomes in collaboration with health stakeholders. The final guidebook is available for download [here](#).
- **TRB E-Circular on Arterial Roadways Research Needs and Concerns.** TRB's E-Circular 239: [Arterial Roadways Research Needs and Concerns: Informing the Planning, Design, and Operation of Arterial Roadways Considering Public Health](#) explores the planning, design, and operation of arterials considering public health. The report by the TRB Task Force on Arterials and Public Health report presents a series of descriptive case examples where arterials and

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health concerns appear in practice and identifies how and where health could be included in TRB's arterial-related research.

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## Contacts

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Past issues of the *Air Quality and Sustainability Highlights* are available on FHWA's website: [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/conformity/highlights/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/highlights/) or <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/newsletter/>.

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