

January/February 2021

Air Quality and Sustainable Transportation Highlights

*Prepared by the Office of Natural Environment
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*



U.S. Department of Transportation
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Announcements and Recent Events

EPA's MOtor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES3) Now Official Model

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) official release of MOVES3 was published in a [Federal Register Notice and on EPA's transportation conformity website](#), replacing the MOVES2014 series of models as EPA's latest model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment. The MOVES3 two-year conformity grace period started on January 7, 2021 and ends on January 9, 2023. MOVES3 will need to be used as the latest EPA emissions model in both regional emissions analyses and in hot-spot analyses that start after the end of the grace period for transportation conformity purposes outside of California. The [MOVES web page](#) is the source for MOVES3 software as well as MOVES Policy Guidance, MOVES Technical Guidance, and information on MOVES training.

FHWA Requests Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Annual Reports

FY 2020 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program annual reports were due by **March 1, 2021**. These reports should reflect all projects for which CMAQ funds were obligated in Federal FY 2020 and be submitted through the CMAQ Project Tracking System (PTS). Resources including the CMAQ Tracking System User's Guide, webinars, and a presentation on a detailed project listing report (DPLR) are available on the [CMAQ Annual Reporting webpage](#). For additional information on the CMAQ annual reporting process, visit the Help feature in the CMAQ PTS.

FHWA Updates Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) Emission Reductions Calculator Toolkit

The Federal Highway Administration (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 departments of transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations

(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 or 202-366-4053).

Most recently, the *Managed Lane Facilities and Conversions* tool was updated, and FHWA hosted a webinar to demonstrate the *Alternative Fuels and Vehicles* and the *Dust Mitigation* tools. Recordings of these and other training webinars are available via the [CMAQ toolkit website](#).

Meetings, Conferences, and Workshops

Recording of TRB Workshop on FHWA's Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Projects

On January 22, 2021, representatives from [Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Projects](#) presented on the findings and lessons learned from their studies in Workshop 1046 at the [TRB Annual Meeting](#). The workshop covered eleven projects which addressed one or more of three areas related to deploying resilience solutions: integrating resilience and durability into agency practices; using available tools and resources to assess the vulnerability and risk of transportation projects or systems; and deploying a resilience solution and monitoring performance. A recording of this workshop is available on the [TRB Annual Meeting website until March 18, 2021](#).

TRB 2021 Annual Meeting Air Quality Meetings Summary

The air quality committee meetings at the [TRB 2021 Annual Meeting](#) included a focus on electrification (vehicles and roadways), the air quality and health co-benefits of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions in surface transportation, and changes in local air quality during COVID-19. State DOTs discussed tools and methods for analyzing GHG emissions and the degree to which performance targets at the State and local level may influence climate emissions. Targets aimed at reducing GHG emissions have been shown to produce near-term benefits on local air quality, particularly PM and ozone. Several presentations emphasized this link between climate change mitigation and human health and the importance of including health impacts in future climate policies. A presentation on plug-in electric vehicle purchase incentives highlighted the impacts of incentives on energy savings and PM emissions reductions, as well as issues around equity and ensuring programs are accessible to low-income and minority communities. Alternative fuel corridors were also highlighted from the perspectives of local air quality, climate, and equitable access in underserved populations. There was also discussion around what data are needed to better incorporate climate considerations in transportation planning. For example, it was noted that the degree to which mode shift influences vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction and emissions is still largely unknown. Improved data related to induced travel demand and research into effective VMT reduction measures (e.g., VMT banking) are needed. For more information on TRB events, visit the [TRB 2021 Annual Meeting website](#).

American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) CMAQ Task Force

The AASHTO CMAQ Task Force is holding monthly teleconferences, open to all AASHTO members. The task force is a forum for communications, guidance, and resources focused on the CMAQ program, providing recommendations and support to State DOTs. The CMAQ task force meetings are a venue to engage fellow AASHTO members, and FHWA provides regular updates at each monthly meeting. For further information,

please contact the AASHTO Committee on Planning (committeeonplanning@ashto.org) or visit [the task force website](#).

Training Opportunities

FHWA Presentation on Detailed Project Listing Report (DPLR)

FHWA demonstrates how to use the DPLR to quality check CMAQ projects entered in the CMAQ Project Tracking System for CMAQ annual reporting purposes. [A video, script, and slides for the DPLR presentation are available on the Annual Reporting website](#).

FHWA Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team Training Activities

[FHWA's Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team](#) is available to offer MOVES and other trainings. Please contact Mike Claggett, at Michael.Claggett@dot.gov, for additional information or to discuss scheduling a training.

Additional Web-Based Transportation Conformity Training

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 are available: 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, or 202-366-6276.

CMAQ 101 Training

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 [FHWA's YouTube channel](#). For more information about the CMAQ program, please contact Mark Glaze at mark.glaze@dot.gov or (202) 366-4053.

FHWA NEPA Air Quality Analysis for Highway Projects

The FHWA Resource Center Environment, Air Quality & Realty Team periodically conducts a series of training sessions on National Environmental Policy Act (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 State Implementation Plan (SIP) emissions inventories or regional (plan and transportation improvement plan) conformity analyses. If you are interested in this training, please contact Michael Claggett at michael.claggett@dot.gov.

FHWA Web-Based Noise Training

FHWA has created a Traffic Noise Model (TNM) Playlist on its YouTube Channel and 4 new videos were added in December. These videos demonstrate how to install TNM, set up a project, and begin to conduct basic tasks in the software. The newly released videos cover how to input barriers, the barrier analysis tool, parallel barriers, and the input heights report. More videos will be posted throughout the year and each will be a short-format demonstration of 1 or 2 specific topics relating to using TNM. To access the playlist please visit [the TNM Training page](#). For technical assistance with TNM please contact TNMHelp@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), 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 with any questions or comments.

Reminders

- **FHWA Released Research Project Report on “Evaluation of Methods for Modeling Vehicle Activity at Signalized Intersections for Air Quality Hot-Spot Analyses”**. This report summarizes an evaluation undertaken to compare methods of representing vehicle activity at signalized intersections for use in project scale air quality analysis to advance the state of the practice for emissions and dispersion analysis at signalized intersections and improve the accuracy of pollutant concentration estimates. This final report includes information on data inputs, modeling, method comparison, results, and recommendations based on two intersections of Next Generation Simulation data in Los Angeles, CA, and covers both phases 1 and 2 of the subject project. The target audience is transportation agency technical staff undertaking project-level air quality analyses. The final report [will be posted soon](#), and a [factsheet](#) is available to download. For more information, please contact David Kall (David.Kall@dot.gov or 202-366-6276).
- **CDC Foundation Published Videos on the Health Impact in Five Years (HI-5) Initiative and Public Transportation Action Guide for Public Health Care Professionals**. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) Foundation published three videos and a [Public Transportation Action Guide](#) for public health care professionals to support the CDC’s HI-5 initiative to improve population health and health equity, expansion of public transportation systems intervention. The videos are posted in the Learn More: Public Transportation area on the right side of the [CDC Foundation website](#) and the [Public Transportation Action Guide](#) is linked under the Public Transportation Systems heading.

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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/ or

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sustainability/newsletter/>.

Please e-mail Victoria.Martinez@dot.gov with any suggestions for future issues.