

ITEM 12 - Information
September 21, 2005

Status Report on the Fine Particles (PM2.5) Conformity Analysis for
the 2005 CLRP and FY 2006-2011 TIP

Staff

Recommendation: Receive briefing on progress to date on the PM2.5 air quality conformity assessment for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP.

Issues: None

Background: At the July 20 meeting, the Board approved the scope of work for conducting the PM2.5 conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and FY 2006-2011 TIP.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

September 14, 2005

To: Transportation Planning Board

From: Michael J. Clifford
Systems Planning Applications Director

Subject: Status Report on Fine Particles (PM_{2.5}) Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the 2005 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

At its July 20, 2005 meeting the TPB approved the scope of work for conducting the PM_{2.5} conformity analysis of the CLRP and TIP. In August EPA released "Guidance for Creating Annual On-Road Mobile Source Emission Inventories for PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Areas for Use in SIPs and Conformity". This 'question and answer format' document provides a nationwide, overall context and technical approach for the analysis of PM_{2.5}. There are many newly designated nonattainment areas throughout the U.S. with little or no experience in the development of PM_{2.5} inventories, which involve yearly totals, not daily emissions.

While the EPA guidance affirms the work activities approved by the TPB in July, it recognizes that various levels of detail may be considered in developing the input data needed to produce inventories which properly reflect local conditions. It emphasizes the role of interagency consultation in determining such detail. Accordingly, TPB staff has been discussing with air management staff the appropriate specification throughout the year of environmental inputs such as temperature and humidity, and fuel characteristics such as gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure, and diesel and gas sulfur content.

COG Department of Environmental Programs staff is currently preparing a summary of these various inputs for review as recommended inputs to the conformity analysis. A decision is expected in the next week or so, which will enable TPB staff to proceed with the emissions analysis. The schedule for completion of the work activities and preparation of a draft report will slip to October (or November, if inputs take longer to finalize). Staff will provide additional discussion at the September 21st TPB meeting.