

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting
Alamo Area Council of Governments
8626 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas
Wednesday, June 12, 2002, 10:00 a.m.**

Executive Members Present

Chair Patrick Heath; Mayor, City of Boerne
Vice-Chair Jay Millikin, Commiss. Comal Co.
Walter Ague for Councilwoman Bonnie
Conner
Kathy Contreras for Mayor Stauzenberger
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson Co.
Mayor Raymond Ramirez, City of Floresville

Guests Present

Mike Magee, TNRCC
Edmond Ortiz, Prime Time Newspaper
Chris Anderson, Express News
Jeremy Cooper, Amazing Grace Garage
Renee Green, Bexar Co.
Susan Stuver, COSA

Advisory Members Present

Rebecca Gray, American Lung Asso.
Commissioner John Kight, Kendall Co.
Chris Treutler, USAA
Bill England, Neighborhood Asso.
David Splitek, Lackland ISD
Ken Bercaw, New Braunfels C of C
Mathew Warren, COSA , District Nine
Gene Uptain, Greater Bexar Co. CC
Julie Klumpyan, Valero
John Kelley, TXDOT
Lance Freeman for David Frost, VIA
Dean Word, Word Construction Co.

Staff Present

Al Notzon, Exec. Dir.
Dean Danos, Deputy Dir.
Peter Bella
Steven Smeltzer
Chris Langston
Dorothy Birch
Berti Vaughan

I. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Dean Danos. Subsequently, Mayor Heath called the meeting to order.

II. Citizens to be Heard

Mayor Heath asked if there were any citizens who needed to be heard on any subject germane to the meeting. Jeremy Cooper representing the Amazing Grace Garage organization asked to speak. Mr. Cooper shared concerns over the bleak condition of the air in Houston and Dallas. He reported on problems with the OBD-II system testing and the inconsistency of guidelines on fixing cars. He pointed out that San Antonio was doing a much better job of speaking up on solving their air problems. Mayor Heath thanked him for his comments.

III. Minutes

Mayor Heath asked the committee to review the minutes. He pointed to some minor errors. Lance Freeman moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Walter Ague seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report

Peter Bella presented the committee with an update on particulate matter readings. He pointed to the fourth highest values being below the 85 ppb threshold and that the highest values are also below that threshold. He reported there had been two air quality health alerts this season. One on June first and the other on June seventh; 68 ppb at Marshall High School on June first and 70 ppb at Marshall High School on June seventh. The area remains in attainment on ozone and particulate matter readings.

The probability of exceeding the fourth highest readings was discussed. Several comments were made on the fact that the area had two prior years of good weather. If the fourth highest at Marshall High School is 100 ppb this season, that monitor will be in violation of the standard. Mayor Heath commented that the meteorological luck the area had experienced the past two years was not going to last. Ms. Green also added that 80 percent of prior exceedances occurred in August and September. Mr. Ague expressed his concern over the readings at Camp Bullis where construction/development was taking place in the surrounding area.

Discussion was held on reading differences while school was in or out of session. The movement of traffic during pickup and drop off of students was discussed as a major problem. Lance Freeman asked that perhaps a report by the Technical committee could be coordinated with the school districts on improving traffic flow. Rene Green explained that although this was an important initiative, during the next few months the technical committee would be extremely busy with the Early Compact Agreement. Dr. Splitek explained that as new schools were built (Northeast and Northside are in the business of building new schools), they do take into account traffic flow and it is evident in the new buildings. The big problem was that many of the schools in the SAISD were built long before automobiles were considered the way to bring children to school. Schools built before World War II were usually bound by land locked parameters that did not allow good traffic flow while dropping and picking up students. He felt that discussion with school district officials where new schools being built was more productive but not a particularly easy problem to solve. Mr. Kelly informed the committee of a program in Dallas called "Precious Cargo" which the San Antonio TxDOT picked up on and has made available for school districts. TxDOT provides assistance to schools on traffic design and circulation logistics when looking for new suitable sites to build schools. Mayor Heath asked Peter Bella to work with Dr. Splitek, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Freeman to see how this program might be a set piece as an initiative without spending too much time on the effort.

V. AIR Public Education Committee Report

A. Air Quality Media Relations Update

Dorothy Birch reported on the meeting with Express-News Editorial Staff which included Robert Rivard Editor, Carolina Garcia Managing Editor and Halley Paul Assistant Managing Editor for Graphics and Design on May 14th. The AIRCO Committee was represented by Mayor Heath, Commissioner Millikin, Judge Nelson Wolff and Councilwoman Bonnie Conner. Mr. Notzon and Ms. Birch were also in attendance. The main discussion was use of the Air Quality Health Alert Logo and the Air Quality Index. During the meeting, the Express-News staff indicated that they are in the process of redesigning their weather page and that they would take the examples of the weather pages of the Austin American Statesman, the Houston Chronicle, and the Dallas Morning News into consideration in redesigning their weather page. Mr. Rivard also suggested that an opinion editorial piece be submitted by either Councilwoman's Conner's office or Judge Wolff's office. She pointed out a piece submitted by Councilwoman's Conner's office, which was printed by the

Express-News. She also reported on several other information pieces included in their packets, which had been written and published by the Express-News about air quality issues. She thanked Chris Anderson for writing his article dated May 19th. She pointed out that most recently she had been informed by the Express-News that they had incorporated the Air Quality Health Alert logo into their notice of the Metro masthead and would appear from now on. In addition the Air Quality Index would also be featured every day beginning at the end of the month by the Express-News.

Mr. Uptain asked if the use of "San Antonio" residents be extended to include all of the regional residents. Ms. Birch responded she would present the recommended change to the Express-News.

B. Air Quality Out-Reach Efforts

Ms. Birch summarized all the outreach efforts and activities provided by AACOG the first six months of the 2002. These included: three television appearances, eight radio interviews, eight newspaper articles, five meetings with news directors or editors, five different school presentations, hosted or participated in fifteen public education events.

C. Air Quality Health Alert Report

Ms. Birch reiterated the report that Peter previously submitted.

D. Remote Sensing Emissions Check Up Results Report

Ms. Birch provided the results on the SMART sign emission checkups. The Smart sign was contracted from the University of Denver courtesy of sponsorships from USAA, TxDOT, AACOG, and TNRCC, who made free emission tests possible.

E. Summer Projects

Ms. Birch reported on the Car Care Event scheduled for July 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. located at Car Pro San Antonio located on San Pedro. The event includes free emission testing (Two-Speed Idle) donated by Official Inspection Stations, free consultation with mechanics from Car Pro, and free food and drink from HEB. Free fuel vapor enhancement devices will be available to the first 25 participants. Other summer projects being planned are: development of an air quality information booklet, development of the Air Quality Essay and Drawing Contest and the School Pool program promotion.

Mr. Treutler expressed concern over the fuel vapor enhancement devices. He asked that caution be used in the advocating for devices that were not tested. Mayor Heath asked that AACOG staff and the technical committee consult over the phone on the need to provide a disclaimer to the device.

Commissioner Millikin welcomed the presence of Commissioner Weldon Cude from Atascosa County. He thanked Mr. Cude for his interest in the issues and for attending the meeting.

VI. The Early Action Compaq Draft

a. Letter of Invitation to Atascosa, Bandera, Medina, and Kendall Counties

Mr. Bella pointed to the possibility that the US Census Bureau might redraw metropolitan statistical area boundaries throughout the nation following analysis of the 2000 census report. According to¹ federal guidelines, if (a) at least 25 percent of the employed residents

¹ Pg. 82236, "Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas," Federal Register Notices, Vol.65, No.249, Dec. 27, 2000. Online: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/metroareas122700.pdf>

of the county work in the central county or counties of the MSA; or (b) at least 25 percent of the employment in the county is accounted for by workers who reside in the central county or counties of the MSA. this is grounds for a county's inclusion in the MSA and the redrawing of boundaries. Consequently, Atascosa, Medina, Kendall and Bandera counties were invited through a letter indicating that they could be included in the new MSA boundaries if San Antonio MSA boundary is redrawn by the Census Bureau.

b. Meeting of June 7th with TNRCC

Mr. Bella reported on the five milestone timelines developed during a meeting with the TNRCC representatives and AACOG Staff and members of the Technical Committee on June 7th. He used a handout which outlined technical details and a draft timeline for the development of the Early Action Compact. After the report he mentioned that they would continue to work with the details while awaiting the EPA's approval of the plan. Mike McGee TNRCC representative reported that he expected EPA to respond with a letter within the following week from Gregg Cooke.

c. Letter of Interest: Guadalupe, Wilson, and Comal Counties

Mr. Bella invited Guadalupe, Wilson, and Comal Counties to join the City of San Antonio and Bexar Counties in providing letters of interests for the EAC plan.

VII. Technical Committee Reports

a. Photochemical Model Analysis of Transportation Control Measure and Alt. Fuels

Steve Smeltzer presented an analysis of photochemical modeling work. The analyses concluded that shifting the morning rush hour did not have a significant impact on ozone levels. Avoiding congestion during the lunch hour provided the most significant ozone level drops.

VIII. Development of the 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Implementation Policy

Peter reported that several recommendations were made on the eight-hour policy and were relayed to TNRCC as EPA was still revising the policy.

IX. Clean Cities Report

Mr. Bella presented the Clean Cities Report for John Quebe who was attending a coordinator's meeting for the Advancing the Choice Event. He informed the committee that the AACOG now owned the LNG refueling station. Clean Cities was waiting on HEB to make a commitment to use the facility. Mr. Danos explained that the effort to acquire the facility was a monumental task and commended John for his diligence. Mr. Bella continued with a power point presentation on the Advancing the Choice Event to be held on July 11th. He also reported on John's trip to the National Clean Cities Meeting and reported that on July 18th there would be coordinator's meeting called by the Department of Energy in Austin, which John would be attending. John also attended the Solar San Antonio Event. Mr. Ague commended the work being done by Solar San Antonio. He pointed to the successful event held by the organization and founder Bill Sinkin.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Mayor Heath adjourned the meeting.