

**The Minutes of the  
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committees  
Meeting  
Alamo Area Council of Governments  
Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m.  
Al J. Notzon III Board Room  
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100  
San Antonio, TX 78217-6228**

**Executive Committee Members**

Chairman Jay Millikin,  
Comal County Commissioner  
Vice-Chair Nelson Wolff  
Bexar County Judge  
Mike Wiggins,  
Guadalupe County Judge  
Councilman Jim Tremblay, GBCCC  
Mayor Bruce Boyer, City of New Braunfels  
Councilwoman Diane Cibrian, MPO  
Marvin Quinney  
Wilson County Judge

**Technical Committee Members**

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair  
Nick Page, MPO

**Guests**

Debra Engler, SAWS  
Ken Zigrang, TxDOT  
Dub Smothers, Citizen  
Max Frailey, Capitol Cement

**Advisory Committee Members**

Bill Bushman, Air Force Center  
For Environmental Excellence  
Jesse Balleza,  
VIA Metropolitan Transit  
Stanley Dabney III,  
Cemex Cement  
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County  
David Newman, City of San Antonio  
Pete Donahoe, Holt Company

**AACOG Staff**

Gloria Arriaga, Executive Director  
Dean Danos, Deputy Director  
Peter Bella, Director, Natural Res.  
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Man.  
Brenda Williams, Program Coordinator  
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Asst.

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**1. Meeting called to Order**

Chairman Jay Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called.

**2. Roll Call**

Dean Danos called the roll and reported the absence of a quorum.

Because of the absence of a quorum, Chairman Millikin called for a change in the agenda and asked that the meeting commence with agenda items not requiring action. He proceeded with agenda item 7.B and asked Judge Wolff to present details on the following strategies. Judge Wolff explained the strategies had been determined through talks with Mayor Hardberger under the

assumption that transportation was a key factor in creating emissions into the atmosphere. He said these strategies could speak to the future on how to proceed in cleaning the air in the region.

### **REGIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGIES**

- With the lowering of the Federal Ozone Standard from 80 parts per billion to 75 parts per billion, announced by the EPA on March 12, 2008, we are now facing unavoidable violations of the Clean Air Act.
- Previous local and voluntary control strategies provided for the success of the Early Action Compact and implementation of those local controls allowed this area to avoid non-attainment for 5 years, however this new more stringent ozone standard has necessitated the need to approach this issue from a greater regional perspective.
- Given the fact that mobile sources (cars and trucks) are the largest combined contributor of NOX and VOC emissions which form ozone in our area,
- Focus should be shifted from localized solutions to the development of partnerships and funding plans to promote the following regional transportation programs, which are design to remove traffic and congestion from our metropolitan area.

### **PUBLIC TRANSIT STRATEGIES**

1. Private business commuter initiatives for employees
2. Bus Rapid Transit corridor development
3. Light Rail
4. Commuter Rail from San Antonio to Austin
5. Additional bus multimodal sites such as VIA's Westside Multimodal Facility

### **FREIGHT RAIL STRATEGIES**

1. Legislative initiatives to fund the Texas Rail Relocation Fund (created 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)
2. Freight rail relocation outside populated areas and adaptive reuse of tracks for commuter rail
3. Addition multimodal facilities such as the Union Pacific site - Old Pearsall Road to encourage the transport of freight by rail instead of trucks.

### **SMART GROWTH**

1. Land Use Planning incentives for mixed-use, transit-oriented projects
2. Green Building Codes
3. Incentives for Energy Efficiency development

### **ENHANCED HIGHWAY SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. Pass-Thru Financing Projects financed by local governments to advance construction
2. Expand boundaries of the Advanced Transportation District to include all of Bexar County
3. Complete remaining segments of State Hwy 130 from US183 in Travis County to IH10 in Guadalupe County

**3. Citizens to be Heard**

There were none signed up to speak.

Chairman Millikin noted that the arrival of Councilwoman Diane Cibrian, Judge Wiggins and Councilman Tremblay constituted a quorum.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Millikin asked the floor for consideration of the minutes for February 27, 2008. Councilman Tremblay made a motion for approval of the minutes. Judge Wiggins seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion passed.

**5. Ozone and Particulate Matter Update**

Mr. Bella gave a synopsis on existing standards for air quality for ozone matter. He explained that it took three contiguous years of ozone data, in this case 2006, 2007, and 2008 data that the state will use to make their preliminary recommendations as required and that it will be 2010 when the EPA makes a final designation. He said no region in the country would be judged under the new standard until 2010. Bella reported the current three-year average for the region at 75 parts per billion and is in keeping with the new standard but reminded the committee that the ozone season was young. Discussion was held on defining control strategies for long range planning.

**6. AIR Public Education/Outreach Update**

Andrew Hudgins reported on the following air quality outreach and education events and efforts as attended and supported by staff.

Air Quality Outreach and Education Report

*Outreach conducted between March 1, 2008 and May 27, 2008:*

Date	Event	Audience
3/11/08	Monroe May Elementary School Science Festival	Elementary students/parents
3/28/08	Fresh Air Friday	General Public
3/29/08	Girls Inc. Science Festival	Girls, ages 6-18
3/29/08	Basura Bash	General Public
4/03/08	Asthma Blowout NEISD	Students/teachers/parents
4/05/08	Science Fair Harlandale ISD	Students/parents/General public

4/10/08	Earth Day at Northwest Vista	Students/teachers
4/19/08	Earth Day at Woodlawn Lake	General Public
4/22/08	Earth Day at Boeing	Employees
4/24/08	PACFest at Palo Alto	Students/teachers
5/02/08	Walk & Roll to Work Rally	General Public
5/03/08	Solar Fest	General Public
5/06/08	TV Interview with KHCT TV 23	General Public
5/10/08	Walk & Roll Fest	Walkers/bicyclists/general public
5/13/08	TV Interview with FOX News	General Public
5/15/08	SAWS Water Fest	Fifth graders/teachers
5/21/08	Radio Interview with KISS Radio	General Public
5/22/08	Walk & Roll Project Officer Rally	Corporate Officers

**Projects in progress:**

Interviewing media representatives in preparation for developing the 2008 advertising campaign

Working with local organizations to begin using the River Cities Rideshare website internally

Submitting grant proposals on behalf of local stakeholders for EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction ACT funding opportunity

Working with other Clean Cities Coalitions on the I-10 Clean Corridor project

Working with local stakeholders on a waste grease-to-Biodiesel pilot project

Working with local stakeholders on natural gas refueling projects

**Upcoming events from May 28, 2008 through August, 2008:**

Date	Event	Audience
June	Walk and Roll Corporate Challenge	Local public and private organizations
06/14	Leon Valley Walkable Community Workshop	General public/city officials
06/18	H-GAC Clean Cities Advancing the Choice event	General public, public and private fleet operators and managers
08/12	NGVA Natural Gas Vehicle workshop	Public and private fleet operators and mgrs

**Process evaluation:**

	2/28/08 – 5/26/08	Year to Date
Number of people reached through events and presentations	11,575	12,800

Number of outreach items distributed	7,706	8,791
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River Cities Rideshare Program Report:

This past August, AACOG, along with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), launched the River Cities Rideshare Program. This new online, real-time carpool matching service went live in July. The statistics provided below are for both the San Antonio and Austin Regions.

**Activity Summary  
(February 28 – May 26, 2008)**

Total Users	829
Users Added	81
Users Deleted	1047
Total User Sessions	356
Total User Searches	183
Average Matches per Search	2
Average Start Distance Difference (miles)	2.33
Average End Distance Difference (miles)	1.85
Average Route Distance (miles)	19.66

**Self-Reporting Emission and Trip Reductions (Commute Tracker)  
(February 28 – May 26, 2008)**

Total Trips Reduced	10
Total Miles Saved	1240
Gallons of Fuel Saved (gallons)	49
Total Emissions Reduced (lbs)	1425
Total Money Saved (dollars)	671
VOC Reduced (grams)	806
NOx (grams)	596.58

**Assumption-based Emission and Trip Reductions  
(May 1-31, 2008)**

(Assumes 20% of the successful matches result in a rideshare arrangement)

Total Miles Saved	200,953
VOC (grams)	85,204
NOx (grams)	108,113

**7. Clean Air Plan Update**

A. Overview: The New Ozone Standard

1. Determination of Reduction Levels for Compliance in 2013

Mr. Bella explained some of challenges the new EPA standard bring to the region. Using a power point presentation he provided a break down of the 2006 emissions inventory of ozone pollutants throughout the four county MSA. The graphs showed about 400 tons a day of ozone pollutants were produced in 2005 in Bexar County and the break down showed almost 40% of that pollution came from vehicles. Point sources produced about 20% of the emissions, resulting from cement and electrical power generation process. Mr. Bella explained the concept of determining the effectiveness of ozone reduction strategies through the use of modeling. He said to understand the planning process it is important to understand the photochemical model, a computer simulation of the formation and

movement of ozone. He said the ACOG Natural Resources Department houses that computer simulation and works in conjunction with EPA and TCEQ to maintain and update the model currently in use. The simulation is a required tool in air quality planning and is the way to assess what the effectiveness of a particular strategy is. Mr. Bella added that another key to understanding ozone reduction was the concept of transport.

In summary Mr. Bella remarked that determining reductions required to demonstrate attainment in 2013 is an ongoing effort. This will be done through photochemical model updates and an analysis of new strategies implemented during the next couple of years. He said that combining federal and state reduction strategies with local voluntary measures and ongoing control strategies, staff would determine what level of reductions would be needed to meet the new standard by 2013. They would be presenting the findings to the Technical Committee and the Air Executive Committee when completed.

**B. Regional Air Quality Strategies: Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff**

This item was discussed earlier in the agenda.

**C. SB12 and Energy Efficiency Presentation: Erin Zayko, Lockheed – Martin**

Erin Zayko and Mike Myers presented information on services they provide to local governments, cities and counties in conjunction with the Texas State Energy Conservation Office. Mr. Meyers explained that working with SECO they help provide technical assistance to city or county facilities in terms of reducing energy efficiency and meeting the requirements of Senate Bill 12. Mr. Meyers said they also bring in technical resources working closely with the department of energy, EPA and other federal agencies to develop and implement an energy efficiency plan, which addresses cost and energy dollars saved as a result of implementing energy efficiency. Ms. Zayko also presented information on meeting energy efficiency requirements through a free energy audit.

**8. Business of the AIR Executive/Advisory Committees**

**A. Action Item: Expanding the AIR Committee into the MSA**

Mr. Bella summarized the following information on expanding the AIR Committee into the MSA.

The San Antonio region faces an air quality challenge. The region is currently in compliance with the federal clean air standards, but the standards changed this spring to become more stringent.

The federal government will first make decisions based on the new standard in 2010. It is very possible that the San Antonio region will not be in compliance of the new standard.

If an area fails to comply with such air quality standards, then the region is formally declared in violation of the standards and is designated as being in "nonattainment" of the standard by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- The EPA first assumes that the physical region to be declared nonattainment is the same as the Metropolitan Statistical Area.
- When the Early Action Compact was signed in 2002, the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area (SA/MSA) comprised four counties; Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe and Wilson Counties.
- However, the SA/MSA is now eight counties: the original four plus Atascosa, Bandera, Kendall, and Medina Counties.

Comprehensive planning for this region would be improved by bringing all affected regional players to the table.

The AIR Executive Committee has twice invited governments from these counties to join the group. Letters dated May 24, 2002 and July 17, 2003 invited representatives, but no lasting extended memberships have resulted.

Mr. Bella recommended another attempt be made to invite Atascosa, Bandera, Kendall and Medina Counties as new members of the SA/MSA to join the AIR Executive Committee. Mr. Bella provided a draft letter for their consideration.

Gloria Arriaga, ACOG Executive Director commented that the addition of the counties could be accommodated in the current agency by-laws. She said staff was prepared to go to each of the counties and cities to make a presentation to explain what the expansion would mean.

Chairman Millikin said that the presentations were needed. They needed to understand what non-compliance with federal air quality standards means as far as the potential to losing federal highway funding, the potential for impacting negatively economic development opportunities and many other challenges. Chairman Millikin said that they had previously invited Atascosa, Bandera, Kendall and Medina Counties to be a part of this forum and they hadn't joined up because they weren't part of the MSA at that time. The Chairman remarked it was his opinion that it is now a matter of necessity they be members of the forum and said he felt it appropriate to write another invitation to them.

Chairman Millikin recommended that ACOG air monitors be placed in the counties being asked to join the AIR committee. He pointed out that counties and cities involved in the MSA and apt to be impacted by Federal air standards where there are no monitors makes it tough for elected officials to make judgment calls involving people in their counties/cities with no supporting data.

Chairman Millikin asked the committee for a motion to expand the AIR Committee into the MSA. Mayor Boyer made the motion to expand the

membership into the MSA. Councilman Tremblay seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for the vote. The motion passed.

**B. Action Item:** Consideration and possible comment regarding proposed Federal Fuel Economy Standards

Mr. Bella reported on the following information:

On May 2, 2008, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration proposed changes to the nation's Average Fuel Economy Standards for passenger cars and light trucks, model years 2011-2015.

On May 12, 2008, the AIR Technical Committee approved the following text as the basis for a resolution to be considered for signature by the AIR Executive/Advisory Committee. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation on or before July 1, 2008, must receive comments.

The Text draft read as follows:

In response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking received regarding the May 2, 2008 Federal Register publication for revisions to the Average Fuel Economy Standards, Passenger Cars and Light Trucks; Model Years 2011-2015, Docket No. NHTSA-2008-0089:

This document proposes increases in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for passenger cars and light trucks that would improve fuel economy and reduce tailpipe emissions. The analysis conducted regarding the implementation of the new standards demonstrates a mixed reduction in ozone precursor emissions in addition to fuel savings and carbon dioxide reductions.

The proposed rulemaking would create net reductions in oxides of nitrogen over the lifetime of the Model Years 2011-2015 vehicles and the San Antonio region is NOx limited, meaning reducing NOx emissions in the region will have a greater impact on ozone levels than would comparable volatile organic compound (VOC) reductions. Although the proposed rulemaking would create a net increase in VOCs, the NOx decrease is of greater benefit for ozone formation in our region.

The Air Improvement Resources Committee of the Alamo Area Council of Governments supports the proposed rulemaking for these reasons.

Mrs. Green, Chair of the Technical Committee reiterated the Technical Committee's endorsement of the proposed rulemaking. Chairman Millikin endorsed the recommendation and asked for a motion to endorse the proposed Federal Fuel Economy Standards. Judge Quinney motioned to support the rulemaking. Councilman Tremblay seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion passed.

**C. Reports from the AIR Committee membership: New Initiatives**

### 1. VIA and Bus Rapid Transit

Jesse Balleza with VIA presented information on the bus rapid transit project being initiated as one of the transit strategies as presented by Judge Wolff earlier. He mentioned Councilwoman Cibrian championing the project, which originates in her district on Fredericksburg Road. He reported that the transportation system combines the best features of rail travel with the flexibility with bus service and operates very similar to a light rail system but it uses rubber tire vehicles. The vehicles are specialized and have increased passenger capacity. The system provides accessible boarding, fewer stops, more technology with departure and arrival information, it is faster, and can carry more passengers. VIA is partnering with the City and TxDOT on the project. Mr. Balleza concluded by saying that the transportation system provided an alternative to single occupant autos and reminded the committee that single occupant autos are the largest contributors to air quality. He mentioned the conversion of an existing downtown facility into a multi model facility. The target date for operation is 2012.

### 2. City of San Antonio's Solar 2015 Initiative

Liza Meyer with the City of San Antonio thanked the advocacy and initiative of Councilwoman Cibrian, which enabled the City to receive a solar designation, and asked Councilwoman Cibrian to brief the committee on the initiative. Councilwoman Cibrian explained that with the help from Bill Sinkin and city staff they had applied for the solar designation with the Department of Energy. Hence, the City of San Antonio became one of twelve cities in the nation chosen by the Department of Energy to become a Solar America City. In conjunction with that the City received a \$200,000. grant and were applying for a \$300,000. solar showcase grant for the summer. She said it placed the community in line for millions of dollars that are available for cities that want to move aggressively forward in solar energy. She's also asked CPS Energy to move up their target timeline in relation to solar and renewable energies and also in conservation and efficiency. She mentioned a new "green" fire station that was being built in her district and that the Northside Independent was building a new "green" school.

Liza Meyer reported that the City of San Antonio's designation as a Solar America City will make the City a model for the nation. Therefore, the cities' case studies, approaches, the best measure of practices, and mistakes will be posted for the nation to follow and to see that solar should be a standard operation within any new building construction and retro fits. She said the City extended their scope of services and their long-term objective is to have this regional trend extended through the CPS Services area and to reduce any market barriers that solar technology has related to cost. So policies and incentives will be the key stimulus to get the project started. She invited their participation.

Chairman Millikin said that the committee would be spending more time on the agenda in the future on energy initiatives.

Chairman Millikin asked for a consensus to move the next meeting to August 27, 2008. There was a consensus.

**9. Informational Items**

**10. Next Meeting Date:** August 27, 2008

**11. Adjournment**

With no business to conduct, Chairman Millikin adjourned the meeting.