

Minutes  
Alamo Area Council of Governments  
Air Improvement Resources Technical Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 11, 2008 1:30 p.m.  
Al J. Notzon III Board Room  
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100  
San Antonio, TX 78217-6228

**Members Present**

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair  
Tom Hornseth, Comal County, Vice Chair  
Liza Meyer, COSA  
Nick Page, Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Peter Bella, AACOG  
Ken Zigrang, TxDOT  
Christina Castaño, VIA Metropolitan Transit

**Guests Present**

Val de la Fuente, Lackland Air Force Base  
Charles "Chaz" Gallagher, Alamo Cement  
Angela Donaubauber, CPS Energy  
Joseph Eutizi, San Miguel Electric  
Steve Southers, San Antonio Airport

**AACOG Staff**

Dean Danos, Deputy Director, AACOG  
Steven Smeltzer, AACOG  
Brenda Williams, AACOG  
Parviz Nazem, AACOG  
Andrew Hudgins, AACOG  
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Assistant

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Renee Green called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Chair Green called roll and declared a quorum.

3. Citizens to be Heard

There were none signed up to speak.

4. Approval of AIR Technical Committee Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2008.

Chair Renee Green asked the committee for consideration of the July 14, 2008 minutes and requested a motion to approve. Tom Hornseth motioned for approval. Nick Page seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Ozone & Particulate Matter Report

Mr. Bella reported that on August 4, two of the monitors recorded 8-hour average ozone concentrations of 68 parts per billion (ppb) giving the region a current three-year average of the fourth-highest averages at Camp Bullis of 76 ppb. He pointed out that 75 ppb is the three-year average threshold. Mr. Bella said that if the data was approved for use as is anticipated, the state has an obligation to report to the EPA that our region does not comply with the federal 2008 8-hour average ozone standard. The non-

compliance recommendation is required from the state to EPA by March 19, 2009. In 2010, EPA will make their final designation based on either 2006, 2007, and 2008 data or on 2007, 2008 and 2009 data if it is available. Regarding particulate matter, he reported there had been no change in monitored regional values of note to bring to the attention of the committee.

6. Clean Air Plan Update

A. Local strategy analysis: Bexar County and the City of San Antonio  
Analysis

Mr. Bella reported that staff was working with the local entities involved in several local planning processes. He said he had been invited by Bexar County to present to the Transportation Task Force as well as asked by Laurence Doxsey with COSA to serve as staff support for the Mayor's Task Force on Sustainable Building. He said his participation would give the AIR Executive and Technical Committees easy access to the information that comes out of the work of Mayor Hardberger's and Judge Wolff's committees towards establishing a sustainability plan. This effort was launched several months ago. He would be reporting to all AIR Improvement Resources committees on the air quality impacts that those plans should have. He reminded them that the benefits of those projects would be considered by TCEQ and EPA when and if the region faces a non-attainment designation.

B. **Action Item:** Consideration and possible approval of Comments to TCEQ regarding EPA's New Eight-Hour Average Ozone Standard

Mr. Bella reminded the committee that in presenting the presumptive boundary designations information, staff was presenting publicly available, existing data on the San Antonio MSA. He explained that this information would be considered by EPA to finalize non-attainment boundaries for regions declared nonattainment in 2010.

Mr. Smeltzer presented a series of eleven factors considered by EPA when deciding whether requests to change non-attainment boundaries; EPA uses the current Metropolitan Statistical Area as the "presumptive" nonattainment boundaries. He presented information on the following eleven factors in a power point presentation for discussion.

- "Emissions and air quality in adjacent areas (including adjacent C/MSAs)
- Population density and degree of urbanization including commercial development (significant difference from surrounding areas)
- Monitoring data representing ozone concentrations in local areas and larger areas (urban or regional scale)
- Location of emission sources (emission sources and nearby receptors should generally be included in the same nonattainment area)
- Traffic and commuting patterns
- Expected growth (including extent, pattern and rate of growth)
- Meteorology (weather/transport patterns)
- Geography/topography (mountain ranges or other air basin boundaries)
- Jurisdictional boundaries (e.g., counties, air districts, existing 1-hour nonattainment areas, Reservations, etc.)
- Level of control of emission sources

- Regional emission reductions (e.g., NOx SIP call or other enforceable regional strategies)”

Discussion was held on each of the topics with the exception of the geography/topography element. AACOG staff did not distinguish geographic or topographic features in the region that would likely be cited in such arguments.

After the presentation, Mrs. Green commented that the data supported several arguments. 1) With the exception of Bexar County (and to a lesser extent Comal County), there are very few counties that in the San Antonio MSA, with the exception of Bexar and Comal, that impact the Austin area. 2) In the case they are both declared as nonattainment areas, the separation of San Antonio and Austin as distinct air quality planning regions is likely to be supported by transportation planning issues. The zero-out runs and the back trajectories for Austin could assist in the determination of impacts across the two regions.

Mrs. Green recommended combining this data as the recommendation to put forward to the AIR Executive Committee. The Executive Committee might choose to take up the topic of the determination of a proposed nonattainment boundary.

After further discussion, Mrs. Green asked if there was a motion to allow Mr. Bella to develop those comments that relate to keeping the Austin/San Antonio MSA areas separate at this point and time.

Mr. Bella made the motion to develop those points and said he would e-mail them around to the members so that the members agree on the text for finalization for the August 27<sup>th</sup> AIR Executive/Advisory Committees meeting.

Mr. Hornseth asked for clarification of the motion. He asked whether the motion was simply for further information supporting or not supporting the combination of the Austin/San Antonio MSAs under a mutual nonattainment scenario, as the entire report, as presented, included information about whether or not counties in the MSA should to be included in the San Antonio nonattainment area.

Mr. Bella reported that the report would include the county information.

Mrs. Green said there was a motion on the floor and asked for a second.

Liza Meyer seconded the motion.

Mr. Hornseth pointed out that that if included the entire report spoke heavily about whether or not counties should be included in the MSA.

Mrs. Green asked for the vote. The vote was six yes votes with Mr. Hornseth voting no. The motion passed.

7. Other Issues

A. Report: TCEQ Commissioners' Meeting of August 6, 2008

Mr. Bella reported that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality had reviewed some changes in the proposed Rider language that would award the technical analysis work elements on a competitive bid basis. This language had the potential of taking operational monies away from local entities, including the Councils of Government in Austin and San Antonio currently involved in the air quality planning process. The proposed Rider language would also add Waco, El Paso and Beaumont, which areas had a mixed history regarding attainment status, and some of which were borderline non-attainment, without adding more money to the Rider funds. In addition, they wanted technical analyses expenditures to total at least 80% of the grant monies that pass through to the regions, which could affect the planning processes such as those of the AIR Executive and Technical Committees. Commissioner Millikin, Bill Gill, and Mr. Bella and Ms. Adele Noelle of Travis County had presented their observations to the TCEQ commissioners. Mr. Bella reported that the commissioners approved actions in keeping with the observations posed by these speakers.

Mrs. Green commented that this was good news. The committee considered the value of restating the same positions during the state appropriations process, as the state budget carrying the Rider moved through the approval process.

8. Information Items

Mr. Bella said he was going to look for information to support the CAIR program for later consideration.

Mrs. Green asked him to draft a letter in support the resurrection of the CAIR program.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to conduct Ms. Green made the motion to adjourn the meeting.