

**The Minutes of the
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committees
Meeting**

**Alamo Area Council of Governments
Wednesday, August 27, 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 Co. Judge
Councilman Jim Tremblay, GBCCC
Marvin Quinney, Wilson County Judge
Ann Reissig for Gaylan Schroeder,
Kendall County Judge

Guests

Debra Engler, SAWS
Joe Gutizi, San Miguel Electric Corp.
Virginia Maderon, USPS
Carlos Pena, COSA District 1
Seth Crone, Bank of Mellon

Advisory Committee Members

Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County

Technical Committee Members

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair

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.

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 and delayed approval of the minutes.

3. Citizens to be Heard

There were none signed up to speak.

Chairman Millikin noted that the arrival of Judge Wolff constituted a quorum.

4. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Millikin asked the floor for consideration of the minutes for May 28, 2008. Judge Wolff made a motion for approval of the minutes. Councilman Tremblay seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion passed.

5. Ozone and Particulate Matter Update

Mr. Bella reported that the Camp Bullis monitor was showing the highest number at 76 parts per billion (ppb) for the three-year average. He explained that 76 ppb is higher than the allowable 75 ppb standard for the three years of ozone data and if the data remained certifiable for the rest of the ozone season TCEQ will be obligated to report to the EPA in March of next year that the region is not showing compliance values. Mr. Bella explained that the EPA would make final determination in 2010 using 2007, 2008, and 2009 averaging data. In the meantime, TCEQ will make a determination on what the non-attainment boundary should be according to the state of Texas when they forward that data in March of next year. Discussion on that boundary consideration would take place during another part of this agenda.

On particulate matter, Mr. Bella said there was no change in the numbers.

Chairman Millikin reported that he and Mr. Bella had been in Austin testifying to TCEQ commissioners who were holding budget hearings to make recommendations to address the governor's request to reduce the state departmental budget by ten percent. Chairman Millikin said the TCEQ staff recommendation to reduce their budget was to consolidate air quality monitoring at TCEQ rather than locally. Chairman Millikin disagreed with the recommendation and supported the existing local air quality monitors installed within the San Antonio MSA. In response to their testimony the TCEQ Commissioners supported their recommendations and agreed to present their position to the state.

6. AIR Public Education/Outreach Update

Andrew Hudgins presented the following report on air quality outreach and education.

Air Quality Outreach and Education Report

Outreach events conducted between May 28, 2008 and August 26, 2008:

Date	Event	Audience
06/11	River Cities Rideshare presentation at Standard Aero	Employees of Standard Aero
06/14	Leon Valley Walkable Communities Workshop	City officials and general public
06/17	Rackspace Green Day	Employees of Rackspace
06/17	Movies in the Park	General Public
06/18	H-GAC Clean Cities Advancing the Choice conference	Govt. & Private fleet operators, general public, public employees
06/24	Blue Skyways Collaborative meeting	Clean Cities Stakeholders, Govt. & private organizations
07/28	Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge awards ceremony and press conference	Govt. organizations and general public
08/08	Technology Educational Forum	Govt. & Private organizations, general public
08/12	Alamo Area Clean Cities Advancing the	Govt. & Private fleet operators and the

	Choice workshop	general public
08/15	Adult Lifelong Learning Open House at Northwest Vista College	General Public

Interviews conducted between May 28, 2008 and August 26, 2008:

Date	Location / Interviewer	Audience
06/19	San Antonio Express-News, <i>newspaper</i> . Carpooling and the River Cities Rideshare website	General Public
06/25	KTSA 550, <i>radio</i> . CleanAirDrive.com, Carpooling, River Cities Rideshare	General Public
06/26	KSAT TV 12, <i>television</i> . Carpooling and River Cities Rideshare	General Public
07/28	FOX TV 29, <i>television</i> . Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge & Air Quality	General Public
07/28	KENS TV 5, <i>television</i> . Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge & Air Quality	General Public
07/28	WOAI TV 4, <i>television</i> . Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge & Air Quality	General Public
07/29	La Prensa, <i>newspaper</i> . Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge & Air Quality	General Public
08/13	Texas Public Radio, <i>radio</i> . Air Quality	General Public
08/18	WOAI TV 4, <i>television</i> . Air Quality and gasoline prices	General Public

Advertising Campaign

Date	Advertising Projects
08/18	Launch of 8-week program, radio spots and live endorsements promoting Commute Solutions and Air Quality programs on KTSA radio
08/18	Launch of 8-week program, radio spots promoting Commute Solutions and Air Quality programs on Clear Channel stations (including WOAI, KQXT, Mix 96.1, KJ97, KCOR, Recuerdo, Q101.9, KTXN), web streaming ads, and web tile ads on WOAI and KQXT Web sites
08/25	Launch of 5-week program, radio spots and feature on "Focus on the Environment" promoting Walk and Roll Personal Challenge and Commute Solutions
08/25	Launch of 12-week program, banner advertising on MySA.com homepage and feature listing on KENS-5 Great Day SA Web site, promoting programs found on CleanAirDrive.com and RCRide.com, interview on Great Day SA September 3 to promote Walk and Roll Challenge and Commute Solutions programs, also to discuss Air Quality issues
09/01	Launch of 9-month program of radio spots on Magic 105.3 radio as sponsor of Teacher of the Year awards, inclusion as sponsor on web w/link, article inclusion in 4 newsletters and 4 newsgrams, promoting School Pool and Green Patrol, also providing information about health issues related to air quality
09/15	Launch of 3-month contract for ads on the sides of 14 VIA buses promoting Commuting Solutions and the CleanAirDrive Web site

Projects in Progress:

Successfully completed 2008 Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge. This year's Walk and Roll Corporate Challenge was a spectacular success with over 12,000 employees participating from 14 businesses, schools, and agencies.

Together, participants saved over 1.5 million miles of driving as single occupants in vehicles for work-related activities in our region, thus keeping 2,529 pounds of NOx and 3,119 pounds of VOC emissions out of the atmosphere.

The winners of the Walk & Roll Corporate Challenge were as follows:

Best Overall Achievement Winner: *USAA*

Winner in the Large Organization Category: *CPS Energy*
(Larger than 1000 employees)

Winner in the Small Organization Category: *Metropolitan Planning Organization*
(Smaller than 1000 employees)

- Received award notification from US EPA for the Alamo Area Clean School Bus project, which was submitted in response to the Clean School Bus USA call for proposals in 09/07. School districts involved in the project are Boerne ISD, Edgewood ISD, Harlandale ISD, and Hunt ISD. Award is for \$158,000 and the project period is from 07/01/08 – 06/30/10. Have begun meeting with ISDs to discuss the award and the projects.
- Began the process for the 2008 Environmental Stewardship Awards program, for which over 150 organizations have been invited to participate.
- Continuing to work with local companies and public organizations to begin using the River Cities Rideshare website internally by presenting an Employer Module component of the program.
- Beginning to expand the CARE (Certified Auto Ride in an Emergency) program to local companies and organizations. CARE program participation is being offered as a component of the River Cities Rideshare Employer Module.
- Continuing to work with other Clean Cities Coalitions on the I-10 Clean Corridor project.
- Working with local stakeholders on a waste grease-to-Biodiesel pilot project.
- Hosted annual Clean Cities "Advancing the Choice" conference on August 12th as the City of San Antonio's Northeast service center. This was a very successful conference with 100 participants, making this the most successful "Advancing the Choice" conference to date.

- The conference, entitled “A Compelling Case for Natural Gas Vehicles” was a daylong educational workshop on the natural gas vehicle industry. The event also included an educational tour of the City’s new Compressed Natural Gas refueling station at the service center. Several project opportunities have arisen from the workshop and AACOG staff will continue working with local stakeholders on these natural gas refueling projects.
- Continuing to work with US EPA Region 6 on planning and media event logistics for the annual Blue Skyways Collaborative conference, which will be held at the Riverwalk Drury hotel October 29 – 31.

Upcoming events from August 27, 2008 through November, 2008:

Date	Event	Audience
09/01-30	Walk & Roll Personal Challenge	General Public
09/23	Clean Cities Stakeholder Meeting	Govt. & Private Fleet Operators
09/26-28	Renewable Energy Roundup	General Public
10/11	LiveGreen Fest	General Public
10/29-31	Blue Skyways Conference	Govt. & Private Organizations

Process evaluation:

	5/27/08 – 8/26/08	Year to Date
Number of people reached through events and presentations	3,094	15,894
Number of outreach items distributed	3,785	12,576

River Cities Rideshare Carpool Matching Monthly Statistics

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 for the San Antonio Region. Also, a new carpool assumptions rate of %20 was put into effect Dec 2007. This new rate reflects a recent survey and study conducted by E&E.

Activity Summary
(May 28 – August 22, 2008)

Total Users	768
Users Added	506

Users Deleted	131
Total User Sessions	4381
Total User Searches	3194
Average Matches per Search	2
Average Start Distance Difference (miles)	3.06
Average End Distance Difference (miles)	1.58
Average Route Distance (miles)	23.62

Self-Reporting Emission and Trip Reductions (Commute Tracker)
(May 28 – August 22, 2008)

Total Trips Reduced	134
Total Miles Saved	7876
Gallons of Fuel Saved (gallons)	375
Total Emissions Reduced (lbs)	7824
Total Money Saved (dollars)	4261
VOC Reduced (grams)	4666.6
NOx (grams)	3689.99

Assumption-based Emission and Trip Reductions
(May 28 – August 22, 2008)

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

Total Miles Saved	376,336
VOC (grams)	159,566
NOx (grams)	202,469

Commissioner Millikin reminded Mr. Hudgins the need to continue working with school districts to buy and display air quality health alert flags. Mr. Danos mentioned the work of Dr. John Mangos past chairman of the pulmonary clinic for the University Health System and his advocating for the health of students on high ozone days by supporting staying inside during recess. Mr. Hudgins said they had several on-going projects with schools districts addressing air quality. One was the bus retrofits program the other was the no idling program or green patrol program which the Northeast Independent School District wanted to extend district wide.

Judge Quinney asked about the professional opinion to suspend recess and whether there were any dissenting opinions on suspending recess. Mr. Bella said he could get a report on which school districts are flying air quality health alert banners. In addition Mr. Bella said that on the no-recess policy, staff had been working with the South Texas Asthma coalition and the independent school districts some of whom have developed policies for suspending recess or keeping children inside when air quality health alerts were issued. He would have a report for them at the next meeting on independent school districts that have policies regarding recess on air quality health alert days. Judge Quinney asked for a report on any dissenting opinions on suspending recess.

7. **Clean Air Plan Update**
 - A. Overview: The New Ozone Standard

1. Determination of Reduction Levels for Compliance in 2013

Mr. Bella presented a synopsis on how many tons per day (TPD) reductions in ozone precursors (NOx and VOC) will be required in order to model attainment of the 2008 ozone standard (at or below the 75 ppb future year design value) in 2012. Using photochemical modeling results with a future year design value of 2013 at CAMS 58, and a predicted raw value of 80, the report concluded that a 40% reduction in VOCs and NOx was needed to meet 75 ppb using the eight hour standard.

Discussion was held on the lack of modeling from TCEQ showing downwind impacts from permits allowing power plants. Chairman Millikin stated, "TCEQ cannot put this region or other region in jeopardy of falling into non-attainment because they do not do full analysis in Austin." Mr. Mims agreed and said the problems came from lignite burning power plants. Mrs. Green predicted there would be additional new point sources in 2013 as well.

B. Local strategy analysis update: Initiatives from Bexar County, The City of San Antonio, and others

Mr. Bella presented the committee with the following information outlining future efforts and strategies being implemented in Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. He said staff would be following all the efforts as they unfolded and looked forward to cataloguing reductions from them as creditable strategies to the EPA and TCEQ. Staff would be highlighting each effort to the committee as they occurred.

During his 2008 State of the City address, Mayor Phil Hardberger announced the need for a comprehensive energy policy for the City of San Antonio. Such a policy, he said, should include efficiency, conservation and the pursuit of renewable and sustainable energy sources. At about the same time, Councilman Justin Rodriguez authored a Council Consideration Request (CCR) on pursuing an initiative similar to the "Green Initiative" in Chicago.¹

On June 11, 2008, the City Council of San Antonio convened in the "B" Room of the Municipal Plaza Building to listen to a presentation by Richard Varn, the City's Chief Information Officer, on the Mayor's Sustainability Plan. The plan outlined four major areas for action:

- Energy Efficiency
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- City Operations

In March of 2008, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff responded to the announcement of the new, more stringent 8-hour ozone standard with a list of Regional Air Quality Strategies. Noting the high percentage of air pollution due to

¹ Source: Council Meeting Date: 6/11/2008; RFCA Tracking No: R-3531.
<http://epay.sanantonio.gov/agendabuilder/RFCAMemo.aspx?RIId=3531>

on-road traffic, in his presentation he noted that air quality strategy “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.” His strategies underlined four areas of focus:

- Public Transit Strategies
- Freight Rail Strategies
- Smart Growth
- Enhanced Highway System Infrastructure

These initial decisions by local officials have resulted in the creation of a series of Task Force Committees supported both by Bexar County and the City of San Antonio.

AACOG staff is working with staff from both agencies and other agencies in the region to track the implemented policies and projects resulting from these decisions. Tracking the projects and analyzing the ozone reduction impacts allows staff to determine the resultant air quality credits.

This tracking and accreditation process will ultimately benefit the efforts of the Air Improvement Resources in at least two ways: 1) should the region be declared non-attainment for ozone in 2010, the data gathering will help assure the greatest credit possible for local efforts and 2) promotion of such air quality efforts will be geared to encourage further participation by local citizens, business and industry in making air quality improvements.

8. Business of the AIR Executive/Advisory Committees

A. Status Report: Expanding the AIR Committee into the MSA

Per Mr. Bella’s handout below, during the past several months, at the direction of the Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Executive Committee, AACOG staff has sent invitations to municipal and county governments in Atascosa, Bandera, Kendall, and Medina Counties. In the case of the City of Pleasanton, AACOG staff has presented before the City Council on air quality issues.

Mr. Bella reported that on expanding the MSA membership to the committee he had had responses from Kendall County, the City of Pleasanton, Atascosa County, Kerr County and was waiting for a response from Medina County.

Several points of support for membership by the local government in the AIR Committee appear in the letter of invitation approved by the AIR Executive Committee.

- The AIR Executive Committee members are the officials who must create local responses to state and federal air quality requirements for their jurisdictions.
- The elected officials who are currently members of the AIR Executive Committee all hold office within the San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical

Area (SA/MSA). The selection of officials from within the SA/MSA is critical for two reasons.

1. The EPA recommends that the boundary of the non-attainment area coincide with the boundary of the MSA. Hence, if designated as non-attainment, the leaders in the SA/MSA will be called upon to address issues incumbent with the designation.
2. The tasks required to reduce ozone pollution are called "control strategies." Many of these tasks or control strategies require the deliberation or consent of municipal and county governmental officials for policy enactment.

To date, the responses of several governmental representatives have provided an increased membership. Notably, Atascosa Judge Diana Bautista and Pleasanton Mayor Bill Carroll have joined the AIR Executive Committee.

Air Improvement Resources Committee Representation in the Eight-County San Antonio Metropolitan Statistical Area

Counties, San Antonio MSA	Cities, San Antonio MSA
Comal County Jay Millikin	City of New Braunfels, Comal County Bruce Boyer
Bexar County Nelson Wolff	City of San Antonio, Bexar County Mary Alice Cisneros
Atascosa County Diana Bautista	City of Pleasanton, Atascosa County Bill Carroll
Guadalupe County Mike Wiggins	City of Seguin, Guadalupe County H.A. "Dan" Daniels
Wilson County Marvin Quinney	City of Floresville, Wilson County Vacant
AACOG Board / Kendall County Gaylan Schroeder / Ann Reissig	City of Boerne, Kendall County Vacant
Bandera County Vacant	City of Bandera, Bandera County Vacant
Medina County <i>Proposed participation</i>	City of Hondo, Medina County Vacant

Other Representation Currently Serving on the AIR Executive Committee

Greater Bexar County Council of Cities Jim Tremblay, Councilman, City of Windcrest	San Antonio / Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization Diane Cibrian, Councilwoman, City of San Antonio
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- B. Overview: TCEQ's request for comment on Boundary Considerations under EPA's New Eight-Hour Average Ozone Standard

Comments to TCEQ on Boundaries under the EPA's new 8-hour Standard: AIR Technical Committee Summary

Mr. Bella reported the following information using a hand out. During their meeting of August 11, 2008, the Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Technical Committee

reviewed materials prepared by AACOG staff with assistance from the San Antonio / Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The central issue with which the AIR Technical Committee dealt was whether or not the Austin and San Antonio air quality planning regions should be joined in the case that both regions were declared non-attainment in 2010.

The concept of joining the two regions together under non-attainment had been raised during the initial TCEQ public hearing in Austin on the new ozone standard in July 11, 2008.

While not clarified, this could mean joining all air quality planning committees and interests in the Austin and San Antonio region, such as

- Joining the air quality efforts of the AIR Committee in the San Antonio region with those of the Clean Air Coalition in Austin
- Joining the air quality planning efforts of the two Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's), the San Antonio / Bexar County MPO with the Capital Area MPO in Austin
- Joining the air quality planning efforts of the two Texas Department of Transportation Districts, which have the two areas as their hubs.

The AIR Technical Committee discussion included the following comments:

- In general, the zero-out modeling results suggested that there is little impact on the Austin area from the San Antonio region with the exception of influence from Comal and Bexar Counties.
- A request was made to determine if the Austin region had completed similar zero-out runs for counties in the Capital Area Council of Governments service area (i.e., Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties).
 - Such modeling runs have not been performed in the Austin region.
 - AACOG staff has created back trajectories since the August 11 AIR Technical Committee meeting.
- Nick Page with the San Antonio / Bexar County MPO commented that their organization would consider making comments regarding transportation conformity only after the TCEQ staff makes their recommendations.
- Peter Bella with AACOG noted that it was entirely unclear what air quality control strategies would be required under such a scenario.
 - Given that the Austin region had implemented a very different series of control strategies under their Early Action Compact in comparison with the San Antonio region, such as the implementation of vehicle emissions testing, would both regions be required to implement emissions testing?
 - While there were some similarities between the two regions due mostly to their proximity and land cover, the local technical evaluation process for control strategies lead by each region turned up different suggested strategies.

Conclusion: the AIR Technical Committee concluded that, if both the San Antonio and Austin regions are declared non-attainment for ozone in 2010, they should remain separate non-attainment air quality planning regions.

Mr. Bella discussed the compilation of data and the timeline that EPA will use in the consideration of non-attainment designations and boundaries. He said that September 5th 2008 is when the TCEQ staff will receive their final comments so that the state might begin the process of formulating what recommendations they will send to EPA on non-attainment designations and boundaries. The state recommendation will not go to EPA until March 2009 and then a year later the EPA will make their final decision based on 2009, 2008, and 2007 data.

Mr. Smeltzer gave a power point presentation supporting the AIR Technical Committee conclusion.

9. Informational Items

Chairman Millikin introduced and welcomed the new Environmental Policy Director W. Laurence Doxsey for the City of San Antonio.

10. Next Meeting Date: October 22, 2008

11. Adjournment

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