

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization And Regional Air Quality Council

Thursday, March 6, 2008
Frederick, Colorado

RAQC MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Andy Spielman, Chairman, *Hogan and Hartson, LLP*
Brad Beckham, *Colorado. Department of Transportation (alternate for George Russell)*
Mark Johnson, *Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment*
Jim Martin, *Colorado. Department Public Health and Environment*
Doug Lempke, *Colorado. Department Public Health and Environment (alternate for Jim Martin)*
Ben Manvel, *City of Fort Collins*
Jana Milford, *University of Colorado at Boulder*
Joan Ringel, *Citizen Member*
Nancy Severson, *Denver Department of Environmental Health*

NORTH FRONT RANGE MPO VOTING MEMBERS:

Julie Cozad, *Milliken*
Don Feldhaus, *Greeley*
Bill Kaufman, *Transportation Commission*
Glen Gibson, *Larimer County*
Larry Heckel, *Loveland*
Doug Lempke, *Air Quality Control Commission (alternate)*
Milan Karspeck, *Berthoud*
Ben Manvel, *Fort Collins*
Andy Martinez, *LaSalle*
Doug Rademacher, *Weld County*
Gregg Rhoads, *Evans*
Ed Stark, *Windsor*
Verniece Thomas, *Eaton*

STAFF:

RAQC: Ken Lloyd; Misty Howell; Steve McCannon; Jerry Dilley; Kate Riegle; and Trevor Noel.
North Front Range MPO: Cliff Davidson; John Daggett; Lisa Helme; Arvilla Krichhoff; Suzette Mallette; Chris Sheil; Tia Raamot; and Kay Wood.

OTHERS:

Sheldon Barthlawn; Jim Brandon; Raymond Elick; Mark Engle; David Foy; Abby Gaffney; Karla Harding; Gail Hoffmann; Myran Hora; Dennis Houska; Wayne Howard; Mark Jackson; John Jacus; Fred Jones; Garry Kaufman; Evelyn King; Gary Lindstedt; Rob Masden; Shawn Morris; Brad Patterson; Mark Peterson; Doug Ryan; Karen Schneiders; Karen Scopel; Mike Silverstein; Lucinda Smith; Gary Thomas; Paul Tourangeau; and Brain Wickel.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) Chair Don Feldhaus and RAQC Chairman Andy Spielman. A quorum of RAQC members was present.

Welcome and Introductions

Don Feldhaus and Andy Spielman welcomed everyone to the joint meeting and explained the purpose of the joint meeting was to come together to discuss the planning measures being developed to address the ozone non-attainment status along the Front Range. Members of the RAQC and North Front Range MPO introduced themselves.

Overview and Status of Ozone Planning and SIP Development

Ken Lloyd, RAQC staff, provided an update on ozone planning. He reviewed the Governor's directive and the steps the RAQC has been taking to meet the directive. He presented information on the dispersion modeling and strategies under consideration for mobile sources/fuels, VOC stationary sources, Oil & Gas sources, and transportation measures. He also explained that EPA is considering lowering the ozone standard and briefly explained how that would affect the current efforts. Finally, Ken provided a summary of the RAQC's stakeholder process to date.

There was discussion on the ramifications of a new standard. Ken Lloyd explained the current SIP development process addresses the current standard. If a new standard is set and the region is designated non-attainment then another plan would need to be developed within the next five years to address how the region would attain the standard.

The consequences of not meeting the 85 ppb standard were discussed. Ken explained penalties are assessed when areas do not complete required SIP elements and not for continuing to be nonattainment with the standard. However, there are additional processes and hurdles that affect transportation conformity in a nonattainment area.

Discussion on the respective roles of the NFRMPO and RAQC in the upcoming planning and SIP development process

Ken Lloyd, RAQC, explained the importance of the two Boards working together to meet the ozone standard. He indicated that Governor Ritter appointed Ben Manvel to the RAQC's Board to help coordinate efforts.

There were clarification questions on the contributing sources for ozone. Ken Lloyd indicated there are multiple sources polluting disproportionately making it difficult to identify one source as the major contributor to ozone. That is the reason that the RAQC's efforts have addressed many sources.

The RAQC members and the MPO Council members discussed the situation facing the Front Range and the implementation steps needed to meet the Governor's directive to reduce Front

Range ozone levels. It was noted that the Governor's directive did not include funding allocations for strategy implementation.

Cliff Davidson indicated his staff has been and will continue to disseminate ozone information to the North Front Range population. They will continue to work with the RAQC on the education messages. Joan Ringel stated it was important for the elected officials to discuss the issues, especially the regulatory issues, with their constituents to get feedback for the process. It was suggested that Ken Lloyd, Cliff Davison, and Suzette Mallette work to coordinate additional joint meetings, as necessary, based on the outlined next steps. The focus of the NFRMPO has been transportation, not air quality. Julie Cozad, NFRMPO, suggested a subcommittee of RAQC and MPO board members be created as an opportunity for ozone communications.

It was further suggested that each Board have a standing agenda item for updates to help coordinate efforts. RAQC staff or Ben Manvel can update the MPO on significant decisions. RAQC and NFRMPO staff will continue to coordinate efforts and suggest additional joint meetings when appropriate.

Discussion on options for Inspection and Maintenance and High-Emitter Programs in the North Front Range

Garry Kaufmann, APCD, presented information on vehicle inspection and maintenance options for the North Front Range. He outlined different technologies and implementation issues to consider. The possible strategies included:

- Expand the current Denver program to the North Front Range
- Reinstitute the North Front Range Basic Program
- OBD Program
- Mandatory Remote Sensing High-Emitter Program
- Voluntary Remote Sensing High-Emitter Program

The challenge to the North Front Range is to find a way to address high emitter vehicles in a way that is the least intrusive and most convenient for citizens.

Public Comment

Andy Spielman opened the floor to public comment.

Evelyn King, Loveland resident, supported the discontinuation of the previous inspection and maintenance (I/M) program since there is no data to support its effectiveness. She asked for clarification on the conflicting information on how volatile organic compounds (VOC) and NOx emissions affect ozone. Ken Lloyd explained that ozone chemistry is very complex and there is a delicate balance between VOCs and NOx. He explained the current modeling will help guide planning.

Doug Ryan, Larimar County Health Department and NFR Technical Air Quality Committee member, said technically feasible strategies need to be implemented. He discussed the I/M white paper and recommendations of the NFR Technical Air Quality Committee which supported the

OBD program coupled with RSD to identify dirty vehicles. They would support a decentralized program. He explained that these programs and the associated equipment remain effective longer than other options.

Jim Brandon, ESP, commented on the successful programs being implemented in Denver by his company. He raised concerns over the increasing number of vehicles from Denver being registered in Larimer and Weld counties to avoid emissions testing. He discussed economic issues related to the implementation of similar programs that would be beneficial to the North Front Range in addressing ozone concerns.

Dennis Houska, Houska Automotive of Fort Collins, indicated he would support an OBD program coupled with a gas cap testing program. He said he would not support a centralized testing program because it is not effective for the North Front Range population. He commented that his business has seen a decrease in general car maintenance since the I/M program was removed from the North Front Range.

Mike Engle, Engle Automotive in Loveland, said the I/M test is important and a worthwhile investment because it helps ensure cars are fixed properly. He felt that you get what you pay for when it comes to testing programs and the benefits outweigh the inconvenience issues for business and citizens when it comes to air quality. He supported an OBD/Dyno combination to get small shops involved.

Gary Lundstadt, Fort Collins auto shop owner, expressed he would support a decentralized, OBD II program. This type of program is designed to help catch gross emitters. He recognized that there would need to be an additional program for older cars without OBD technology.

Lucinda Smith, City of Fort Collins Air Quality Planner, encouraged support of short-term ozone strategies for 2008 season, noting that these measures would provide additional air quality benefits, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. She emphasized the need for public awareness regarding the ozone situation, which is often perceived by the public as a problem in Denver and not the Front Range. She encouraged local government representatives to have discussions with their councils and constituents to help enlighten them to the fact that ozone is a regional issue.

Shawn Morrison, Loveland shop owner, raised concerns on the continued abuse by citizens circumventing testing by registering vehicles outside the testing boundaries. He would like some focus to be on catching those avoiding the test.

Adjournment

Andy Spielman thanked the members of each council, staff members, and citizens for their support and participation in the meeting. Don Feldhaus concurred. The joint meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.