U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

PM 2.5 Designations for Air Quality Conformity

State Programs Meeting
April 15, 2009
Overview

- Refresher on current PM 2.5 Designations

- Information related Transit Facilities

- Proposed PM 2.5 Designations/Rules

- State DOT Involvement

- Questions/Answers
Current PM 2.5 Designations for 24 Hour Standard*

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Area Name</th>
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PM 2.5 Designations
(1997 Ruling)
PM 2.5 Qualitative Analysis

• What is a Qualitative Analysis?

• Where and why is this applicable?

• Who reviews/approves the document?

• What do I need to know?
Final Conformity Rule on PM
Hot Spot Analysis

• Rule became effective on 5 April 2006

• Identified two types of transit project that are “projects of concern”
  - New bus and rail terminals and transfer points that have a significant number of diesel vehicles congregating at a single location
  - Expanded bus and rail terminals and transfer points that significant increase the number of diesel vehicles congregating at a single location

• Conforming MTP and TIP must be in place at time of project approval/applicable SIP measures
Final Conformity Rule on PM
Hot Spot Analysis

• What constitutes a “significant number” or a significant increase?”
  - Interagency (IAC) involvement

• Clear exemptions
  - Purchase of new buses and rail cars to replace existing vehicles or for minor expansions of the fleet*
  - Reconstruction of renovation of transit buildings, storage and maintenance facilities, stations, terminals, and ancillary structures
  - Construction of new bus or rail storage/maintenance facilities categorically excluded in 23 CFR 771
Areas Designated Nonattainment with the 2006 24-Hour PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS

- On December 22, 2008, EPA designated 58 areas as nonattainment with the 24-hour PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS.

- 7 areas in Region 4:
  - Birmingham, AL
  - Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN
  - Clarksville, TN-KY
  - Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH
  - Knoxville-Sevierville-La Follette, TN
  - Louisville, KY-IN
  - Paducah-Mayfield, KY-IL

- All Region 4 areas except Birmingham may be attaining based on 2005-2008 data.
2006 24-hour PM$_{2.5}$ Nonattainment Areas Designated Dec. 2008
(based on 2005-2007 data)
Options for Violating Areas

• Upon revision or establishment of new standard, affirmative obligation to designate areas unclassifiable/attainment or nonattainment for the new or revised standard.

• Post initial designation process, EPA can:
  – Work with area to return to attainment
  – Issue a SIP Call
  – Designate area as nonattainment
Region 4 has identified 8 “focus areas” that are designated as attainment for PM2.5 but have recent monitoring data indicating annual design values:

- Augusta/Aiken, GA-SC
- Columbus/Phenix City, GA-AL
- Washington County, GA
- Wilkinson County, GA
- Lexington, KY
- Charlotte, NC
- Greenville, SC
- Columbia, SC
Areas Violating the 2006 Annual PM$_{2.5}$ NAAQS

- Letter dated February 4, 2009, from American Lung Association to EPA Administrator:
  - Claims that the change to the “spatial averaging component” of the annual standard triggered EPA’s duty to promulgate designations, even though the level (15 µg/m$^3$) was unchanged.
  - Requests that seven areas be re-designated to nonattainment for the annual PM$_{2.5}$ standard based on 2005-2007 data.
  - Five of the areas are in Region 4: Columbus, GA; Washington County, GA; Wilkinson County, GA; Augusta, GA; Greenville, SC. Also: Houston, TX and Fairmont, WV.

- EPA is reviewing the letter and the relevant data to determine how to respond.
• Proposed rules may now impact rural areas
• Potential designations may include areas not accustomed to the conformity process
• State Role in Interagency Council
• Pay close attention to EPA comment periods for proposed designation rebuttals