



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

## PM 2.5 Designations for Air Quality Conformity

State Programs Meeting  
April 15, 2009





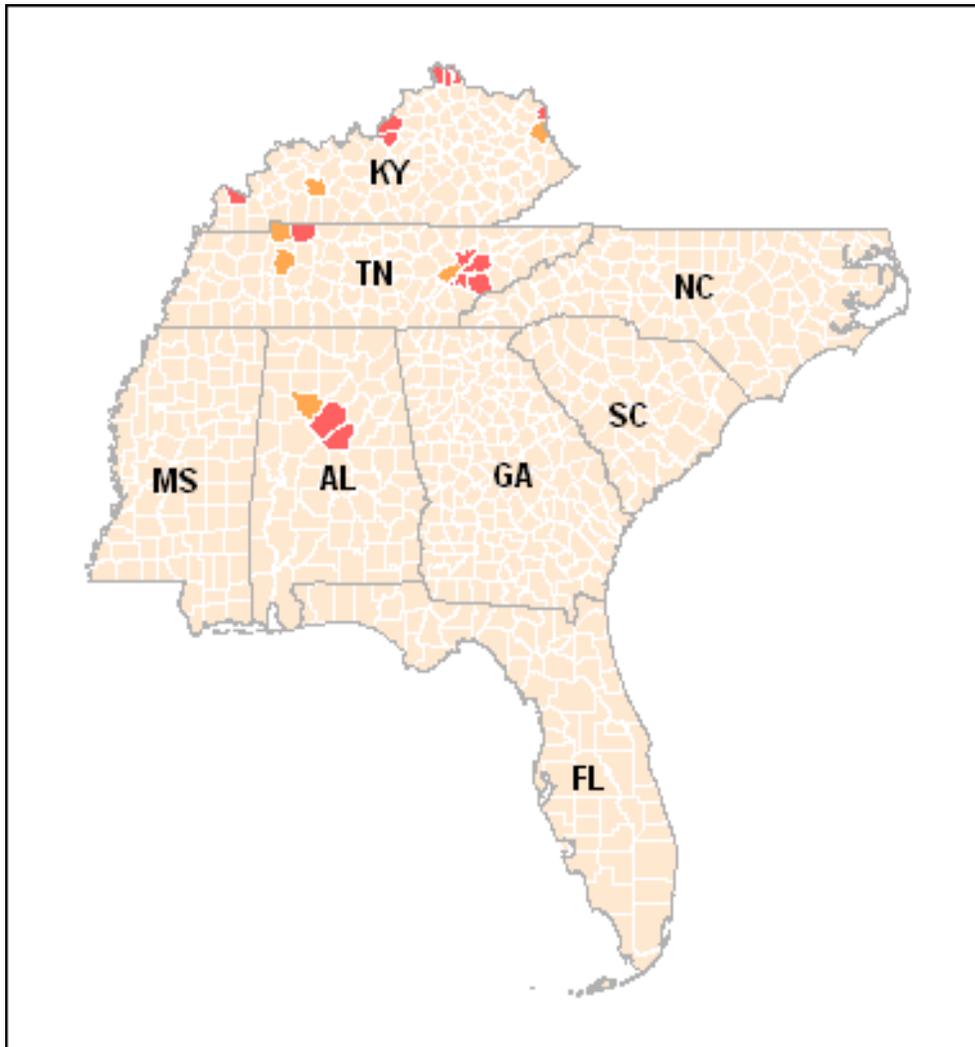
# Overview

- 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\*

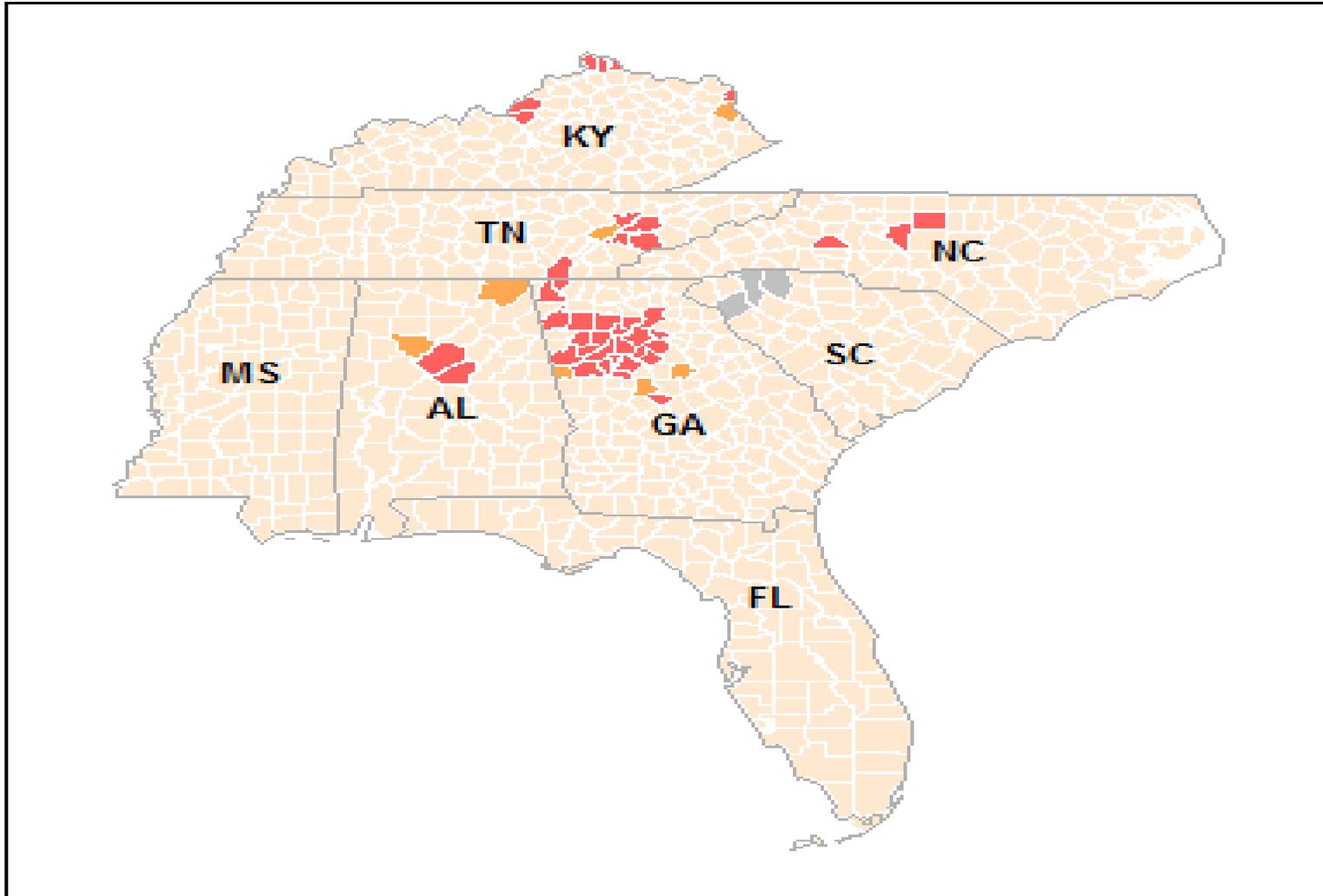


State	Area Name	Counties
Alabama	Birmingham, AL	Jefferson Shelby Walker (P)
Florida	Entire State is unclassifiable/attainment	
Georgia	Entire State is unclassifiable/attainment	
Kentucky	Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN	Boone Campbell Kenton
	Clarksville, TN-KY	Muhlenberg (P)
	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	Boyd Lawrence (P)
	Louisville, KY-IN	Bullitt Jefferson
	Paducah-Mayfield, KY-IL	McCracken
	Tennessee	Clarksville, TN-KY
	Knoxville-Sevierville-La Follette, TN	Anderson Blount Knox Loudon Roane (P)
Mississippi	Entire State is unclassifiable/attainment	
North Carolina	Entire State is unclassifiable/attainment	
South Carolina	Entire State is unclassifiable/attainment	





# 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 or 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<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS

- On December 22, 2008, EPA designated 58 areas as nonattainment with the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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.

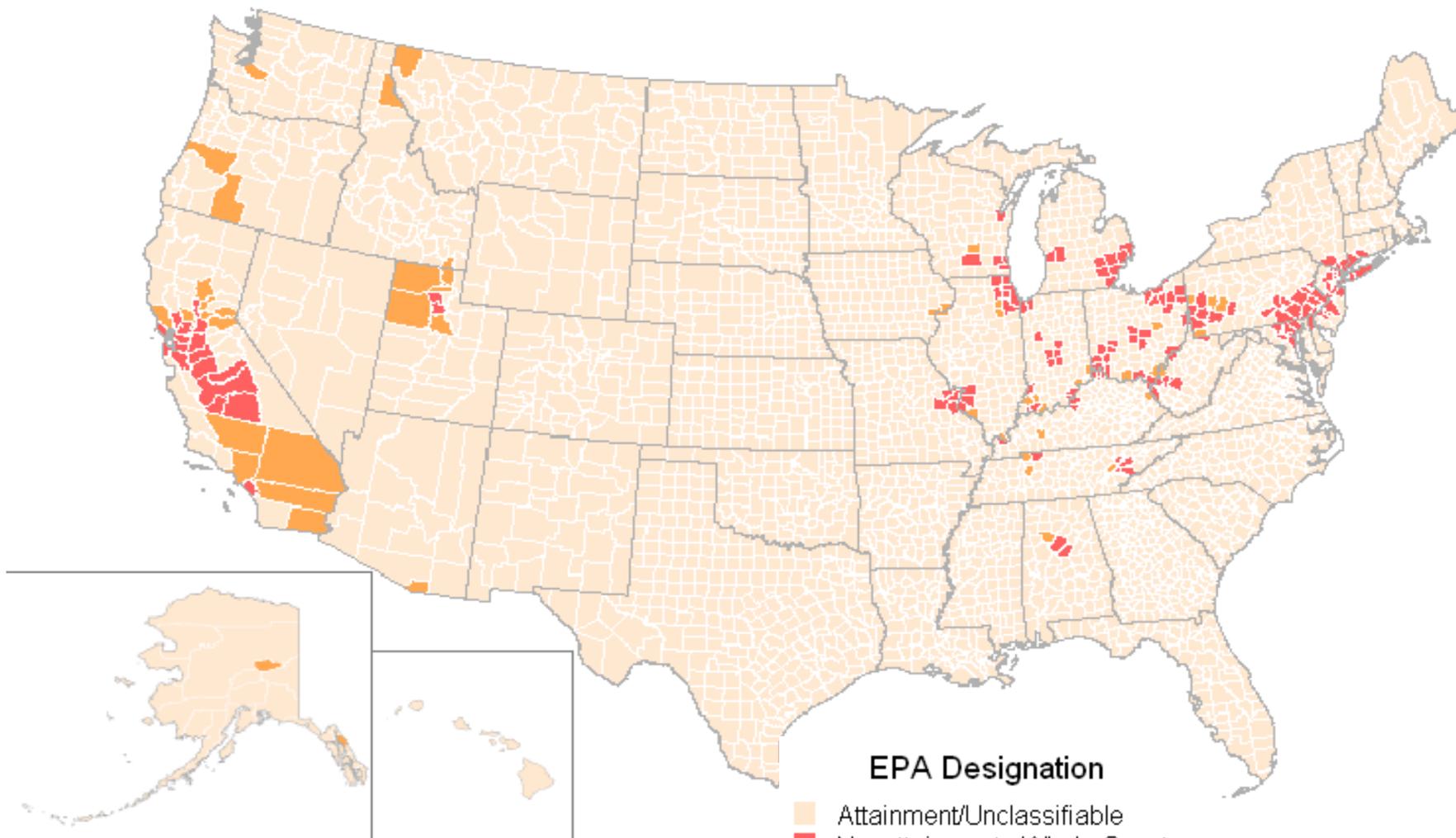




# 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub>

## Nonattainment Areas Designated Dec. 2008

(based on 2005-2007 data)



### EPA Designation

- Attainment/Unclassifiable
- Nonattainment - Whole County
- Nonattainment - Partial County





# 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





# PM Focus Areas

Region 4 has identified 8 “focus areas” that are designated as attainment for PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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<sub>2.5</sub> 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<sup>3</sup>) was unchanged.
  - Requests that seven areas be re-designated to nonattainment for the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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.





# The Bottom Line

- 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

