

ALERT! MAY 2007

ALERT! is a monthly update on transportation and air quality planning activities in the Delaware Valley.



CONFORMITY

DVRPC Demonstrates Conformity for Revised 2030 Long Range Plan, Amended FY 2007 PA TIP and New FY 2008 NJ TIP

DVRPC opened a thirty day comment period for the public to review the Transportation Conformity finding for the revised *Destination 2030* Long Range plan (Plan), the amended FY 2007 PA Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the new FY 2008 NJ TIP. The public comment period opened on April 20, 2007 and will close on May 21, 2007 at 5:00 pm.

The federal Clean Air Act as amended (CAA) requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations, in designated air quality non-attainment areas, demonstrate that Plans and TIPs, and the projects contained in those documents, do not worsen air quality in the region nor impede the region's progress towards attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Transportation Conformity analysis includes air emissions modeling from the region's existing transportation network and planned and proposed regionally significant projects. The emissions analyses results are then tested against established benchmarks established by state and federal regulations.

Conformity determinations are required whenever Plans or TIPs undergo significant revisions or when non-exempt, regionally significant projects or programs are sufficiently altered or amended. This year the Plan has been revised to meet requirements of Safe Accountable Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users, legislation enacted by Congress in 2005. Other conformity triggers include a new NJ TIP as well as amendments to regionally significant projects in the PA TIP.

This iteration of DVRPC's Transportation Conformity findings show that the TIPs and Plan meet the established criteria contained in the respective state and federal conformity regulations.

To view the DVRPC documents that are currently open for public comment, including the Plan, NJ TIP and Transportation Conformity findings, please visit: http://www.dvrpc.org/publicaffairs/publicinvolvement/notice/2007-04_2030.htm. Public comments on the documents are being accepted via mail, email at tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org or by calling (215) 592-9125. Comments are also being accepted at two public meetings being held at the Cherry Hill Public Library on May 2, and the DVRPC offices on May 9, 2007. Both meetings will be held from 4:00 until 6:00 PM.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Thursday,
May 10th, 2007
Ozone Season Kick-off
Press Conference
11:00 am**

(coupons for biofuels for first 100 attendees beginning at 10:30 am)

Center City Shell Station
12th and Vine Streets
Philadelphia, PA

**Monday,
May 21st, 2007
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference Working Group
Meeting
10:00 am**

DVRPC Conference Center
ACP Building, 8th Floor
6th and Race Streets
Philadelphia, PA



Other News

EPA Reports Long Term, National Trends Point to Improved Air Quality

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that an early look at 2006 air quality monitoring data shows continued improvement in the nation's air quality over the long term. EPA states that emissions of the six criteria pollutants have dropped by more than half since the adoption of the Clean Air Act in 1970. These gains in air quality have been achieved even while gross domestic product (+203 percent), vehicle miles traveled (+177 percent) and population (+46 percent increase) have been steadily increasing.

While air quality in the Delaware Valley still does not meet the 8-hour ozone or annual PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards, preliminary data analysis does show a decrease in the frequency and geographic extent of high ozone episodes over the long term (since the PM_{2.5} standards were enacted in 2004, analysis of local long term trends is not available).

Gains in air quality can largely be credited to improvements in emission control technology, more stringent regulations and effective voluntary programs to reduce air emissions from both stationary and mobile sources.

For more information on national air emission trends, please visit: <http://epa.gov/airtrends/econ-emissions.html>



Air QualityPartnership

Air Quality Partnership to Kick-off twelfth Ozone Forecasting Season

The Air Quality Partnership of the Delaware Valley (AQP) will kick-off the twelfth season of summer ozone forecasting with a press conference and public information event at the Center City Shell Station, located at 12th and Vine Streets in Philadelphia, on Thursday, May 10th, 2007. The event will highlight the positive steps that agencies and organizations in the region are taking to improve air quality, including bringing the region's first biofuel service station to Philadelphia, awarding fleets for reducing diesel emissions and encouraging the public to take action to reduce emissions.

The kick-off serves to raise awareness that summer is ozone season and everyone should take action to reduce polluting activities. The AQP provides ozone forecasts daily from May through September to alert the public when ground-level ozone levels are expected to be unhealthy. The public is encouraged to take positive action to reduce ozone pollution, such as taking transit or avoiding topping off the gas tank when refueling. These actions are important every day, but especially when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy.

To receive advisories when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, contact the AQP at airqualitypartnership.org; to view the daily air quality forecast visit: <http://www.airqualitypartnership.org> or call 800.872.7261.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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