

ALERT! June 2010

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



Air Quality Regulations

Resolution to Disapprove EPA Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding Faces Senate Vote.

The US Senate will vote on a resolution on whether or not to disapprove the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) endangerment finding for greenhouse gases. The EPA's endangerment finding states that greenhouse gases endanger human health and the environment. The finding allows the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases under the authority of the Clean Air Act.

The resolution, proposed by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AL), would prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases. Senator Murkowski and Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) have agreed to bring the resolution to a yes/no floor vote in the Senate on June 10. The leaders have agreed to debate the measure for ten hours before a final vote. No amendments or filibusters will be allowed in the debate.

Murkowski's resolution would require 51 votes to pass. If the measure passes the Senate, it faces an uncertain future in the House of Representatives and a likely Presidential veto.

Opponents of the resolution claim that it favors political considerations over scientific evidence and will weaken the Clean Air Act protections of human health and the environment. EPA administrator Lisa Jackson warned that the disapproval resolution would upend the joint EPA and Department of Transportation fuel economy standards and greenhouse gas emissions limits for cars and light duty trucks.

Other Senators support regulating greenhouse gases but feel that the Clean Air Act is not the proper vehicle to control these emissions. There are a number of proposed bills currently under consideration by the Senate that would address greenhouse gases.

For more information on Senator Murkowski's disapproval resolution please visit: www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/05/25/25climawire-sen-murkowskis-epa-resolution-on-greenhouse-23579.html



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Tuesday,
June 1st, 2010
Opening of Public Comment
Period For
FY 2011 PA TIP
and
Conformity Determination for
PA and NJ TIPS**

Send Comments to:
Tip- Plan Comments C/O DVRPC
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Or email:
Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org

**Thursday,
June 10th, 2010
Public Meeting For
FY 2011 PA TIP,
and
Conformity Determination for
PA and NJ TIPS
4:00 – 6:00 pm**

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



Transportation and Air Quality

Efficient Driving Saves Fuel and Reduces Emissions

Indy Car driver Nelson Phillippe and sports marketing executive Jean Paul Libert have teamed up to promote the benefits of efficient driving for air quality, safety and fuel conservation. The founders of "I Drive Green" hope to coach commuters on skills that help them to avoid bad driving habits that waste fuel, to maintain their vehicles to promote fuel efficiency, and to drive with attention and anticipation that will ultimately make them safer drivers. Phillippe dismissed the notion that efficient driving is equivalent to slow driving. Stop and go driving, with frequent and rapid acceleration, is the least efficient way to drive a vehicle. Anticipating and avoiding these habits can cut emissions by up to 30 percent.

The US Department of Energy has devoted a new website to promote efficient driving. The website highlights the potential emissions and fuel savings from simple changes in driving habits. The savings can actually be quite significant. According to www.fuelefficiency.gov, avoiding aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) can increase fuel economy by between 5-33%. Observing the speed limit can net benefits between 7-23%, while simply removing extra weight from your trunk can provide benefits of up to 2% for fuel economy.

With gas prices increasing and air quality standards becoming stricter, efficient driving habits are a common-sense step for commuters to take to save money while reducing emissions that contribute to smog formation and climate change.

For more information on efficient driving please visit: www.ecodrivingusa.com/ or www.fuelefficiency.gov

Mobility Alternatives Program and Transportation Management Associations Promote Ridesharing during Summer Ozone Season

DVRPC's Mobility Alternatives Program (MAP) and local Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) continue to offer services to promote carpooling and vanpooling in southeastern Pennsylvania through ride-matching and emergency ride home programs. Car and vanpooling are great ways to reduce smog forming emissions, especially during the summer months when our region experiences poor air quality episodes.

The MAP and TMAs use a computerized commute matching service to connect commuters with potential car and vanpool partners. Participants are not required to use the carpools every day to participate in the program. MAP operates an Emergency Ride Home Program to insure that carpool participants can get home in case of an unforeseen emergency outside of the carpool schedule.

For more information on ride-matching or the Emergency Ride Home program visit: www.pacarpool.com or contact Sarah Oaks at soaks@dvrpc.org

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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