

**Current Considerations in Mobile Sources Air Quality Planning
Conformity, the New MOVES Model and the Next Revision to the Ozone Standard**
MDE, Air & Radiation Management Administration
May 2010

Current Designations

- Currently, the Baltimore region is designated as nonattainment for the ozone and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Current Budgets Used in Conformity

- **1997 Ozone, O₃ Standard:**
The Baltimore region has a motor vehicle emissions budget for ozone that EPA has officially found adequate (the Reasonable Further Progress, or RFP, budget).
- **Fine Particulate Matter, PM_{2.5}:**
EPA has taken no action on the PM_{2.5} SIP submitted in 2008 and the region applies the “no greater than 2002” base year interim emissions test for PM_{2.5} in conformity determinations.

Baltimore Region Air Quality Monitoring Data

- **1997 Ozone, O₃ Standard:**
All but one ozone monitor in the region complies with the **0.08 parts per million (ppm)** ozone standard set in 1997; MDE has requested an extension of the attainment deadline.
- **Fine Particulate Matter, PM_{2.5}:**
All monitors in the Baltimore region comply with the PM_{2.5} standard; EPA has officially made a clean data determination for PM_{2.5} for the Baltimore region (not to be confused with an attainment determination).

2010 Air Quality Mandates

Several inter-related air quality mandates will occur in 2010 that could have a significant effect on transportation planning in the Baltimore region as well as other areas in Maryland:

- ❖ Release of the new EPA mobile source emissions model, MOVES
- ❖ Release of the new ozone standard and designation of nonattainment areas
- ❖ Possible approval of the Baltimore region PM_{2.5} SIP submitted in 2008
- ❖ Possible action on the Baltimore region Ozone SIP submitted in 2007

EPA MOVES Model

- On March 2, 2010, EPA published a Federal Register notice establishing Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) as the official model replacing MOBILE6.
- The notice begins a two year grace period for agencies to develop their capability to use the model and requires agencies to use this model in developing SIPs and performing regional analyses for conformity determinations after March 2, 2012.
- The MOVES model makes improvements in estimating PM_{2.5} emissions, GHG pollutants, toxics and idling emissions. For PM_{2.5} and NO_x, MOVES tends to

estimate higher emissions than MOBILE6.2 while VOC estimates with MOVES are lower.

- During the grace period, conformity determinations can be made using MOBILE6.2. Conformity determinations begun using MOBILE6.2 but not completed before the grace period ends may be accepted.

Determining Future Budgets for Use in Conformity

- It is possible that EPA will act on the SIPs submitted; they could *approve* the mobile budgets in these SIPs. (The current Reasonable Further Progress, or RFP, ozone mobile budget has been found adequate.) An approved mobile budget can only be superseded by another approved mobile budget.
- It could be difficult to comply with emission budgets developed using MOBILE6.2 when MOVES is used for conformity purposes. New SIPs will not be due to EPA until the end of 2013 and will probably not be approved (along with their mobile budgets) until 2014 or later. This is a long period of time before a motor vehicle emissions budget developed for the Baltimore region using the MOVES model can be used for a conformity determination.

Planning for Potential Designations

2008/2010 Ozone, O₃ Standards:

- In 2008, EPA proposed a revised ozone standard of **0.075ppm**, a level less stringent than the range recommended by the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee. Under the new administration, EPA has decided to reconsider the level of that standard before making nonattainment area designations. When proposed, the revised ozone standard will fall within the **range of 0.060-0.070 ppm**. Depending on the level of the final standard, the Baltimore region could be classified as “moderate”, or possibly higher.
- EPA developed an expedited schedule that will finalize the revised standard in August 2010 and complete nonattainment area designations by August 2011. EPA proposes to require Ozone SIPs on an expedited schedule with December 2013 as the deadline.
- Designation as nonattainment for the revised standard would trigger a requirement to re-determine conformity within one year, roughly by August 2012. If begun prior to March 2012, this determination can be completed using MOBILE6.2.