

**Agenda & Minutes**  
**Blue Skyways Collaborative**  
**On-Road Subcommittee**

Conference Call  
May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 11:30 a.m.

Call-in number: 866-299-3188  
Participant Code: 9135517039



**AGENDA**

1. Introductions
2. Reoccurring call date/time and structure
3. Announcements: Upcoming workshops, events & funding
4. Potential collaboration opportunities
5. Subcommittee Work plan review/input
6. Tech Topic: Reflash

**Attachments**

1. Participant List
2. Reflash Outreach Strategy
3. Reflash Fact Sheet
4. Business List

## Blue Skyways Collaborative On-Road Subcommittee

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## Minutes

**Attendees:** Shelley Whitworth/H-GAC, Victoria Carver/IA Biodiesel Board, Reagan Noll/Clean Energy, H-E-B representative, Tracy Rudisill/ODEQ, Mike Zimovan/Donaldson, Jerry Swart/FedEx, James Voelker/TCEQ, Mollie Freebairn/MDNR, Carrie Reese/NCTCOG, Mike Boothe/Johnson County KS, Joe Zietsman/TTI, Erica Stanley/KDHE, Miles Stotts/KDHE, Kathleen Waters/KDHE, Danny Zamora/City of Albuquerque, Tom Rennie/DOD, Kathryn Burke/CenSARA.,  
**Did I miss anyone else who was on the call?**

### Announcements:

1. Conference: *Blue Skyways Conference*, October 2 – 4, 2007 in St. Louis MO. See attached “Save the Date” notice.
2. Webinar: on *Federal Funding & Incentives for Alternative Fuels and Vehicles*, June 26, 10:30 PDT, hosted by the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute, <http://www.afvi.org/webinar26jun07.html>
3. Document: Diesel Forum released a guide on using CMAQ funds, [http://www.dieselforum.org/fileadmin/templates/FactSheetMasterFolder/CMAQ\\_web.pdf](http://www.dieselforum.org/fileadmin/templates/FactSheetMasterFolder/CMAQ_web.pdf)
4. Workshop: *Advancing the Choice*, Promoting clean & alternative fuels vehicles, Houston Galveston area, June 27<sup>th</sup>, <http://hgac.com/hgac/departments/transportation/Default.htm>

### Participant Information/Web-posting:

The attached participant list will be posted on the Blue Skyways website at <http://www.blueskyways.org/committees/onroad.htm>. If you do not want your contact information on the web, please contact me.

### Reoccurring Conference Call Information

- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. CDT starting month of June
- **Amy B. will send out a reoccurring LN invite** – please respond with your availability for each call if technically capable.
- General agenda outline for each meeting will include:
  - Introductions (I will try and em an updated participant list with each agenda)
  - Announcements: bring any announcements including workshops, meetings, events, legislative activity, etc. that you want to share

- Upcoming/potential collaboration opportunities: any new activities going on that you want to collaborate on or that you need help on?
- Information/technology topic: main focus of meeting

### **General Items**

- Participants interested in finding out what response EPA/HQ has been getting from local governments in regards to the model rule. **Amy B. will follow up.**
  - Wyandotte County, KS was looking into a local ordinance but is on hold as state is considering.
  - In TX, the state adopted a rule and then opened an MOU for local governments to commit to enforcement.

### **Potential collaboration opportunities:**

- Idling workshops (KDHE/KSU held recent idle workshop). Are other participants interested in hearing about best practices and/or discussing other potential workshops? Would a regional effort be helpful?
- Several participants on the call were interested in hearing about the activities and how they might be adapted for specific audiences/needs in different geographic areas. **Amy B. will send out separate notice to all participants to set up a conference call to discuss.** Participants who expressed initial interest, Mollie/MDNR, James/TCEQ, Carrie/NCTCOG, Shelly/HGAC. Amy B. post note – why don't we set the next call to discuss idle reduction opportunities (I'll send out some thoughts on agenda items/topics).

### **Subcommittee Work plan Update**

- An update on the work plan will be provided to participants soon

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### **Tech Topic: Reflash**

James Voelker from TCEQ lead a discussion on reflash and the potential for a BSC collaborative effort to address the issue. James provided three documents which TCEQ prepared that provides background information on reflash, a potential outreach strategy for the collaborative and a list of authorized reflash locations in TX.

History/background of reflash:

- In mid-90's, EPA and DOJ determined that seven major engine manufacturers NOx emissions were exceeding standards for 93-98 year engines.
- Manufacturers entered into a consent decree requiring that engine manufacturers provide low NOx reflash upgrades to anyone who requests it when the engine is rebuilt.
- SIPs were indicating that 90% of trucks were reflashed, but EPA estimated that only 10%. Were actually reflashed.
- Reflash is a software upgrade that can only be provided by authorized dealers.

#### Proposed strategy for BSC collaborative efforts:

- As a regional effort, we encourage truck operators to request reflash when their engine is rebuilt. Why as a region? Since transportation fleet emission reductions are difficult to isolate to a single community or state, this effort will have a regional benefit for movement throughout our 10-states.
- Target long-haul fleets, local/regional fleets and school buses
- Work with manufacturers to secure voluntary cooperation in making reflash available outside of rebuilds.

#### Considerations:

- We need to know if reflash is still an issue. How many 93-98 vehicles are still on the road? James noted that engines were generally rebuilt every 3 years and retired after about 3 rebuilds for the major fleets. Trucks in these MY's may be owned by independent truck owners and smaller businesses.
- Trucks could have been getting reflash, but didn't know they were getting it because they were a part of other upgrades. Is there a way to find out?
- This is an issue that includes local fleets, school buses. Over the road trucks seem to be getting the reflash. Good opportunity to impact each geographic area through a regional approach/agreement.
- There is a need to approach manufacturers as a group to let them know that we as a collaborative, we are interested in reflash for our area. Could ask that they allow reflash anytime it is requested, not just during rebuilds.
- At a minimum, we could post the list of facilities in each state who are authorized for reflash on the BSC website.
- If schools, local fleets agree to reflash, this could be a good BSC partner project to use.
- Should get our corporate partners involved in this regional effort as well.

#### Additional reflash questions:

- How much is fuel economy affected by reflash? Per EPA negligible decrease in fuel economy.
- How much of a NOx benefit is gained? Since the software is proprietary, EPA can not release this data, but we will look into getting some general numbers.
- What were some of the issues that CA encountered? CA had issues because they were trying to mandate reflash. A voluntary approach may solve these issues.
- It was noted that at a recent EPA stakeholder meeting regarding SIP measurements, that a manufacturing rep indicated they had met the reflash requirements - is this the case? Per EPA HQ, there is still an issue and the manufacturers have not been released from the decree.

#### Interested participants & stakeholders

- Oklahoma
- KDHE/Johnson County/Wyandotte County
- Texas/Houston/Dallas
- Who else do we need to get on board? (Other states, industry leaders, associations)

Next Steps:

- Amy B. will send an invite to set up a separate reflash call
- In the meantime, KS (Mike Boothe), MO (Mollie) and OK (Tracy) will look into registration of 93-98 vehicles
- James/Amy B will circulate additional materials as available