



**SUMMARY:** 7/19/06 Blue Skyways OnRoad Subcommittee conference call

### **Participants**

Lawrence Webber – US Army  
Margaret Nieto – Albuquerque Tracy Rudisill – Oklahoma  
Mollie Freebairn – Missouri  
Susan Ghertner-HEB  
Doug Neidigh- Springfield  
Amy Bhesania – EPA Region 7  
Gina Kneib – EPA Region 7  
Ruben Casso – EPA Region 6  
Wes McQuiddy – EPA/CENSARA

### **OnRoad Workplan**

There were no comments on the final edits to the final draft BSC OnRoad Subcommittee workplan. Please submit any input ASAP otherwise the document will be finalized as revised in the version sent out to the group.

### **OnRoad Goal Progress/Updates and Planning/Next Steps**

The group discussed each of the OnRoad focus/goal areas in the OnRoad workplan. The BSC OnRoad progress spreadsheet gives the status toward each of the goals.

#### **Anti-Idling:**

Our goal is to have 25 communities with anti-idling provisions by 6/07. 3 communities with anti-Idling provisions have been signed on as BSC communities. Ruben/Wes mentioned that discussions were underway with the following communities/entities: Cities of Richardson, TX and Kirkwood, MO; GraceHill Settlement House (St Louis); Kickapoo Tribe (KS), FT Hood Army Base (TX), Clean Energy, and the Dallas Cowboys.

Appropriate group members were requested to assist with obtaining the information needed to obtain complete BSC application forms from these and other potential BSC communities/partners so they could be formally recognized as participating in the Blue Skyways Collaborative.

Margaret mentioned that The City of Albuquerque was developing anti-idling regulations that were expected to be finalized in October.

Larry Webber from the US Army requested examples of anti-idling provisions. Ruben agreed to send examples and sent a follow-up email to the group with examples and a list of communities/partners with anti-idling provisions.

### **BSC OnRoad/SmartWay Challenge**

Our goal is to target 50 retailers/shippers in BSC states to take the challenge. Information on current and potential companies to contact had been sent. The group asked who would/should be doing the recruiting. Ruben explained that the subcommittee had said they wanted to promote SmartWay and that the challenge was developed to achieve that goal. The idea is for the BSC (local/state/tribal/private) organization in the best position to do so, would contact and recruit companies to take the BSC OnRoad challenge. It would seem that local and state organization would know the companies with their jurisdictions better than EPA would, but that EPA was certainly available assist BSC members if requested to do so. There may be some companies either which will not be targeted by other BSC/OnRoad members or for which EPA might be in a better position to target that EPA would take the lead on contacting.

The group requested EPA develop a form for the OnRoad challenge similar to the Blue Skyways community/partnership form, which could be e-mailed or given to potential target companies to facilitate this effort. Ruben agreed this was a good idea and agreed to develop a draft form and show it to the group for comment before it is finalized for use.

### **School Bus Efforts**

Ruben informed the group that application deadline the Clean School Bus RFP for the Blue Skyways area being managed by EPA R7 was extended until September 26, 2006 to facilitate applications from school districts who may not be in a position to apply until after the school year begins.

BSC members are encouraged to contact schools within their jurisdictions to encourage them to apply to the funds and to promote additional school bus retrofits through other funding (i.e. state/local/tribal funds and SEPs).

Ruben and Wes asked Larry Weber if the Army base schools had bus fleets and who owned/operated them to explore retrofit/assistance efforts. Larry said he would check on what information he could find on this issue.

### **Truck Stop Electrification**

Our goal is to have 40 TSE sites by June 2008. We have 12 sites so far. Ruben said he would talk with Joe Zeitsman at the Texas Transportation Institute about the availability of the TSE presentation he developed in concert with EPA HQ/SmartWay and gave at the June Blue Skyways meeting. Region 7 had talked with Joe about the TTI RFP for a potential TSE site in Missouri. Ruben would follow-up with Joe on this as well.

Ruben mentioned that discussions were ongoing regarding the potential for an alternative energy powered TSE site. In addition a conference call was being arranged for a potential biofuel TSE site in Iowa. R7 asked to participate. Ruben agreed to include EPA Region 7 on the conference call.

Ruben encouraged BSC OnRoad members to investigate prospects for additional TSE and funds to support them. He mentioned TCEQ was hoping fund TSE sites from both Idle Aire and Shurpower suppliers.

### TERP Grants Promote Air Quality in Texas

Shurepower and IdleAire received more than \$5 million in grants to install idle reduction equipment in North Texas. Administered by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the grants are part of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP), a comprehensive set of incentive programs aimed at improving air quality. According to Mindy Mize, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities coordinator, Shurepower received almost \$155,000 to install and operate at least 25 idle-reduction pedestals, while IdleAire received more than \$5.4 million to install and operate up to 600 advanced electrification units. The companies are required to match the funding by 50% and place their units at truck stops within the Dallas-Fort Worth nonattainment counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant. Shurepower will set up electric plug-in units that provide power for on-board amenities such as heating, cooling, and entertainment. IdleAire will install window units that provide heating and cooling, electrical outlets, and communication and entertainment options. All together, the units are expected to displace more than 231 tons of emissions per year.

### International Borders

Our goal was to conduct 100 retrofits in the U.S. Mexico Border area dn to increase the FAST (Free and Secure Trade ) lanes on the border. Ruben mentioned a school bus grant to the City of Laredo that R6 was verifying numbers for. Ruben also said was seeking to get an update on the status and plans for FAST lanes on the border.

### Transportation Planning/Funding

Mollie asked about the process and funding and BSC participation with transportation issues. Ruben explained that decision making and funding on transportation issues was delegated by DOT/Federal Highways to each of the state transportation offices. Ruben agreed to send information on CMAQ funds allocated to each state and encouraged BSC/OnRoad members to contact their State DOT offices and get informed about transportation/funding activities/process/issues to encourage their participation and collaboration with Blue Skyways efforts.

### **BSC Website Development**

Ruben mentioned that the Blue Skyways.org website was still in development and that input was being sought for the OnRoad webpages. Ruben agreed to send the group an initial draft for comment/input.