REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

JEFFERSON • ORLEANS • PLAQUEMINES • ST. BERNARD • ST. TAMMANY • TANGIPAHOA

December 9, 2016

Ozone Advance
c/o Laura Bunte, Mail Code C304-01
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards
109 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes (RPC) would like to submit the following as the annual report required by participation in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Ozone Advance program. This document will outline the where we stand in our efforts to reduce emissions of ozone precursors, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) for the parishes of New Orleans Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Brooks

Walter R Brooks

Telephone (504) 483-8500 *An Equal Opportunity Employer*
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Email: rpc@norpc.org; Web Site: http://www.norpc.org

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER
10 VETERANS BOULEVARD • NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA • 70124-1162

2016 ADVANCE PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO EPA

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FOR JEFFERSON, ORLEANS, PLAQUEMINES, ST. BERNARD
ST. TAMMANY AND TANGIPAHOA PARISHES
Serving the New Orleans Metropolitan Region

New Orleans Clean Air Coalition

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION 10 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, New Orleans LA 70124

Advance Program
Annual Report to EPA
December 2016

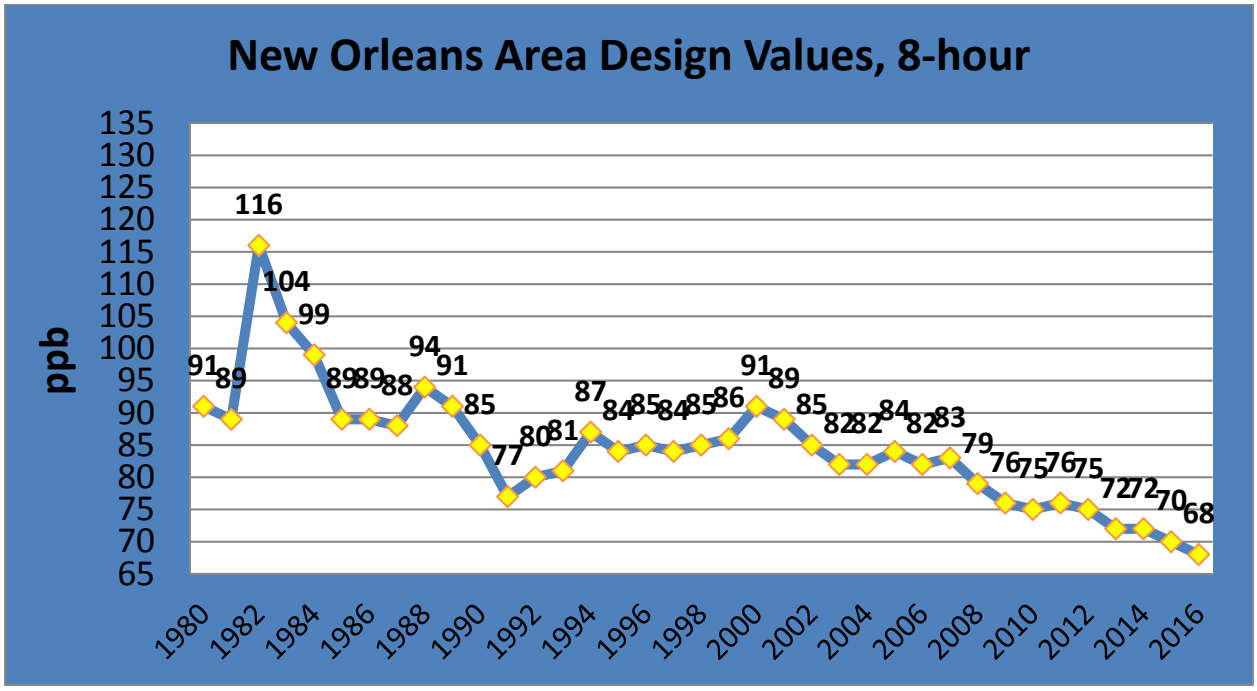
Background

The New Orleans region is monitored for the pollutant ozone at the following locations:

- 220930002 – Convent Site
- 220511001 – Kenner Site
- 221030002 – Madisonville Site
- 220870004 – Meraux Site

Figure 1 below shows how ground-level ozone levels have been on a downward trend since the early 1980s, and the RPC hopes that the voluntary actions through Ozone Advance and other programs will help this trend to continue into the future.

Figure 1. New Orleans Area Ozone Design Values, 8-Hour



Voluntary Actions to Reduce Ground Level Ozone – Current and Planned

GreenRide

Metro New Orleans GreenRide is a program that was launched in 2011 by the Regional Planning Commission in an effort to reduce vehicles miles traveled and overall congestion in the metro area. This program is a turn-key rideshare software that can be used by anyone traveling to or from the Greater New Orleans area. The site provides opportunities for drivers and passengers to coordinate trips and match with other individuals to carpool. The RPC launched GreenRide in 2011, with minimal media campaigns.

In addition to connecting interested carpoolers, the site also has the ability direct individuals to information regarding other transportation modes – transit, bicycle, vanpool. In the coming year, the RPC plans to target advertising and specific partnerships with universities and employers to further grow the program. This is what both the GreenRide staff and the RPC feel is the best way to help the tool gain traction in the region.

UPDATE:
With the recent rebranding of the Baton Rouge area's carpooling service as GeauxRide, giving the service a more localized brand, RPC intends to follow suit and rebrand from GreenRide to GeauxRide as well. An outreach plan is being developed at the RPC to have the greatest impact on increasing number of people using ridesharing and carpooling as a means to get to and from their places of work.

RPC was recently approached by South Central Planning and Development District to learn more about the experience with GreenRide, and there are investigating the potential of getting a state-wide ridesharing subscription through GreenRide or another service. The RPC is in conversations with other MPOs in the state to possibly implement a state-wide rideshare service through RidePro. If implemented, this service would have a mobile app, allowing users to more smoothly navigate the ride matching software.

Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership

The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership was designated as a US Department of Energy Clean Cities Coalition in 2008 with a vision to promote and facilitate implementation of clean fuels and technologies for transportation fleets that will greatly contribute to our energy independence. The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership creates partnerships between producers, distributors, retailers, and users and provides support and project coordination for fleets interested in transitioning to cleaner fuels in order to increase the number of vehicles using an alternative fuel by twenty percent (20%) annually and to expand the availability of cleaner fuels and technologies in southeast Louisiana.

With the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership and the Ozone Advance programs housed at the RPC, the program coordinators can easily collaborate on upcoming projects and initiatives that help fleets transition to alternative fuels while also decreasing the ground level ozone.

UPDATE:
In 2015 alone, coordinated efforts by the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership and stakeholders led to reduction of 2,743,480 gallons of gasoline equivalent (*Figure 2*) and 18,394 tons of greenhouse gas emissions (*Figure 3*). See *Table 1* for reductions by individual fleet. The reductions are less than in years past due to a new emissions reduction formula provided by USDOE.

The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership will continue to assist fleets in their transition to alternative fuels. As part of the program's outreach, educational events are held each year to educate fleet managers and maintenance personnel on alternative fuels and idle reduction

technologies. The partnership also works to establish alternative refueling and/or recharging stations across the region. See *Table 2* to see the new stations installed in 2015.

The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership made significant strides toward reducing traditional fuel consumption and improving air quality in transportation. Our accomplishments over the past year include:

- Nineteen fleets in Southeast Louisiana were recognized at the 2015 Clean Fleet Leader Awards for their efforts in reducing over 2.7 million GGEs.
- The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) reduced over 1 million GGEs for the 2nd consecutive year.
- As part of National Drive Electric Week and in partnership with the New Orleans City Council, Whole Foods Market, and EV-LA, New Orleans Electric Vehicle Day reached over 1,110 people. Local government officials declared a citywide proclamation highlighting the progress New Orleans is making to become EV-friendly. Sponsors for the event include PosiGen, Entergy, and Cox Communications.
- SLCFP continued to expand its partnership with the Port of New Orleans by joining their new Clean Air Advisory Group and working with them on implementing an idle-reduction policy set to be released by December 2016. We're also helping with their Clean Truck Replacement Incentive Program (Clean TRIP) which will replace drayage trucks with newer, more fuel-efficient models.
- UPS added biodiesel, CNG, and propane delivery trucks to their New Orleans area fleet and reduced over 665 tons of greenhouse gas emissions within the past year.
- Progressive Waste added 15 CNG vehicles to their fleet, expanding their CNG fleet to 42.
- SLCFP maintained communication with our stakeholders through email and website updates, a quarterly newsletter and regularly submitting articles for the Clean Cities Coordinator e zine, FuelsFix.

SLCFP continued to promote our CMAQ-funded Clean Fuel Transition Fund for Public Fleets working with Jefferson Parish Transit to convert their paratransit fleet to propane and with the City of New Orleans to incorporate idle reduction technologies into their ambulance fleet. Between these two projects, approximately 33% of the funding is committed. RPC is currently working with Jefferson Parish Public Works to determine alternative fuel and idle reduction technologies for their fleet to utilize the remaining funding. The Jefferson Parish Paratransit project also prompted Louisiana Division of Administration to include propane paratransit vehicles in their current request for the State Vehicle Contract list.

Figure 2. 2015 Gallons of Gasoline Equivalent Reduced

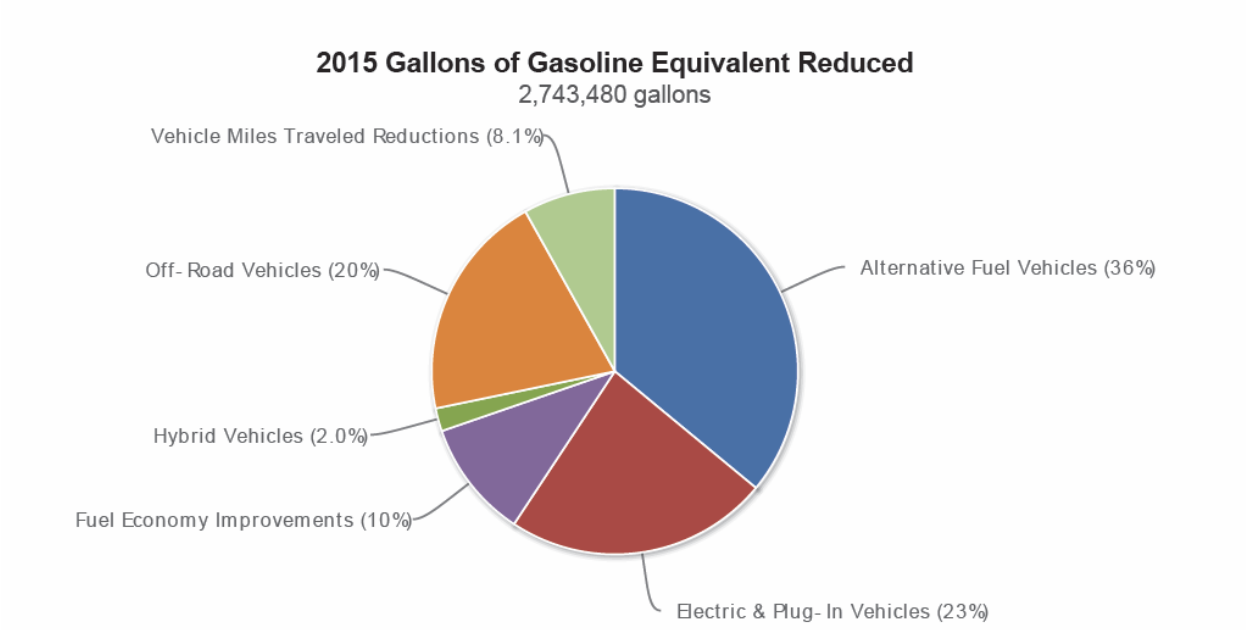


Figure 3. 2015 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduced

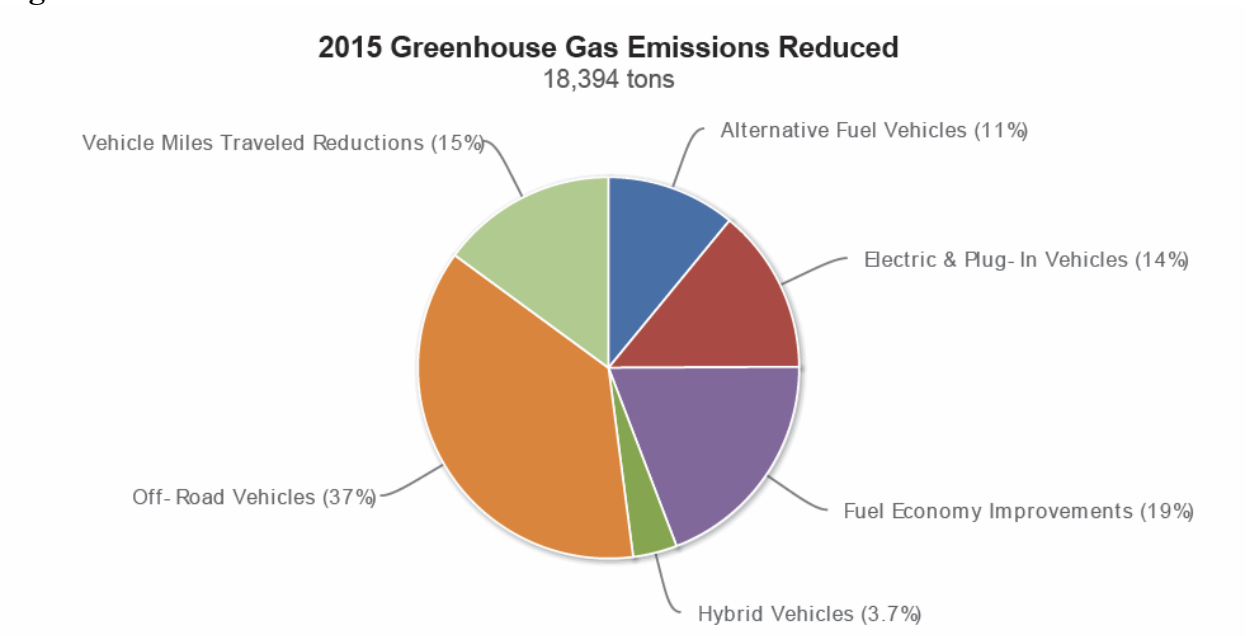


TABLE 1. Fuel Savings for New Orleans Area Fleets

Fleet Name	Gasoline Gallons Equivalent Reduced	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduced (Tons)	Fuel/ Technology/ Program
RTA	1,053,190	7,483	Electric Streetcars Biodiesel Hybrid Buses Fuel Economy Improvements: Tire Inflation Program
New Orleans Public Belt Railroad	538,994	6,684	Idle Reduction Technology
Metro Disposal	344,741	290	Natural Gas
UPS	328,094	668	Biodiesel Natural Gas Propane
Regional Planning Commission / City of New Orleans	221,940	2,734	Bicycle network improvements / reduction in vehicle miles traveled
Progressive Waste	119,469	101	Natural Gas
Airport Shuttle	64,739	92	Propane
Dr. Pipe	13,584	18	Natural Gas
Limousine Livery	11,947	21	Propane Electric
CSX Transportation	11,065	137	Idle Reduction Technology
Park n Fly	9,176	8	Natural Gas
Jefferson Parish Transit	8,403	74	Biodiesel
Nissan North America	5,542	28	Electric Vehicles
Entergy	3,797	23	Natural Gas Electric Hybrid-electric Telemetry/reduction in vehicle miles traveled
Atmos Energy	3,244	4.2	Natural Gas
Solar Alternatives	1,886	10	Electric Hybrid-electric
Jefferson Parish	283	3.4	Hybrid- electric
Port of New Orleans	131	1	Electric Propane

Table 2. Alternative Fueling Stations

Fuel Type	Station Type	Number of New Stations	Station Name	City
CNG	Private	1	Entergy	
CNG	Private	1	Atmos	
CNG	Private	1	Doctor Pipe	
CNG	Private	1	Progressive Waste	
CNG	Private	1	UPS	
Electricity	Private	1	Entergy	
Electricity	Public	1	Solar Alternatives	New Orleans
Electricity	Public	1	Delgado Community College	New Orleans
Electricity	Public	1	Rouse's	New Orleans
Electricity	Public	2	Loyola University	New Orleans
Electricity	Public	4	Whole Food - Broad	New Orleans
Electricity	Private	2	BioInnovation Center	New Orleans
Electricity	Private	2	Best Western Bayou Inn	Westwego
Electricity	Private	2	Port of New Orleans	New Orleans
Propane	Private	1	Airport Shuttle	
Propane	Public	1	Amerigas	New Orleans
Propane	Public	1	Alliance Autogas	Kenner
Propane	Private	1	UPS	

Port of New Orleans Idle Reduction Policy

SLCFP worked with the Port of New Orleans to develop an Idling Reduction Policy, adopted by the Port of New Orleans Board of Commissioners on November 17, 2016. The goal of this policy is to reduce unnecessary engine idling as part of the Port's commitment to reducing environmental impacts, improving health and safety outcomes, and maintaining its Green Marine certification.

All Board employees who operate vehicles or equipment owned or leased by the Board will reduce and prevent unnecessary engine idling in the following ways:

- Limit warm-up idling to no more than five minutes for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and 30 seconds for light-duty vehicles;
- Shut an engine off when at loading docks or on arriving at a destination; and
- Never let an engine run while a vehicle is unattended unless required for safety or security reasons.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant for Municipal and Law Enforcement Fleets

RPC was a recipient of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funding from Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) to help municipal and law enforcement fleets offset the cost of clean fuel vehicles. The grant will reimburse fleets for 80% of the incremental cost difference between an alternative fuel vehicle and a traditional vehicle and 80% of the cost of idle reduction technologies. For the purposes of this project, alternative fuel vehicles include natural gas, propane, electric, and hybrid vehicles. The parishes eligible for this funding (based on LA DOTD guidelines and RPC's geographic region) are Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Charles. Over the course of the 4 years, $1,136,500 will be made available.

The RPC is working with the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership to allocate funding for propane vehicles for Jefferson Transit. If successful, this will be the first project funded through this CMAQ grant.

The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership is beginning a partnership with the National Parks Service to install EV chargers in area parks, as well. Also, not listed in Table 1 are two all-electric Nissan Leaf vehicles that the Port of New Orleans purchased while this report was compiled.

The Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership and the Ozone Advance Program at the RPC will continue to work in coordination to identify and pursue these and other funding sources to decrease fuel usage and emissions through use of alternative fuels or idle reduction practices and technologies.

Multimodal Transportation Network

Transit

The RPC assists local transit providers in creating a regionally seamless transit system that connects potential workers with job opportunities, that contributes to the reduction of transportation emissions, fossil fuel consumption, and sprawl, and that enhances overall accessibility and mobility for all residents.

In 2012, the RPC completed a Comprehensive Operational Analysis of both the Jefferson Transit and Regional Transit Authority systems, providing guidelines and suggestions to improve the commute via transit.

RPC worked with the RTA to implement the Rampart streetcar extension on Rampart St, downriver from Canal St. This is the first phase of a streetcar extension that will connect New Orleans' Downtown core to the downriver primarily residential neighborhoods of the Marigny and Bywater.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Program

The RPC's Pedestrian and Bicycle Program is working to create walkable and bikeable communities for the citizens of Southeast Louisiana. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Program works to raise awareness, promote safety, and encourage increased walking and biking throughout the region.

By providing more improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities, individuals are encouraged to choose an alternative form of transportation, other than their individual vehicle. When people choose to bike or walk to their destinations, the result is an overall decrease in air pollution, including VOCs and NO_x. See *Table 3* below for a list of completed bikeways by parish, as of November 2016.

Table 3. Bikeway Mileage by Parish

PARISH	COMPLETED BIKEWAYS
Jefferson Parish	53 miles
Orleans Parish	108 miles
Plaquemines Parish	1.4 miles
St. Charles Parish	26 miles
St. John Parish	5.5 miles
St. Tammany Parish	28 miles

Awards:

- City of New Orleans | Bicycle Friendly Community | Silver | November 2014
  The League of American Bicyclists
  Improvement from previous standing of Bronze
- City of New Orleans | Walk Friendly Community | Bronze | April 2012
  UNC Highway Safety Research Center's Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

UPDATE:

- RPC continues to publish the New Orleans Bike Map and Guide to Safe Cycling, the most recent update taking place in 2016.
- RPC hosts educational campaigns about bicycle and pedestrian safety, including producing materials for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers that explain the rules of the road.
- Jefferson Parish completed the Jefferson Parish Bicycle Master Plan in April 2014, prioritizing routes for consideration.

- RPC hosts bicycle and pedestrian design workshops to educate engineers and designers of best design practices for successful bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- In January 2014, the City of New Orleans Pedestrian Safety Action Plan was completed.

RPC Complete Street Policy

Though the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program is mostly focused on education and safety initiatives, the RPC Complete Streets Policy, adopted in 2012, works toward implementation with the goal of creating a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation network for the New Orleans and St. Tammany urbanized areas that balances access, mobility, health, and safety needs of motorists, transit users, freight, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, which includes users of wheelchairs and mobility aids.

This policy will continue to apply to all projects, including new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, maintenance, and planning, involving federal or state funding.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

The Regional Transportation Management Center, the building where the RPC is located, is a state-of-the-art facility that utilizes Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology and regional coordination to facilitate communication among drivers, traffic operations staff, emergency response personnel and other agencies to maximize the use of existing roadway throughout the region. At the facility, traffic management staff monitor traffic conditions throughout the region in real-time with the use of ITS tools, such as traffic cameras and vehicle detectors. Roadway conditions are communicated with drivers and emergency responders through use of Dynamic Messaging Signs, Twitter, and the 511 Traveler Information System. The technologies employed at the Regional Transportation Management Center assist with the congestion reduction, aid in the prevention of accidents, and shorten the response time for emergency personnel to respond to the accidents.

While the daily traffic management operations functions are overseen by the LA DOTD, the RPC collaborates with LA DOTD to enhance the effectiveness of its operations. Currently, cities and parishes handle their own highway management; however, RPC is working with local governments to tie into the system.

TESLA Supercharging Station

During 2016, TESLA has installed a Supercharging Station within the New Orleans Metropolitan area. The station is located at:

Fremaux Town Center
1303 Town Center Pkwy
Slidell, LA 70458

At this location, there are eight (8) Superchargers, that are available 24/7

Congestion Management Planning Process

The RPC has maintained a Congestion Management System – now termed Congestion Management Planning Process (CMPP) – that identifies continued efforts to reduce congestion in the New Orleans metropolitan area. The objective of this CMPP is to provide the RPC with a mechanism for identifying congestion on the region's roadways and to develop recommendations for its reduction. Reducing congestion in the region would therefore result in decreases in the ozone precursors, NO_x and VOCs; therefore, these efforts to reduce congestion are also efforts to reduce emissions throughout the region.

Through the CMPP and other areas of planning at the RPC, signal coordination and synchronization studies are taking place across the region, most recently on Veterans Blvd, a main east-west connection in Jefferson Parish.

In order to maintain an ongoing process that achieves the stated CMPP objective, the RPC must complete several actions on a recurring basis. The most significant actions are described below:

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings

The RPC is responsible for hosting Technical Advisory Committee Meetings. TAC input is used for identifying congestion, recommending and selecting congestion management strategies. We continuously discuss the potential implications of non-attainment designation at TAC meetings, where most public works and planning directors are present. This is an opportunity to encourage alternative transportation choices and designs, which have an overall impact on air emissions and relieving congestion.

Data Collection and Management

Qualitative data requirements of the CMPP will be accomplished through the RPC's overall data collection and management program. Since traffic data are used for purposes beyond the CMPP, policies and procedures for data collection and management are part of a separate, stand-alone program.

CM Index Calculations

The CM Index is the CMPP's quantitative measure of congestion. The Index is calculated with a formula including ADT, Speed, and Commercial Operated Vehicles. The RPC is responsible for calculating the index. The Index will be recalculated for all CM routes once annually.

CM Network Data Maintenance

The CM network will be updated when CM routes are changed and such changes have been approved by the TAC.

Planned CM Strategy Tracking

The CMPP attempts to track planned programs and projects that are expected to reduce congestion. The list of planned projects will be updated annually.

Implemented CM Strategy Tracking

The CMPP also tracks projects that have been implemented, and this list of projects will be updated annually.

Objective and Performance Measure Tracking

The CMPP includes several objectives meant to guide the strategy selection and performance measuring processes. These each involve the accomplishment of a measurable goal within a specific time frame. The RPC will monitor progress towards objective achievement. Performance Measures for each objective will be checked once annually. At the end of an objective's given timeframe, RPC will report results to the TAC.

New Orleans Clean Air Coalition

Using the example set by the Baton Rouge Clean Air Coalition and with the assistance of LDEQ, RPC is continuing to expand the Greater New Orleans Clean Air Coalition. This coalition of local governments, state environmental agencies, relevant trade associations (e.g., Louisiana Chemical Association and Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association), local businesses, industries, and ports are now meeting on a regular schedule with the goal of finding the most effective ways to improve air quality, specifically focused on ozone. During the past year, the Coalition has hired a Coordinator to help lead our efforts. The new Coordinator brings a great deal of expertise to the office, and he will continue to build relationships as the Coalition evolves.

The Coalition has several efforts that it hopes to evaluate further and potentially implement during 2017. These include:

- Analysis of 2014 National Emissions Inventory data to identify potential industrial sources as members of the Coalition and partners in air quality improvements.
- Working with the LDEQ to institute early email notifications to industrial partners when the AQI indicates potential exceedance levels. These notifications will prompt voluntary actions to minimize release of ozone forming pollutants.
- Education and outreach to local news media to get them to bring air quality information to the general public.
- Expand the Clean Air Coalition website: http://www.norpc.org/clean_air_coalition.html

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

RPC was recently awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant from LA DOTD to work with large employers in CMAQ-eligible parishes, including the ports, their tenants, marine vessel operators and energy production facilities to discuss the commuting patterns of their employees and their fleet operations. These discussions will focus on reducing their air emissions and saving fuel through facilitating the conversion of their fleet vehicles to cleaner fuels and the implementation of idle reduction measures and technologies in their fleet operations, as well as assisting them in evaluating the potential for and in implementing

employee carpooling and vanpools. The grant will fund a public education and outreach campaign (Years 1-2) and planning activities for specific project(s) identified during the outreach process (Year 3 – 4). These projects will accomplish emissions reductions by facilitating the conversion of clean transportation projects and reduce congestion by promoting carpooling and vanpooling. Stakeholders will include private companies, such as marine fleets, port tenants, and energy companies, as well as public entities such as ports. RPC anticipates that some of the projects will also promote public-private partnerships. Potential pilot projects include initiatives such as retrofitting existing marine vessels for alternative fuel use (e.g. LNG), implementing idle reduction technologies such as shore power, purchasing alternative fuel van pool vehicles. This CMAQ funding will be integral to the Coalition's success, allowing for funding of a Clean Air Coalition Coordinator.

After vetting the project with the Clean Air Coalition, the RPC, in coordination with the Port of New Orleans and the Public Belt Railroad, is to perform a feasibility study for the addition of a steel wheel shuttle. If implemented, this shuttle would provide an alternative to trucking containers from the Port to the rail yard. This would help to alleviate truck congestion surrounding the Port of New Orleans.

Freight Planning and Coordination

RPC acknowledges the difficulty of simultaneously meeting the growing demand for freight while improving environmental outcomes. RPC has made tremendous strides over the last 6 years by working in partnership with EPA and USDOE to assist transportation fleets implement cleaner fuels and cleaner vehicles, and by supporting activities, policies and technologies to reduce the amount of fuel used. For freight these include idle reduction, repowering, alternative fuels and energy efficiency technologies. USDOE has also supplied a fleet contact database for the region that will be useful in outreach efforts to identify concerns and prioritize projects in the TIP.

The RPC facilitates regional partnerships and helps to reconcile local, state and federal laws to advance progressive, sustainable, economically-viable freight transportation strategies. The New Orleans RPC has historically worked one on one with public or quasi-public entities on the Transportation Policy Committee to identify planning needs and priority freight projects. These include the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (aviation), the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (rail), the Port of New Orleans (maritime) and the Louisiana Motor Transport Association (motor carrier). In addition to input provided at MTP meetings, the RPC conducts individual interviews with the major terminal operators and administrators. More recently staff has engaged a larger and more varied group of freight related representatives extending invitations to private sector business and transportation service industries to be a part of Freight Roundtable discussion. The Freight Roundtable is developing long-term program priorities is poised to provide important feedback on every aspect of freight planning in the future. Improved efficiency in moving freight is also an improvement to air quality through minimized idling.

Green Marine

Green Marine is a voluntary environmental certification program for the North American marine industry. It is a rigorous, transparent and inclusive initiative that addresses key environmental issues through its 12 performance indicators.

Participants include ship owners, ports, terminals, Seaway corporations and shipyards based in Canada and the United States. The program encourages its participants to reduce their environmental footprint by taking concrete actions. To receive their certification, participants must benchmark their annual environmental performance through Green Marine environmental program's exhaustive self-evaluation guides. They also need to have their results verified by an accredited external verifier and agree to publication of their individual results.

Ms. Brandy D. Christian, the President & CEO of the Port of New Orleans is on the board of directors of the program. The Port's participation is expected to provide many benefits to our air quality initiatives. During 2017, we hope that the Port will be evaluating software tools that can develop a robust emissions inventory for the Port and its tenants.

EPA School Flag Program

The EPA School Flag Program encourages students, teachers and schools to be aware of their air quality and how it can affect activity. It is based on the Air Quality Index with green, yellow, orange, red and purple flags. It helps orient the students to what they mean and what actions they can take to improve air quality. It encourages individual responsibility and like to recycling program, if encouraged in the elementary grades has a lasting impact. The RPC plans in the next year to work with at least one area school to start the School Flag Program. RPC could potentially leverage efforts of the Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative education surrounding water management and water quality education, starting with one of the schools that is part of the water education program.