Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

an Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States of the U.S.

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Please note that we are still holding this initiative confidential

RGGI+ Transportation Climate Initiative

A Transportation and Climate Initiative of the Northeast & Mid-Atlantic States

Goal of the Initiative***:*** *To bring together transportation, energy and environmental Agency Heads in the RGGI region to consider policies and initiatives to assist states in meeting an economy-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction goal of (approximately) 80% reduction of Greenhouse Gases by 2050 and related interim goals. The participating states voluntarily seek to collaborate to find ways to improve energy efficiency in all areas of the transportation system while improving the efficiency of transportation systems to our citizens, promoting innovative clean transportation technologies of the future and improving the economies of our respective states.*

The proposed RGGI+ Transportation Climate Initiative would begin by:

- Extending RGGI's existing collaborative working relationship of environmental and energy agencies in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to transportation agencies to address transportation, energy and environmental issues together;
- Developing practical and effective options and obtaining resources for addressing transportation emissions and for reducing the use of imported energy in the northeast;
- Working together to develop shared policies and initiatives, including programs to reduce energy use and improve efficiency and effectiveness of transportation systems in the region, invest in clean transportation infrastructure and explore policies that address the challenges of mobile source emissions, sustainable growth and vehicle miles traveled.
- Working together on federal climate change, energy and transportation legislation to benefit the region by investing in the region's transportation system, supporting the region's commitment to environmental improvements, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions.

This would be a proposed three-year effort to be kicked off with a Summit in June, 2010.

* <u>Initial Work Plan for the RGGI Transportation Climate Initiative</u> *

1. **RGGI environment and energy agencies are partnering with their state transportation agencies** to begin discussion of a joint vision for a collaborative process that would begin to address climate change in the transportation sector in the region.

2. **With input from transportation, energy and environmental agencies, the project team will prepare an agenda for a meeting of agency heads.** This meeting, to be held directly following the June meeting of the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO), would discuss and launch a 3 year collaborative effort. Since the proposed topic of NASTO's June Meeting is "Going Green" and it will address many issues of importance to the three sets of agencies, this is an especially opportune time to begin this important work. The goal of the *Transportation Climate Summit* will be for the agency heads to concur on the overall initiative and to choose the highest priority areas of interest to move forward.

Initial "Summit" topics may include:

- Developing a regional vision for state collaboration on regional transportation policies and programs that support greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals as well as reductions in other air pollutants of import to the region.
- Examining existing policy and programmatic options for addressing greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the transportation sector;
- Considering effective roles of different levels of government (municipal, MPO, county state and federal) in integrating transportation, energy, environment and economic interests at the local and regional level.
- Sharing state energy and climate action plan transportation proposals to identify areas of mutual interest and possible collaboration opportunities;
- Encouraging development and use of innovative clean transportation technologies in the region, including:
  -Evaluating available technologies and vehicles and promoting the development of promising alternative clean fuel options and infrastructure including exploring regional electric vehicle infrastructure corridors
  -Considering expanding the use and deployment of innovative information technologies throughout the region to reduce congestion and improve safety.
- Optimizing the energy efficiency of the transportation system, including:
  -Promoting operational efficiencies through the continued development and deployment of new types of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications and Vehicle Infrastructure and Innovation (VII) initiatives.
  -Explore opportunities to reduce travel demand by engaging land use policymakers and decision makers in new partnerships that gradually alter the built environment toward long term sustainability.
  -Working regionally to promote an optimal balance of transportation modes such as encouraging shipment of freight by rail or waterways or expanding rail and transit options within the region.
  -Exploring opportunities to "green" all transportation modes, including highways, aviation, rails and ports.
- Ensuring that federal legislation, including climate change and energy legislation as well as reauthorization of the federal transportation, includes provisions that benefit development of environmentally beneficial transportation policy and investment in the region;
- Initiating "bricks and mortar" joint projects of regional significance, including:
  -Exploring a multi-state venture for infrastructure corridors to support the introduction of electric vehicles in the region
  -Considering 2-3 additional joint projects for rapid implementation

3. **Establish a RGGI Transportation, Energy & Environment Staff Working Group, (RGGI TEE).** The RGGI TEE Staff Working Group is comprised of public sector environmental, energy and transportation representatives as volunteered by their Secretary/Commissioner. The group will prepare for the Transportation Climate Summit, frame issues, explore issues of relevance to the states, and develop white papers. The Group is taking the lead on organizing the Summit agenda and background materials, briefing agency heads as appropriate, and coordinating the Summit with the NASTO meeting. Over time, the workgroup might prepare such things as white paper proposals on such areas as: needs of the transportation system, best practices, pilot projects, modeling, funding issues, research, demonstrations, model rule development, model statute development, and policy statements on goals and objectives.

4. **Hold the Summit of environmental, energy and transportation agency heads** and staff in Wilmington, DE in June (14-15) coordinating with the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO). The TEE Staff Working Group will meet in Wilmington on June 16th to draft a workplan for implementing the outcomes of the Summit.

5. **Follow up** from the Summit would include a commitment to ongoing dialogue among the states' transportation, energy and environment Agency Heads, an additional meeting in September, direction to TEE Staff Working Group for development of a short term set of activities and projects as well as development of a longer term (36 month) work plan. Work on the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and any climate action/energy bills will likely be a priority as well.

∗ Tentative Summit Agenda ∗

The Agency Heads will focus their dialogue at the summit on approaches that offer promising regional solutions to reduce mobile source emissions of carbon through techniques and technologies such as establishment of electric vehicle corridors, enhancement of rail and other mass transit opportunities and development of strategies to address vehicle miles traveled.

The June 15, 2010 Summit is an opportunity to allow Agency Heads to agree to:

- Develop an ongoing and collaborative working relationship at the Agency Head level to address climate issues by reducing greenhouse gases related to the transportation sector;
- Seek funding for pilot transportation and climate initiatives that showcase approaches to advance clean technologies and reduce energy use in the transportation sector while economically benefiting the region;
- Direct staff to participate in the RGGI Transportation Energy and Environment (TEE) staff working group to develop proposals for shared policies and initiatives, including programs to reduce energy use and improve transportation services in the region;
- Work together to influence federal legislation covering climate change, energy and transportation to advance mutual goals and to bring clean transportation technologies to the region;
- Sign a Memorandum of Understanding affirming a statement of principles, an intent to maintain ongoing dialogue, and direction to develop a workplan for carrying out joint initiatives.

Summit Overview:

- ❖ Background on key issues will be provided through background white papers provided to Agency Heads prior to Summit, presentations as part of the NASTO agenda and via briefings woven into each agenda module below.
  - ✓ Background presentations at the NASTO meeting will include:
    - An Overview of the development of a regional Low Carbon Fuel Standard;
    - An Overview of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
  - ✓ Background White Papers will include the following:
    - <u>Overview of Programs and Legislation:</u>
      - Synopsis of RGGI and its connection to transportation
      - Status of Federal Climate bill and relationship to transportation;
      - Status of Federal Transportation bill;

- Summary of Climate Goals and Climate Action Plans of the States;
- Overview of successful state-level transportation-environment initiatives and how to build on existing relationships/programs
- Partnerships to success: the role of MPOs, local governments and federal agencies;

- <u>Technology Update and Program Opportunities</u>
  - Status of Electric Vehicle technology, value of EV regional corridors and their complement to in-state work;
  - The role of VMT and mobile source GHG emissions in meeting climate goals and the challenges states and the region face in addressing VMT policy;
  - Overall cost of congestion in the northeast
  - Examine the need for other alternative fuel infrastructure in the region
  - Status of innovative ITS and IDS and travel demand management (TDM) opportunities
  - Status and potential opportunities with MOVES mobile source model
- <u>Overview of Potential Meeting Outcomes</u>
  - Draft MOU
  - Draft Charge to the TEE (or workplan)
  - Draft Communication plan

❖ The Summit will commence with a working lunch (12:00-1:15). Several high level lunchtime speakers will lay out the promise and opportunities associated with the RGGI+ TCI. One participating State's agency head will present an overview of the Initiative and specific objectives for the Summit. Two working facilitated sessions will follow the lunch:

1:30 – 2:30 Introductions/Shared vision

Agency heads will discuss the benefits – environmental, economic and otherwise – that they anticipate regional collaboration, and RGGI+ TCI specifically, will bring to their states.

2:30 – 4:30 Workplan development

Agency heads will discuss specific commitments, principles, short and long-term tasks and organizational structure for the TCI. Specific topics will include agreement on:

- A working structure for the TCI, including the TEE workgroup;
- Ongoing dialogue among agency heads, including a follow Agency Head meeting in September;
- Establishment of common principles and general priorities for moving forward;
- Direction to the TEE workgroup for three month deliverables for Agency Head review and approval at the September meeting;
- Funding for joint initiatives;
- External communications
- Execution of an MOU
- Development of demonstration/pilot projects, including: benefits of undertaking immediate demonstration projects, funding opportunities, additional groundwork needed to proceed in the short term, and proposed next steps.

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