

Project Overview:

Mitigation Strategies & Scenario Planning for Reducing Transportation-related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In late 2009, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) initiated development of a guidebook on strategies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation sources as well as a web-based calculator to estimate the potential GHG emission reductions associated with those strategies as a tool for transportation and planning agencies nationwide. FHWA is working with a consultant team led by Resource Systems Group (RSG), based in Vermont, and including the RAND Corporation and The Planning Center, both based in California.

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This project includes the following key elements:

- ✓ Develop a guidebook on strategies for reducing GHG emissions from transportation sources based on the most current available research from domestic and international sources
- ✓ Create a computerized GHG calculator that state departments of transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and local agencies can use to estimate GHG reductions that might be achieved from adopting the guidebook's strategies
- ✓ Convene workshops for selected DOTs and MPOs on integrating climate change considerations into transportation and comprehensive planning
- ✓ Develop a guide for DOTs and MPOs to use when incorporating climate change into scenario planning as part of the transportation plan development process

Phase 1 of the project encompasses the development of the guidebook and the computerized GHG calculator. Phase 2 focuses on the scenario planning workshops and development of a guide on addressing climate change in scenario planning for use by the national transportation planning community. All products will be web-based for easy access and searching, and will be accessible through FHWA's website in 2011.

Climate Change/Scenario Planning Workshops

Each workshop in Phase 2 will allow for one MPO or DOT to receive expert technical assistance focused on integrating climate change considerations (both GHG mitigation and climate change impacts adaptation) into a planned or active scenario planning process. To be eligible for hosting a workshop, the agency must be willing and able to carry the scenario planning process through its established regional or statewide planning efforts. FHWA and its consultants will work with each selected agency to scope and "customize" the specific agency and content for the workshop, conduct one on-site workshop over approximately two days and be available for limited post-workshop technical consultation. FHWA will conduct a total of five workshops (two DOTs and three MPOs), starting in late 2010.

