

Long Range Air Quality Planning Issues Work Group

November 2, 2005

The Long Range Air Quality Planning Issues Work Group initially met on November 2, 2005. Agenda items included discussion on the modal shift of freight from trucks to ships and rail; land use planning impacts on air quality, recent land use planning efforts that might qualify for SIP credits, long-term health impacts and carbon dioxide impacts on global warming.

NOACA staff reported that the Area Source Work Group began a discussion on the potential modal shift of freight transportation from trucks to ship or rail, which culminated in a recommendation that the Long Range Air Quality Planning Issues Work group also explore the future of freight transportation. Staff circulated an email from Mr. Bill Harris, CSX Railroad, outlining a working definition of “modal shift,” along with examples of potential benefits. After some discussion, the Long Range Work Group agreed that staff should work on further defining a modal shift paradigm.

The Long Range Work Group members discussed a variety of potential land use solutions for air pollution problems, including transit-oriented development, mixed land use, increased urban densities, etc. The Work Group discussed the need to slow and reverse land development practices that encourage “sprawl.” Further discussion focused on the need to reverse out-migration through the infill and redevelopment of existing nodal points. The Work Group expressed interest in understanding NOACA’s Transportation Demand Model and how it can be used in relationship to land use and air quality issues.

The Work Group also discussed the need to think longer term than the SIP time frame; they agreed to focus on planning for air quality over the next 20 years by studying the current sources of air pollution and determining what direction they might take in that time.

The need for collaboration among the many interested entities in Northeast Ohio was emphasized.

The Long Range Work Group will meet next on December 6, 2005, immediately following the NOACA Air Quality Public Advisory Task Force meeting.