

## **Executive Summary of the Austin-Round Rock MSA 8-hour Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) Flex Program**

The Austin-Round Rock MSA 8-hour Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) Flex Program is a voluntary agreement between local governments, TCEQ, and EPA. The goal of the program is to implement measures as needed to continue attainment of the federal ozone standard (currently a design value<sup>1</sup> of 84 parts per billion of ozone) through 2013. The program provides the region with a flexible air quality management process. Through an on-going collaborative process, the program identifies specific air quality action triggers and determines the appropriate implementation response. Participants may revise the program as needed, allowing the region to respond quickly and efficiently to changes in air quality conditions or regulations.

In compliance with EPA's May 2006 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program guidance, the region's 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program consists of the following elements.

### **Overview**

- Chapter 1 provides an overview of 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program requirements, regional participants and past planning successes.
- The region currently meets all requirements for program eligibility.
- EAC signatories are the initial participants and additional local participants may be added.

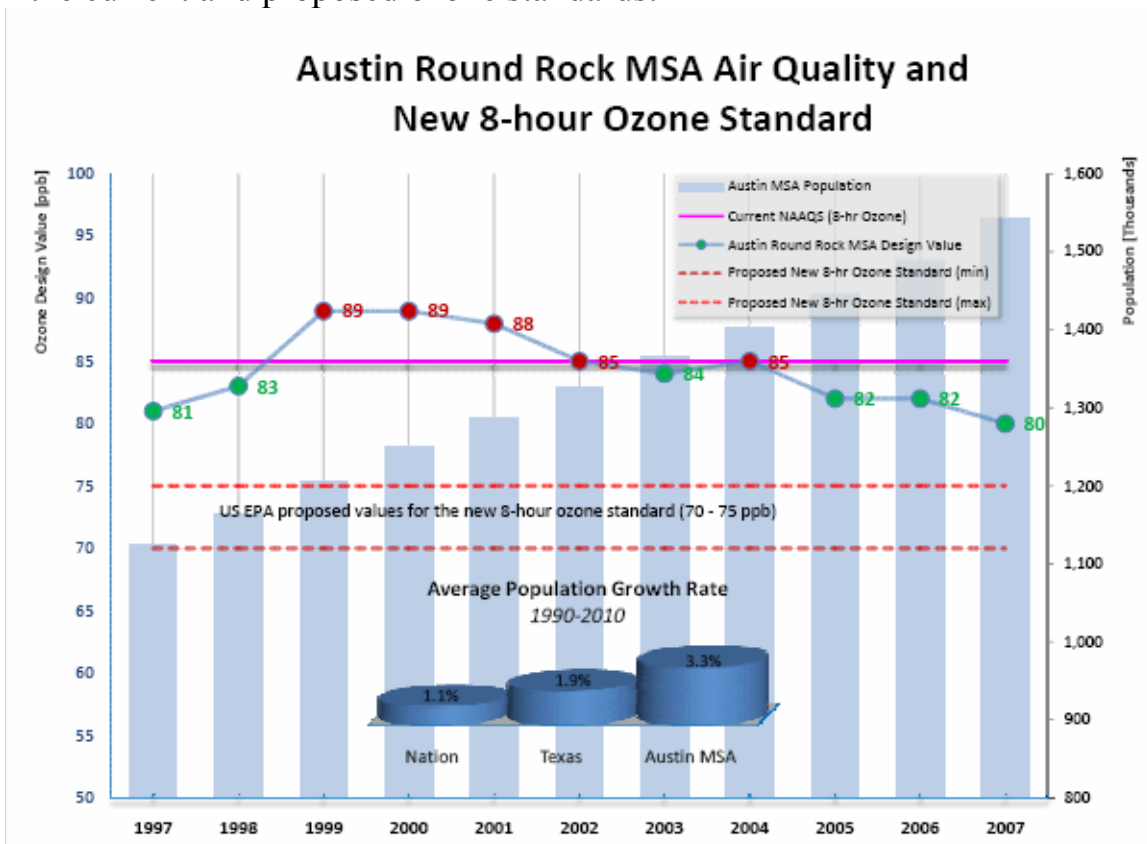
### **Technical Evaluation**

- Chapter 2 is a technical evaluation of the region's past, current, and anticipated future ozone levels. It includes monitoring and emission inventory data, analysis of high ozone episodes, regional photochemical modeling, and air quality trend analyses.
- The evaluation indicates that regional ozone levels will stay close to the current federal standard, with increased emissions due to population and energy sector growth somewhat offset by decreased emissions due to pollution controls, especially federal standards for mobile sources. The region will remain sensitive to transported emissions from outside the area, which can raise background ozone levels significantly.
- Note that EPA has proposed a new, more stringent ozone standard. If the standard changes, the region will need to revise program measures. The

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<sup>1</sup> The design value is the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentrations measured annually at each regulatory monitor within the region. To remain in attainment, the region's design value must not exceed 0.08 parts per million, or 84 parts per billion.

following chart tracks the region's air quality and population growth against the current and proposed ozone standards:



## Action Plan

- Chapter 3 is the Action Plan. It defines the action triggers and response options (see Attachment A). It includes planning activities, voluntary emission reduction measures and contingency measures. It also addresses coordination, public participation, schedules, and required reporting.
- Regional participants generally continue their Early Action Compact emission reduction commitments (see Attachment B).
- Primary emission reduction measures include a regional web-based rideshare program and an ozone watch/warning system.
- In 2010 the region will implement Maintenance for Growth Offset measures to account for expected emissions growth.
- If the region's design value reaches 84 part per billion (ppb) of ozone, the region will select and implement measures from the Tier I Contingency measures.
- If the region's design value is 85 parts per billion (ppb) or greater, the region will select and implement selected measures from the Tier II Contingency list.

## **Memorandum of Agreement**

- Chapter 4 is the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). It is the formal acceptance of the region's 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex program by EPA, TCEQ, and the local governments. It includes general commitments and objectives, responsibilities, expected duration, conditions for modification or early termination, signature page and date.
- All parties commit to developing, implementing and maintaining the 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> Flex Program according to EPA guidelines.
- EPA commits to considering the region's participation in the program, including time to allow the implemented contingency measures to work, in exercising its discretion on whether to redesignate the area nonattainment, if a nonattainment situation occurs. EPA will also allow the MSA appropriate State Implementation Plan (SIP) credit for measures implemented under the program.
- EPA and TCEQ commit to informing local governments of all available options and flexibility available to the area if the area, or any portion of the area, is determined to exceed or violate the 8-hour ozone standard for the duration of the agreement.
- EPA and TCEQ commit to adopting into the SIP one or more of the Tier II contingency measures selected by local governments if the region's design value reaches or exceeds 85 ppb.
- Local governments commit to program implementation and may continue photochemical modeling activities.
- CAPCOG will continue to develop and regularly update area emissions inventories.
- The MSA agrees to continue existing EAC requirements, specifically the "maintenance for growth" requirement through 2012.
- Local governments agree to revise or update program contingency measures if state/tribal or federal laws change during the MOA period.
- Local governments agree to implement at least one new, voluntary emission reduction measure within one year of the MOA signing. The region is meeting this requirement by implementing a web-based rideshare matching program, River Cities Rideshare, that will help reduce drive-alone commutes in and between Austin and San Antonio, and throughout a 22-county region.

## Attachment A – Triggers and Response Options

Proposed Central Texas 8-Hour Ozone Flex Program (2008-2013)			
TRIGGER	LEVEL	Implement one or more of the following MEASURE(S)	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
Signing of 8 - Hour O3 Flex MOA	Selected Primary Emission Reduction Measures	Continue EAC SIP-Level and Voluntary Emission Reduction Measures	Ongoing, 2008--2013
		Continuation of analysis of measures' effectiveness and emissions growth	Ongoing, 2008--2013
		Continuation of area-wide programs such as Commute Solutions, Clean Cities, Clean School Bus	
		Renewal of Idling MOA	Prior to 2008 ozone season
Signing of 8 - Hour O3 Flex MOA	Primary Emission Reduction Measure(s)	Apply for TERP funding (as available)	Within 24 months
		TERMS	Within 1 year or as scheduled
		Regional RideShare Program	Within 1 year
		Invite 5 or more additional cities to join CAC & become 8-hour O3 Flex Program signatories	Within 1 year
		Request TCEQ implement Watch/Warning ozone alert system	As appropriate
		Implement AirCheck Texas Local Initiative Projects with LIRAP funds	As appropriate
		Pave unpaved roads	As appropriate
		Other measures identified and mutually agreed upon	Within 1 year
January 1, 2010	Maintenance for Growth Offset Measures	Apply for TERP funding (as available)	By December 31, 2010
		Invite all nonparticipating cities in MSA with populations ≥ 10K to join CAC & become 8-hour O3 Flex Program signatories	By December 31, 2010
		TERMS	By December 31, 2010
		Other measures identified and mutually agreed upon	As appropriate
		Energy efficiency and conservation programs	By December 31, 2010
84 ppb Ozone Design Value	Tier I Contingency Measure(s)	Apply for TERP funding (as available)	Within 24 months
		TERMS	Within 24 months
		Invite additional cities to join idling MOU	Within 24 months
		VMEP: Upgrade Regional RideShare Program & Clean Air Partner Program	Within 24 Months of 84 ppb DV
		Other measures identified and mutually agreed upon	As appropriate
		Voluntary use of NOx emissions-reducing additive to area fleets, school district buses, and/or non-road vehicles	Within 24 Months of 84 ppb DV
<b>85 ppb or Greater Ozone Design Value (Violation)</b>	Tier II Contingency Measure(s)	Tier I Contingency Measures not already implemented	Within 24 months of violation
		At the request of the county and its principal city, expand Inspection & Maintenance Program to Bastrop, Caldwell and/or Hays counties.	Within 24 months of violation
		Request upgrade of I&M Program to include additional remote sensing & inclusion of diesel testing	Within 24 months of violation
		TERMS	Within 24 months of violation
		Other measures identified and mutually agreed upon	Within 24 months of violation

## Attachment B

# Local Government and Participating Agency Emission Reduction Measure Commitments

<b>Emission Reduction Measure</b>	<b>City of Austin</b>	<b>Travis County</b>	<b>City of Round Rock *</b>	<b>Williamson County</b>	<b>City of San Marcos *</b>	<b>Hays County *</b>	<b>City of Bastrop *</b>	<b>City of Elgin *</b>	<b>Bastrop County *</b>	<b>City of Lockhart *</b>	<b>City of Luling *</b>	<b>Caldwell County *</b>
Access Management							X	X		X		
Airport Clean Air Plan, includes:												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABIA Airside Incentives have infrastructure in place at airport for use by airside tenants</li> </ul>	X											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative fuels for shuttle buses</li> </ul>	X											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative fuels available for Aviation Fleet landside users.</li> </ul>	X											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABIA alternative fuel infrastructure available at airport for landside users</li> </ul>	X											
Alternative Commute Infrastructure	X						X	X				
Alternative Fuel Vehicles	X	X	X									
Business Evaluation of Fleet Usage, Including Operations and Right Sizing		X	X	X								
Cleaner Diesel		X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Commute Solutions Programs, may include	X									X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compressed Work Week</li> </ul>	X	X	X						X		X	

<b>Emission Reduction Measure</b>	<b>City of Austin</b>	<b>Travis County</b>	<b>City of Round Rock *</b>	<b>Williamson County</b>	<b>City of San Marcos *</b>	<b>Hays County *</b>	<b>City of Bastrop *</b>	<b>City of Elgin *</b>	<b>Bastrop County *</b>	<b>City of Lockhart *</b>	<b>City of Luling *</b>	<b>Caldwell County *</b>
• Flexible Work Schedule	X	X	X									
• Carpool or Alternative Transportation Program, may include incentive	X	X										
• Transit Pass Subsidized by Employer	X											
• Teleworking (full time)	X											
• Teleworking (part time)	X		X									
Contractor provisions for high ozone days	X											
Direct Deposit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Drive-Through Facilities on Ozone Action Days		X								X		
e-Government and/or Available Locations	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Electric utility investments in energy demand management programs	X											
Environmental dispatch of power plants	X											
Expedited permitting for mixed use, transit oriented or in-fill development							X	X				





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Texas Low Emission Diesel (TxLED) Equivalent for Fleets	X	X										
Transit-Oriented Development	X											
Transportation Emission Reduction Measures (TERMs)	X	X	X		X		X	X				
Tree Planting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Urban Heat Island/Cool Cities Program	X											
Vehicle Maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X

### 8-Hour O3 Flex Program Participating Agency Emission Reduction Measures

Emission Reduction Measure	Capital Metro	CAMPO	TxDOT Headquarters *	TxDOT Austin*	TCEQ	CAPCOG	LCRA	CTRMA
Transportation Emission Reduction Measures (TERMs)	X			X				
Access Management				X				
Low VOC Striping Material	X			X				X
Tree Planting				X			X	X
Commute Alternatives, including:								
• Compressed Work Week	X	X		X	X			
• Flexible Work Schedule	X	X		X	X	X		
• Carpool or Alternative Transportation, may include incentives	X				X		X	
• Employer Subsidized Transit	X	X						
• Teleworking (full time)								
• Teleworking (part time)		X		X	X			
• Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities							X	
Direct Deposit	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

<b>Emission Reduction Measure</b>	<b>Capital Metro</b>	<b>CAMPO</b>	<b>TxDOT Headquarters *</b>	<b>TxDOT Austin*</b>	<b>TCEQ</b>	<b>CAPCOG</b>	<b>LCRA</b>	<b>CTRMA</b>
e-Government and/or Available Locations	X	X			X	X		
Fueling of Vehicles in the Evening	X			X				X
Resource Conservation	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Ozone Action Day Education Program, includes:								
Employee Education Program	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Public Education Program	X	X		X	X			X
Ozone Action Day Notification Program	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Ozone Action Day Response Program								
Alternative Fuel Vehicles	X			X	X			
Right Sizing	X							
5-minute Limit on Diesel Idling	X						X	
Cleaner Diesel	X		X				X	
Vehicle Maintenance	X				X		X	
Vapor Recovery on Pumps	X							
Low VOC Asphalt	X							
Low-Emission Vehicles	X		X		X		X	
TERP (Texas Emission Reduction Program)	X		X					
Transit-Oriented Development	X							X

<b>Emission Reduction Measure</b>	<b>Capital Metro</b>	<b>CAMPO</b>	<b>TxDOT Headquarters *</b>	<b>TxDOT Austin*</b>	<b>TCEQ</b>	<b>CAPCOG</b>	<b>LCRA</b>	<b>CTRMA</b>
Shaded Parking					X			X

**\* Denotes agency EAC commitments continued for the 8-hour O3 Flex Program, contingent on agency confirmation.**