Workshop Title: Reconciling Transportation and Air Quality Planning to Promote Sustainable Development

Overview:

Many transportation agencies and community leaders have recognized the importance of sustainability in the planning, design and implementation of their transportation systems in terms of concern for the environment, community health and vitality, and economic development now and into the future. Smart growth principles promote compact, often infill, development that increases accessibility to multiple transportation options beyond just personal vehicle use. However, denser urban development also often brings people into closer contact with traffic, exposing them to increased air pollution levels where they live, work, or go to school.

This workshop will provide timely and pertinent information on the existing public health concerns related to pollution exposures near large roadways, and research on how transportation and urban planners can reconcile compact, infill development with the potential for increased pollution exposures. The session will consist of platform presentations followed by a panel discussion to identify existing techniques that can be presently implemented to mitigate air pollution exposure concerns, as well as identifying future research needed to address this growing concern.

Proposed topics/presentations:

1. Introduction (Rich Baldauf, 5 min)
2. Platform Presentations (15-20 min each):
   1. Air quality benefits of compact development (Mikhail Chester, ASU)
   2. Smart Growth development that can lead to increased air pollution exposures and adverse health concerns (John Thomas, EPA)
   3. Methods to assess relationships between development options and air quality impacts (Huasha Liu, Southern California Assoc. of Governments)
   4. Performance metrics that can assess sustainable development options and corresponding air quality impacts (April Marchese, FHWA)
   5. Comparing the benefits of active transport (walking/biking) with concerns related to increased air pollution exposures (Patricia Koman, Univ. Michigan)
   6. Best practices for reducing exposures to traffic emissions near larger roadways (Doug Eisinger, STI)
3. Panel discussion (~60 min; 5 min presentation, 15 min discussion on each topic)
   1. What can transportation and urban planning agencies and developers do now to promote sustainable development while not causing increased public health risks?
   2. What are the data gaps that require additional research to reconcile the benefits of smart growth development with the potential hazards of increased air pollution exposures?

Panelists:

Linda Wheaton, California Dept. of Housing & Community Develop. (tentative)

Dahlia Chazan, Arup

Dave Vintze, Bay Area Air Quality Management District