

ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED LIMIT TRANSPORTATION CONTROL MEASURE SUBSTITUTION



Regional Transportation Council
Chris Klaus, Senior Program Manager
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North Central Texas
Council of Governments

CHANGING SPEED LIMITS BACK TO WHAT THEY WERE

History

April 19, 2000

Environmental Speed Limits (ESLs)

Maximum Speed Limit of 70 mph Reduced to 65 mph

Maximum Speed Limit of 65 mph Reduced to 60 mph

June 2003

Texas Legislature

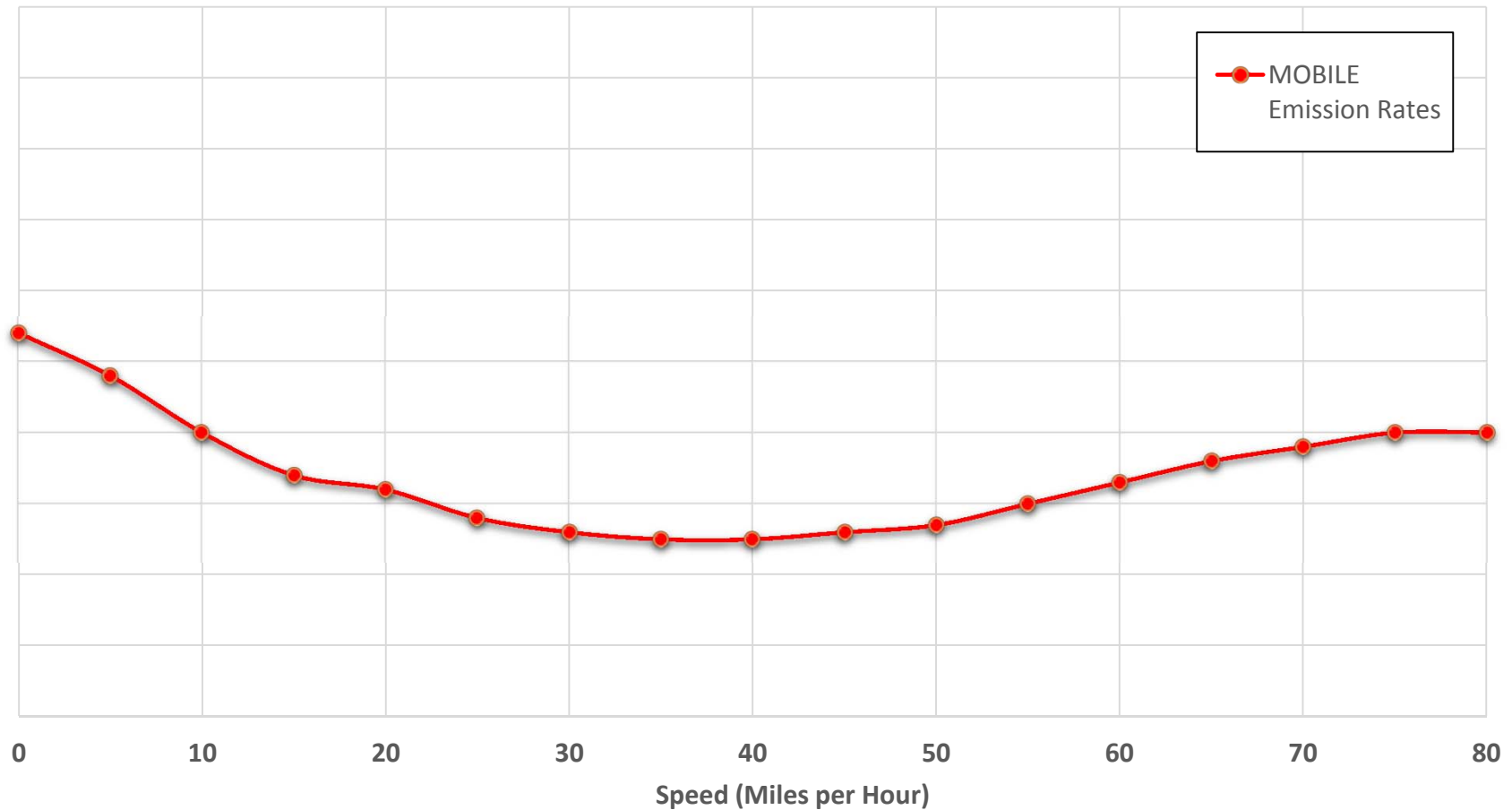
No New Environmental Speed Limits may be Created

Existing Environmental Speed Limits Retained

Sources: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/airquality/sip/apr2000dfw.html>
<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/TN/htm/TN.545.htm>

CHANGING SPEED LIMITS BACK TO WHAT THEY WERE

Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) Emission Benefits MOBILE Model vs. MOVES Model*



*Not to scale; for illustrative purposes only

CHANGING SPEED LIMITS BACK TO WHAT THEY WERE

History

August 25, 2010 **TCEQ adopted changes on how ESLs are defined**

From: Control Strategy

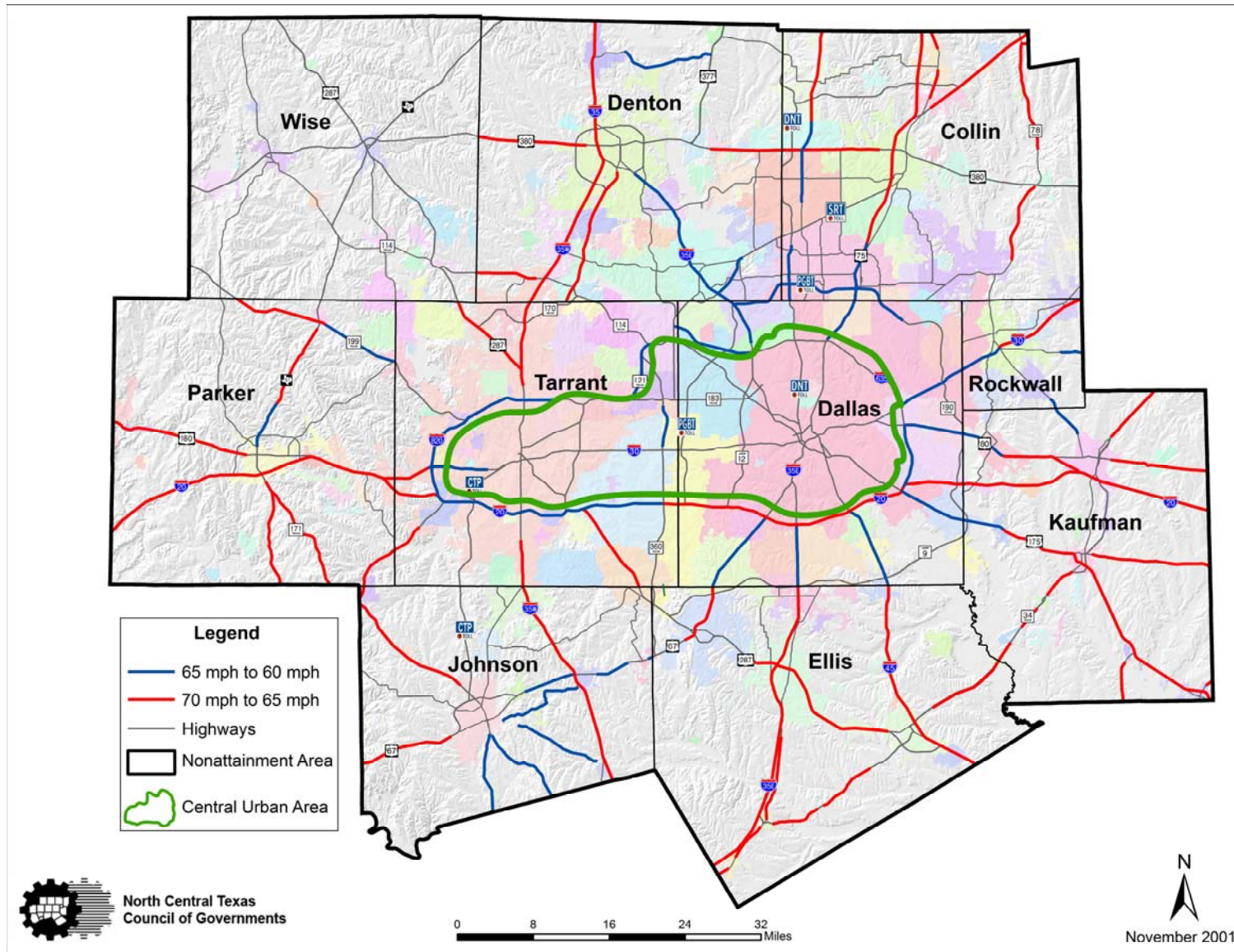
To: Transportation Control Measure (TCM)

September 2011 **Texas Legislature**

Texas Transportation Commission may Increase Speed Limits up to 75 mph on a Part of the Highway System if the Commission Determines 75 mph is a Reasonable and Safe Speed

Sources: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/air/sip/dfw/080610/SIP_WEB_06AUG10.pdf
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=HB1353>

2001 MAP OF ENVIRONMENTAL SPEED LIMITS



CENTRAL URBAN AREA ASSISTANCE

Truck Lane Restrictions

71 Centerline Miles

Roadway Traffic Signal Progression

526 Signals

Freeway Frontage Road Traffic Signal Progression

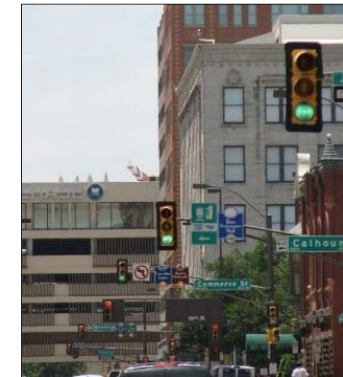
571 Signals

Intelligent Transportation System Expansion

18 Centerline Miles

Intersection Improvements

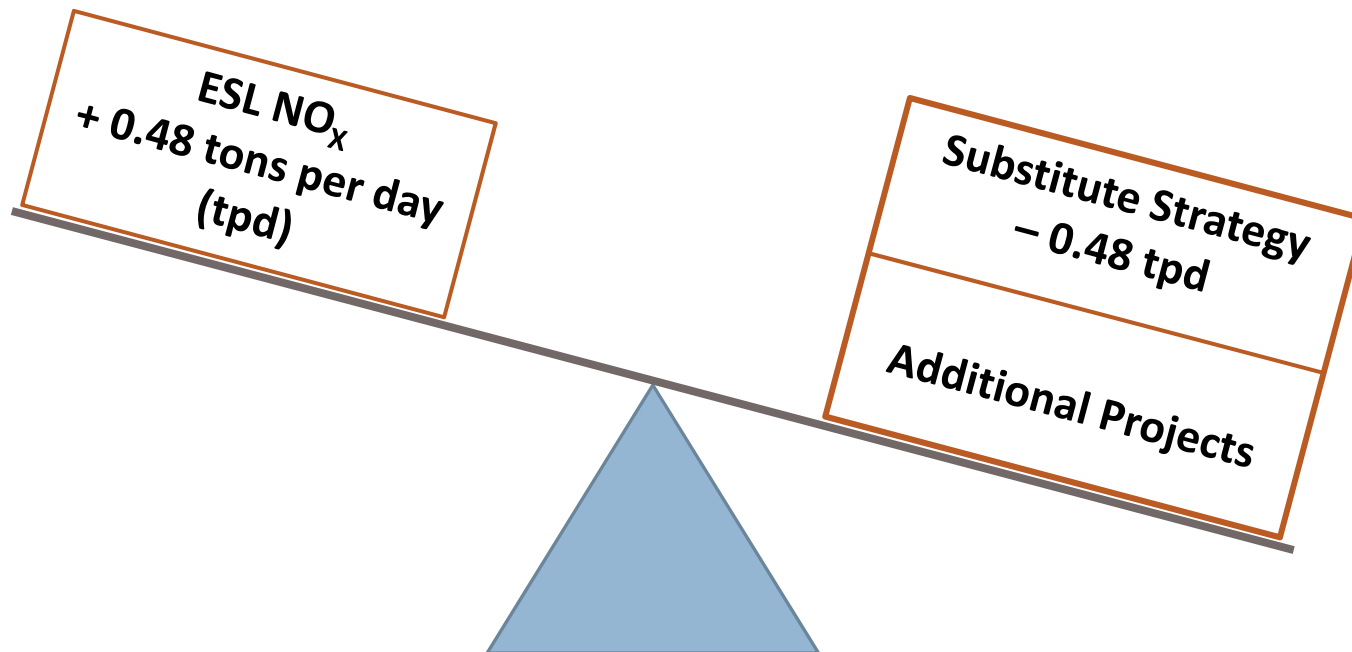
27 Locations



SUBSTITUTION PROCESS

Initial strategy(s) replaced with substitute strategy(s)

Substitute strategy(s) must have \geq emissions reductions



NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION PROJECTS

Approximately 293 Locations Identified for Traffic Signalization Projects

Central Urban Area of Dallas and Tarrant Counties

	Emissions Impact of Signalization Projects
NO_x	- 0.48 tpd
VOC	Improves Air Quality of VOC Emissions

NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds

TIMELINE

AGENCY	ACTION	DATE
Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC)	ESL Regulatory Update	June 2013
Regional Transportation Council (RTC)	ESL Regulatory Update	August 2013
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)	Update on Roadways Identified for ESL Proposed Speed Limit Changes to STTC	August 2013
TxDOT	Update on Roadways Identified for ESL Proposed Speed Limit Changes to RTC	September 2013
ESL Substitution Working Group ¹	Interagency Consultation	September 2013
RTC	ESL Substitution Regulatory Update	July 10, 2014
NCTCOG	NCTCOG Public Meetings and Comment Period Begins	July 14, 2014
STTC	ESL Substitution Local Approval	July 25, 2014
RTC	ESL Substitution Local Approval	August 14, 2014
ESL Substitution Working Group	Agencies to Concur on Substitution	September 2014
TCEQ	Documentation of Approved ESL Substitutions Provided to EPA Regional Office (must occur within 90 Days)	October 2014
EPA	Final Action Notice Published in Federal Register	October 2014
TxDOT	Signs Able to be Posted	November 2014

¹ EPA, FHWA, NCTCOG, TCEQ, and TxDOT

REQUEST FOR ACTION

In accordance with the EPA approved *Dallas-Fort Worth Environmental Speed Limit Control Strategy Conversion to a Transportation Control Measure* SIP, the Regional Transportation Council approves substitution of approximately 293 traffic signalization projects and their air quality benefits to offset the emission reduction credits lost by reversing ESLs, implemented in 2001.

In accordance with Clean Air Act Section 176(c)(8), the substitute control measure changes account for an equivalent or greater amount of emission reductions than the transportation control measure to be replaced and are in the time frame established for the SIP.

REQUEST FOR ACTION

This resolution will be transmitted to the ESL Substitution Working Group comprising of the Federal Highway Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

QUESTIONS

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www.nctcog.org/trans/air/sip/previous/esl/index.asp