



ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

# Air Quality

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement | 3.4

Transportation and air quality planning go hand-in-hand. Therefore, identifying potential impacts to air quality is an important part of the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### Federal Laws and Agency Coordination

A federal law called the Clean Air Act regulates air emissions and authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and the environment. In order to meet these pollution standards and improve or maintain air quality, each state must develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP). In Utah, the Division of Air Quality (DAQ), part of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, sets and enforces Utah's SIP. If an area does not meet NAAQS standards, then the SIP identifies control strategies for bringing the region back into compliance. Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) coordinate with the DAQ to ensure that long-term transportation plans will conform to the SIP. In turn, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) works with the DAQ and MPOs on individual projects to meet SIP requirements.

### Air Quality in the MVC Study Area

Air quality is evaluated in terms of regional impacts (mesoscale) and localized impacts (microscale). MPOs within the MVC study area, Wasatch Front Regional Council and Mountainland Association of Governments, considered these impacts to ensure that Utah's long-term transportation plans, including the MVC, conform to the SIP. Regional mesoscale air quality for each of the Salt Lake County and Utah County roadway alternatives are outlined in DEIS chapter 12 in Tables 12.4-7 and 12.4-9. All regulated pollutant standards are projected to be met by the MVC.

Projections indicate an overall reduction in many pollutants compared to the existing conditions. For example, currently 29.9 tons per year of benzene are released into the atmosphere with 1.9 million average daily trips. In 2030, with the Mountain View Corridor, the entire region is projected to have 5.9 million average daily trips (more than a tri-fold increase in traffic) and have 26.7 tons of benzene released (a decrease of almost 10 percent). The project fits within the SIP and will actually reduce regional traffic congestion and improve travel times, which will help maintain regional air quality standards.

### Air Quality Trends

Many pollutant levels are decreasing even though vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is increasing. Overall levels of the various transportation air pollutants are expected to decrease by 57 percent to 87 percent despite vehicle miles traveled increasing by 64 percent between 2000 and 2020. In addition, there are many steps the public can take to reduce air pollution. Visit the Division of Air Quality's website, [www.cleanair.utah.gov/steps\\_summer.htm](http://www.cleanair.utah.gov/steps_summer.htm), for a list of 50 steps.

Please see Chapter 12 of the Draft EIS for more detailed information.

### FAQs

#### ***Are you looking at the impacts of a freeway on air quality?***

*Air quality is one of the many things evaluated in the EIS process. Impacts to homes, businesses, and wetlands, as well as transportation performance and cost of construction are also considered.*

#### ***Aren't you concerned about the effects on air quality from the Mountain View Corridor?***

*Everyone is concerned about air quality. That's why UDOT works closely with a variety of federal and state agencies in an EIS process. They set standards for air quality to protect the health of our communities. The MVC project will meet or exceed every one of those standards.*

#### ***How will transportation technology impact air quality in the future?***

*Although it is difficult to predict average emissions 20 to 30 years in the future, it is expected that the more stringent federal regulation of motor vehicle emissions will continue to drive vehicle emissions even lower, offsetting the regional growth in vehicle-miles traveled.*

### Public Hearings

**Wednesday, November 14**  
**Hunter High School**  
**West Valley City: 4 - 8 p.m.**

**Thursday, November 15**  
**Willow Creek Middle School**  
**Lehi: 4 - 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 17**  
**Copper Hills High School**  
**West Jordan: 2 - 6 p.m.**

CLICK. READ. COMMENT. ►►

#### Comment Period

Oct. 17 - Jan. 24, 2008

#### Mail

Mountain View Corridor  
c/o Parsons Brinckerhoff  
488 E. Winchester St., Suite 400  
Murray, Utah 84107

#### E-mail

[mountainview@utah.gov](mailto:mountainview@utah.gov)

#### Internet

[udot.utah.gov/mountainview](http://udot.utah.gov/mountainview)

#### Phone

1.800.596.2556

11/01/2007