



UTC Project Information – Center for Transportation, Environment, and Community Health	
<i>Project Title</i>	Assessing the health and environmental benefits associated with changes in transportation activities in near-road communities using low-cost sensors
<i>University</i>	The University of Texas at El Paso
<i>Principal Investigator</i>	Wen-Whai Li Kelvin Cheu
<i>PI Contact Information</i>	wli@utep.edu/915-747-8755 rcheu@utep.edu/ 915-747-5717
<i>Funding Sources and Amount Provided (by each agency or organization)</i>	CTECH: \$88,129 UTEP: \$44,065
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	\$132,194
<i>Agency ID or Contract Number</i>	Sponsor Source: Federal Government CFDA #: 20.701 Agreement ID: 69A3551747119
<i>Start and End Dates</i>	10/01/2020 – 05/31/2022
<i>Brief Description of Research Project</i>	On-road measurements of four pollutants (PM _{2.5} , PM ₁₀ , NO ₂ , and O ₃) were continuously recorded by three U.S. EPA-certified FEM air pollution monitoring devices installed inside a vehicle traveling repeatedly on the same route in a near-road community. Spatio-temporal on-road air quality data were aggregated and compared to data collected at two fixed stations, one residence located 15 m from the frontage road adjacent to Interstate Highway I-10, and another residential site 300 m from the frontage road. The first objective of this study was to assess the suitability of using the spatio-temporal on-road air monitoring data for representing community exposures to transportation-related air pollutants (TRAPs). The second objective evaluated the feasibility of using on-road air monitors instead of near-road monitors.
<i>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented)</i> <i>Place Any Photos Here</i>	This project provided support for estimating near-road concentrations using on-road monitoring traveling on fixed paths. The study found that 1) community exposures to transportation pollutants can be represented by short-term spatio-temporal measurements using on-road air monitors; and 2) near-road concentrations can be represented by on-road air monitors. Furthermore, the study provided concentration estimates for a community using on-road air pollutant monitoring and evaluated associations of short-term TRAP concentrations between near-road and on-road receptors. Figure 1 shows the comparison at the two near-road sites implying that community exposures to transportation pollutants are well represented by the on-road monitors.

The 1-hr average concentration loop shown in Figure 2 represents the average concentrations of the 3 trips along the same route collected during the hour. The on-road monitor has the advantage of collecting spatiotemporal pollution data that are a better representation of the true exposure concentrations. It appears that community exposures to TRAPs can be represented by short-term spatio-temporal measurements using on-road monitors. On-road air pollution measurements provide a rapid assessment of the air quality in a community without installing multiple stationary sites. In general, near-road concentrations could be represented by on-road air monitors. Exposure maps provide citizens data on how concentrations of pollutants vary within the community and can make decisions on healthier route choices.

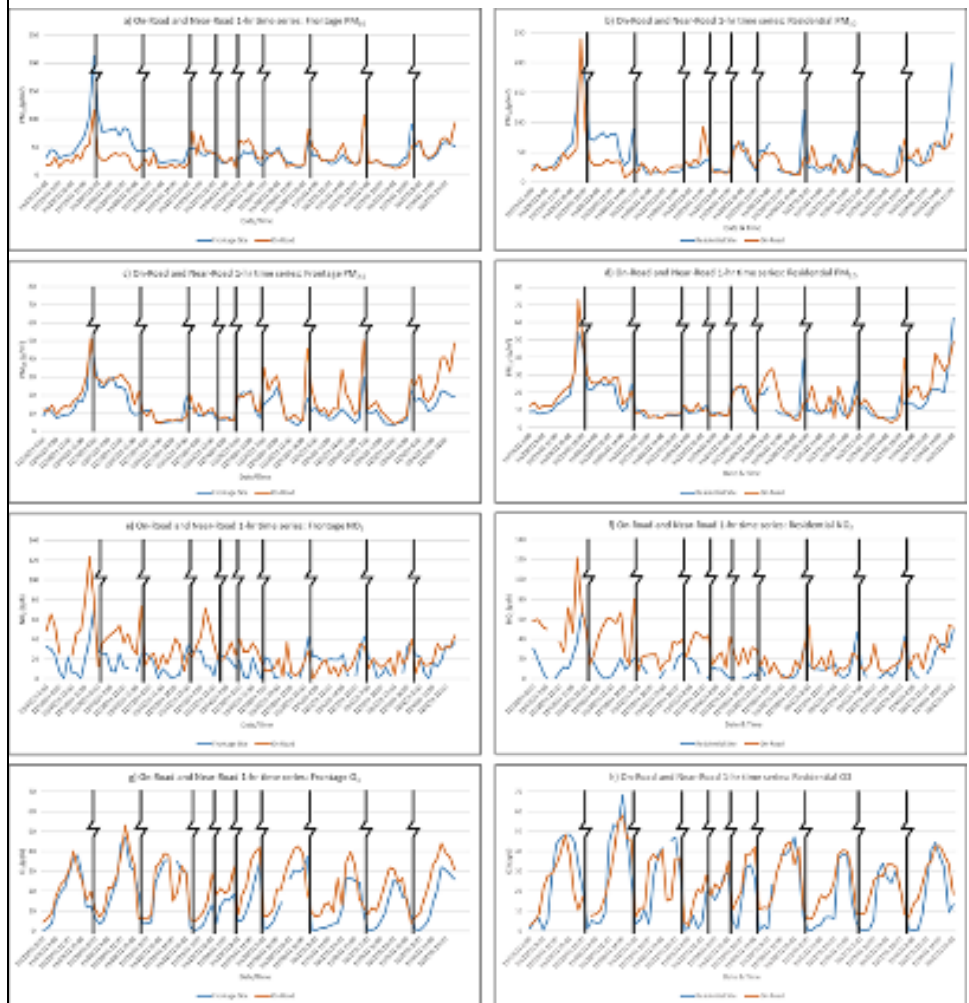


Figure 1 Comparison of Hourly pollutant data observed at Frontage, Residential sites and On-road data (1 Hour)

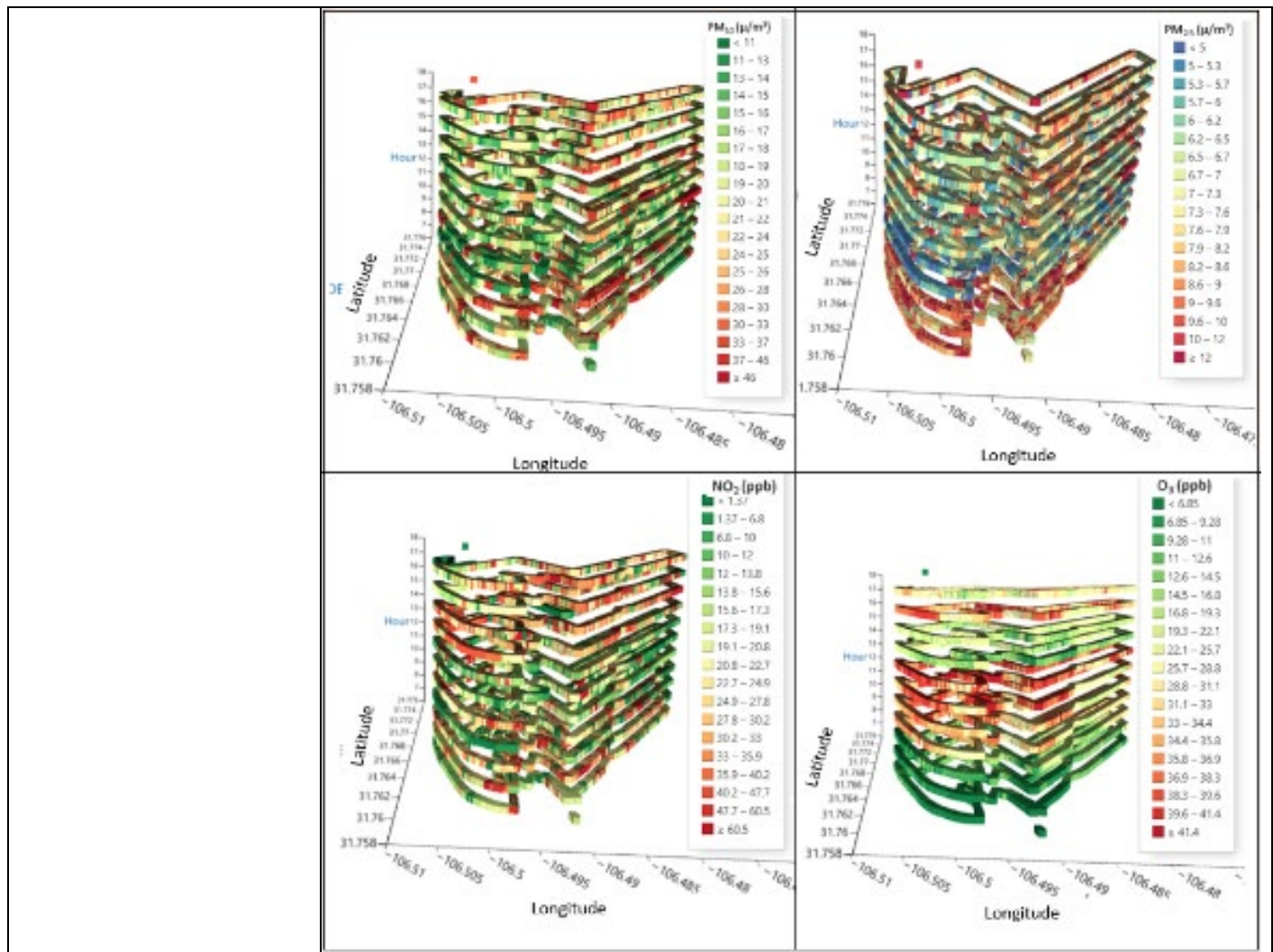


Figure 2 Hourly Average of On-Road Pollutant Concentrations, 1 day (11/22/2021)

Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated)

Web Links

- Reports
- Project website

This study provides a methodology to assess the on-road transportation-related air pollutant data against data obtained at near-road stations. It provided further scientific knowledge concerning the differences between on-road and near-road pollution levels. The on-road mobile monitoring data provided detailed analysis on spatial distribution of pollutant concentrations that citizens can use to identify healthier routes for walking and bicycling.

<https://ctech.cee.cornell.edu/final-project-reports/>