

Consultation/Institutional Partnership Case Study

Conformity Case Study
Workshop #3

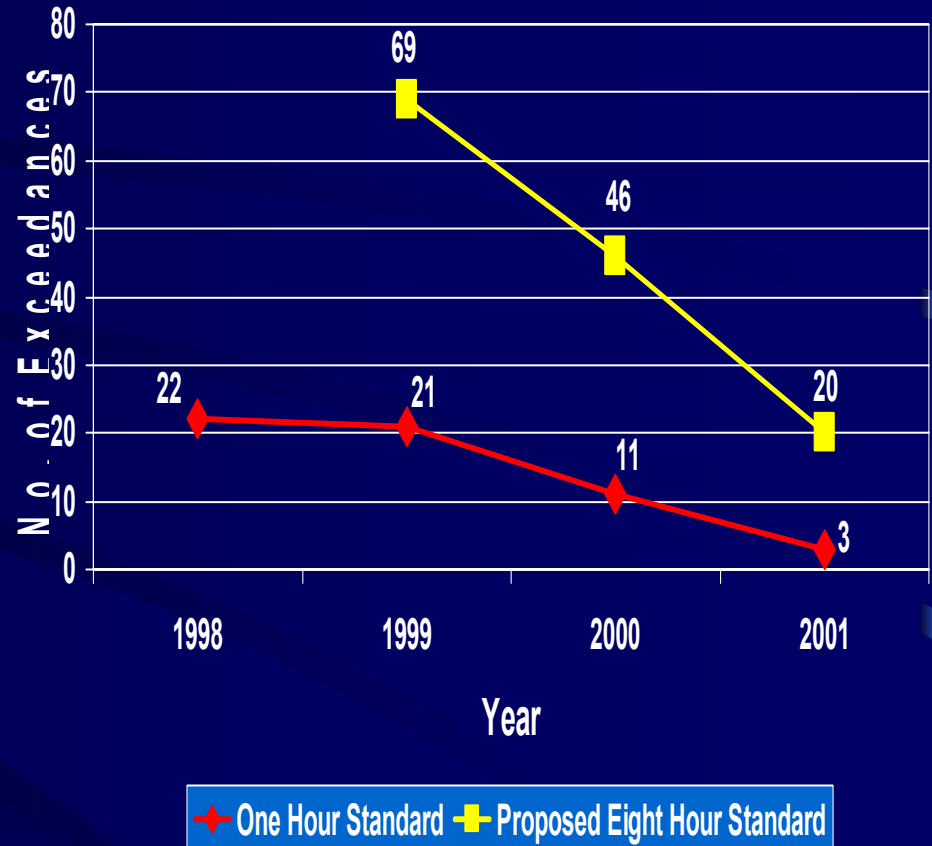
March 23-24, 2002

Air Quality

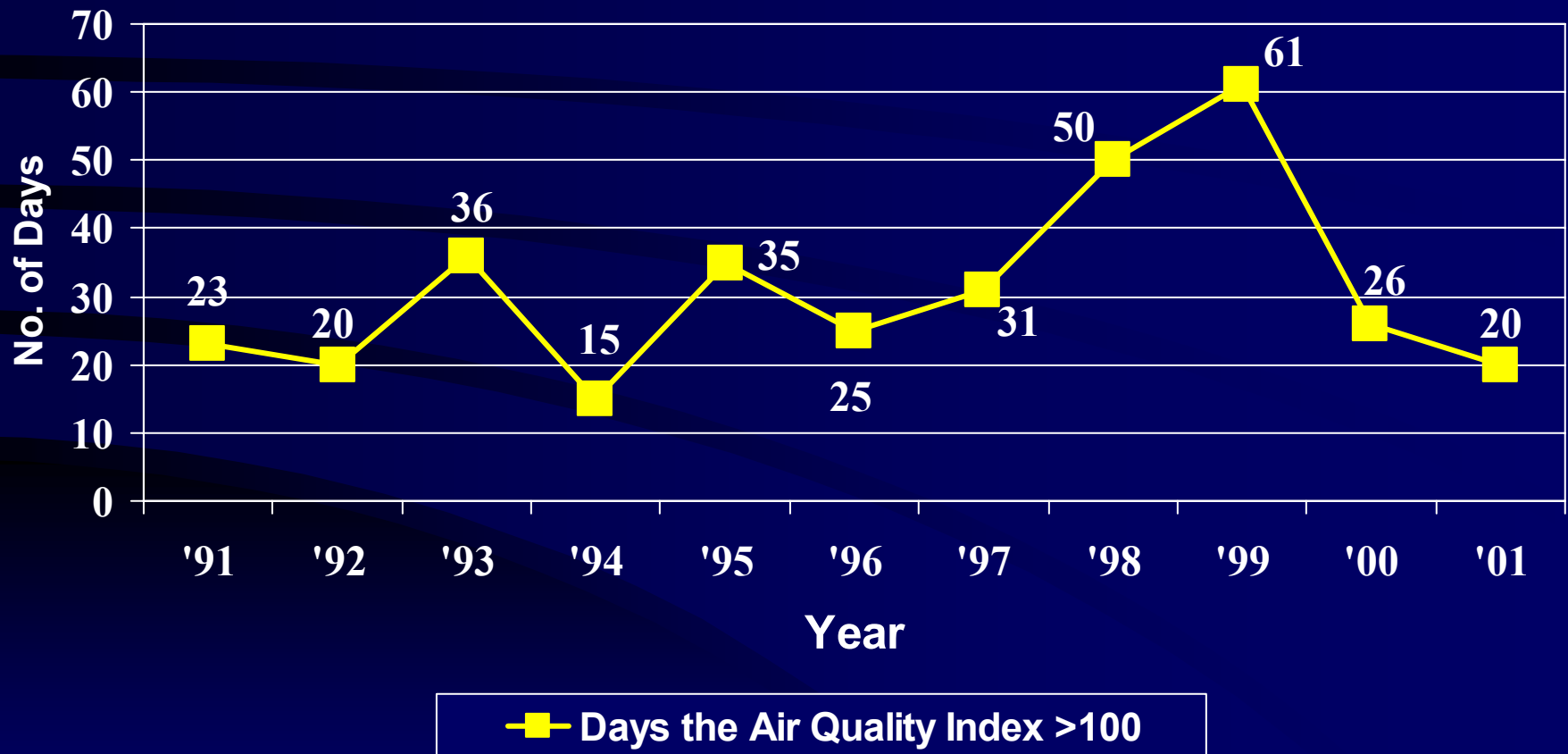


Atlanta's Transportation Conformity Status

- *July 2000: Conformity Determination by USDOT on 2025 RTP*
- *February 2001: Challenged by Sierra Club, et.al.*
- *January 2002: Upheld by Federal Court*



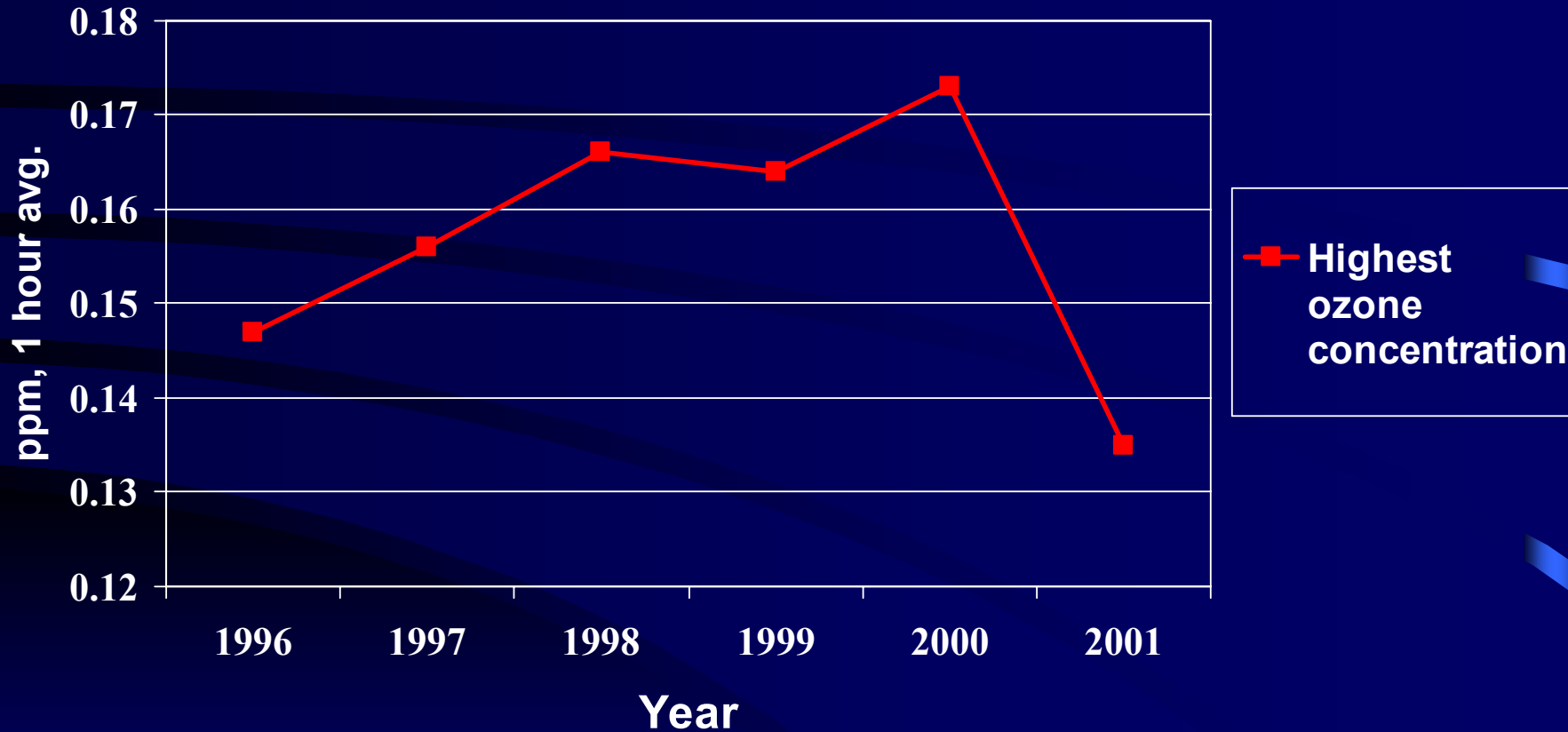
Number of days of unhealthy air for sensitive groups is decreasing...



Source: EPA and EPD

AQI >100 is unhealthy for sensitive groups

Severity of ozone violations improve in 2001...



Atlanta Transportation Conformity History

- Unable to develop conforming RTP and TIP in 1996
- Planning process continued under Interim TIP and Plan from 1997 – 1999
- “Grandfathered” Lawsuit in 1999 resulted in revising Interim Plans
- New Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget (MVEB) developed in 1999
- New MVEB withdrawn and transportation conformity shown to previous MVEB

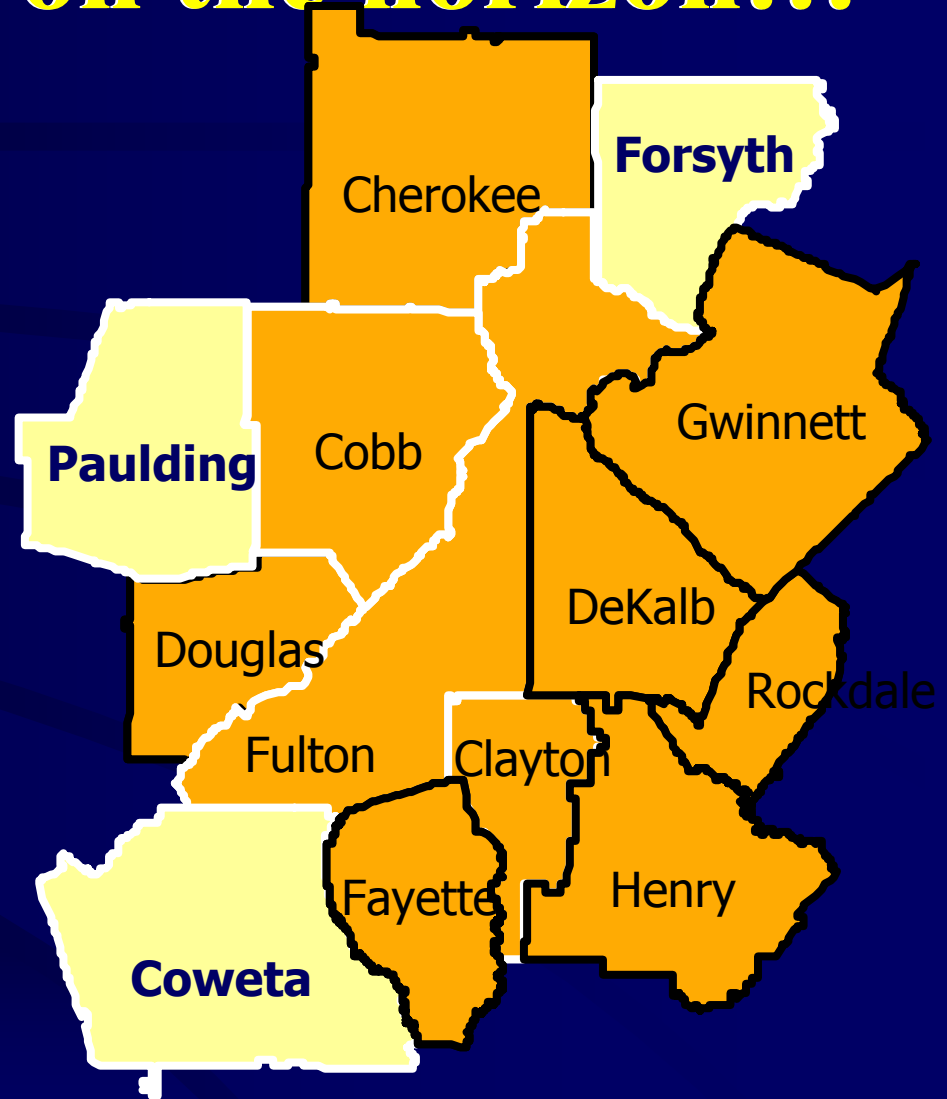
State Implementation Plan

MOA

- MOA includes interagency consultation procedures (40 CFR 93.105)
- Detailed criteria and procedures for conformity determination
- ARC, EPA, EPD, FHWA, FTA, GDOT, MARTA
- ARC hosts and staffs meetings
- Very structured process-monthly meetings

But significant air quality challenges are on the horizon...

- 2004 milestone attainment date
- No Clean Air Act violations allowed
- A violation is defined as more than three exceedances at a monitor over a three year period



Lessons Learned

- You must work with your State Air Agency to develop your Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget
- Interagency Consultation process should be structured with process to reach consensus
- One agency should take the lead in staffing Interagency Consultation