



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUL 07 2016

Mr. Al Alonzi  
Division Administrator - Texas  
Federal Highway Administration  
300 East 8th Street, Suite 826  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Alonzi:

In June 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received conformity determination documents for amendments to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program, submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) for interagency consultation and review. A new conformity determination is necessary for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria Texas 8-hour ozone nonattainment area due to these amendments and the need to comply with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act signed into law on December 4, 2015.

Any issues associated with the demonstration of conformity were addressed in conference calls and e-mails with the HGAC, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the EPA. The criteria for our review and the interagency consultation process can be found at 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A and guidance memoranda issued by the FHWA and the EPA for transportation conformity determinations.

Based on the documentation submitted to the EPA and discussed during the interagency consultation process, the estimated emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds for the amended 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program will be below the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets established for these pollutants in the State Implementation Plan: The applicable NOx and VOC MVEBs were approved by the EPA on January 2, 2014 (79 FR 51 & 79 FR 57). We have no further comments and are supportive of a positive conformity finding by the Federal Highway Administration for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria area.

I appreciate your cooperation in consulting with us and ensuring all provisions of the transportation conformity rules have been properly addressed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

Guy Donaldson  
Chief  
Air Planning Section

cc: Mr. Alan Clark  
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Dr. Graciela Lubertino  
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Ms. Barbara Maley  
Federal Highway Administration

Mr. Jose Campos  
Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Jamie Zech  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Ms. Jackie Ploch  
Texas Department of Transportation

Ms. Megan Campbell  
Texas Department of Transportation

Ms. Michelle Conkle  
Texas Department of Transportation



JUL 07 2018

Mr. Al Alonzi  
Division Administrator - Texas  
Federal Highway Administration  
300 East 8th Street, Suite 838  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Alonzi:

In June 2016, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received conformity determination documents for amendments to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and 2040 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC). A new conformity determination is necessary for the transportation improvement program and review. A new conformity determination is necessary for the Houston-Galveston Area Council Texas 8-hour ozone nonattainment area due to the need to comply with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) in 2015.

Any issues associated with the demonstration of conformity were discussed with the HGAC, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the EPA. The criteria for our review and the interagency consultation process can be found at 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A and guidance memoranda issued by the FHWA and the EPA for transportation conformity determinations.

Based on the documentation submitted to the EPA and discussed during the interagency consultation process, the estimated emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds for the amended 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program will be below the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets established for these pollutants in the State Implementation Plan. The applicable NOx and VOC MVEBs were approved by the EPA on January 2, 2014 (79 FR 21 & 79 FR 27). We have no further comments and are supportive of a positive conformity finding by the Federal Highway Administration for the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

I appreciate your cooperation in consulting with us and ensuring all provisions of the transportation conformity rules have been properly addressed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8242.

Sincerely yours,

Guy Davidson  
Chief  
Air Planning Section