



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
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FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

August 2, 2019

In Reply Refer to:
HPP-TX

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)
Transportation Conformity Determination
2045 Regional Transportation Plan and
2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. James M. Bass, Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Bass

We have reviewed the documentation supporting the transportation conformity determination for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adopted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council (Policy Board) on May 24, 2019. Based upon our review and consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), we hereby find:

- that the 2045 RTP and 2019-2022 TIP meet all the requirements for making a joint conformity determination under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Additionally, we find

- that the 2045 RTP satisfactorily complies with the requirements of 23 CFR §450.324 regarding the development and content of metropolitan transportation plans in air quality non-attainment areas; and
- that the 2019-2022 TIP satisfactorily complies with the requirements of 23 CFR §450.326 regarding the development and content of transportation improvement programs in air quality non-attainment areas.

The interagency consultative partners have indicated that they have no unresolved issues concerning this conformity determination in their letters dated: July 29, 2019 for EPA, July 30, 2019 for TCEQ and August 2, 2019 for TxDOT. The conformity determination and procedures used to make this determination are in accordance with the provisions of the transportation conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93), dated August 15, 1997, as amended.

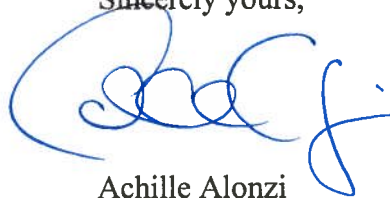
This action

- restarts the four-year time clock associated with the update of the RTP. Accordingly, an updated RTP and corresponding transportation conformity determination will be required by August 2, 2023;
- satisfies the requirement that transportation conformity be determined within 1-year of the effective date of EPA's non-attainment area designation in accordance with the 2015 8-hour ozone standard (August 3, 2018); and
- addresses transportation conformity in accordance with the 2008 8-hour ozone standard.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acts as executive agent for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on metropolitan transportation plan and transportation improvement program air quality conformity determinations. Accordingly, this letter will serve as a joint FHWA/FTA conformity determination.

Should you have any questions concerning this action, please contact Jose Campos at Jose.Campos@dot.gov or (512) 536-5932 or Barbara Maley at Barbara.Maley@dot.gov or (214) 224-2175.

Sincerely yours,



Achille Alonzi
Division Administrator

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