



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

J. J. Pickle Federal Bldg.
300 E. 8th Street, Rm 826
Austin, Texas 78701

December 30, 2005

In Reply Refer To: HPP-TX

Mr. Jim Randall
Director, Transportation Planning and Programming
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 149217
Austin, TX 78714

Attention: Ms. Peggy Thurin

Dear Mr. Randall:

FHWA agrees with the interagency conformity consultation partners that the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) amendments on October 28, 2005 and December 16, 2005 do not require an updated conformity determination. The administrative amendments designate bus rapid transit (BRT) for Houston Metro's North, Southeast, and Harrisburg corridors. The corridors had been designated as light rail transit in the 2025 RTP found to conform by FHWA on June 3, 2005.

As the proposed BRT projects have the same routes, stops, headways, and ridership projections as the original light rail projects and as the BRT vehicles will have similar characteristics to the LRT vehicles, we feel that the projects have not significantly changed in design concept or scope. No modeling inputs in the conformity analysis years would change as a result of this project. In emails dated December 28, 2005 and December 29, 2005 respectively, the Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed their agreement with the interagency consultation decision that the RTP changes are not significant.

If you have any questions on this letter, please contact Rebecca Lupes of my staff at 512-536-5975.

Sincerely,

for Michael T. Leary
Director, Planning and Program
Development

Cc: Alan Clark, H-GAC
John Sweek, FTA
Peggy Wade, EPA
Margie McAllister, TCEQ

