



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 8A36
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3220

September 30, 2008

Refer to: HPP-TX

Houston-Galveston FY 2008-2011 Transportation
Improvement Program and 2035 Regional
Transportation Plan Amendments

Mr. James L. Randall, P.E.
Director, Planning and Program Development
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Randall:

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) letter of July 8, 2008, requested concurrence on their conformity finding for the amended FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). As noted in H-GAC's letter, delays in the implementation of a small number of projects resulted in the completion dates for these projects to extend beyond the previously assumed analysis year (2009) requires a new conformity determination. This new conformity determination also provided an opportunity for the H-GAC to incorporate the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (METRO) latest light rail mode choice analysis results. The results of the revised regional emissions analysis indicate that the area's FY 2008-2011 TIP and 2035 RTP continue to meet the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEB) established in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The letters from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (USEPA) dated September 5, 2008, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (TCEQ) dated August 26, 2008 and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) dated September 12, 2008, indicate they have no unresolved issues concerning the revised regional emissions analysis. Based upon the results of the revised regional emissions analysis, and consultation with the USEPA, TCEQ and TxDOT; Federal Highway Administration, (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration, (FTA) hereby find that the November 9, 2007 conformity determination for H-GAC's FY 2008-2011 TIP and 2035 RTP remains valid.

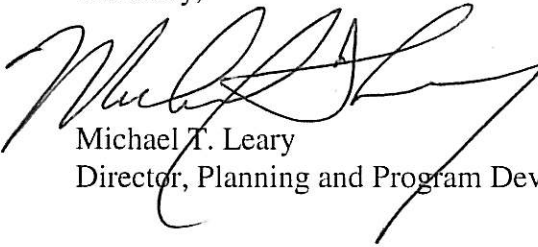
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ECONOMY**



The FHWA acts as executive agent for the FTA on Plan and TIP air quality conformity determinations. Accordingly, this letter will serve as the joint FHWA/FTA conformity determination. Please provide copies of this joint FHWA/FTA conformity determination to the Houston-Galveston Area Council, METRO, Island Transit, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Please note that this action does not restart the H-GAC's four-year RTP update and corresponding conformity determination cycle. However; this conformity determination does satisfy the requirement that conformity be re-determined within 24-months of USEPA's adequacy determination of the MVEBs contained in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Reasonable Further Progress SIP Plan dated March 21, 2008. If you should have any questions regarding this action please contact Mr. Jose Campos at (512) 536-5932.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Leary", written over a white background.

Michael T. Leary
Director, Planning and Program Development

cc: Alan Clark, H-GAC
Peggy Crist, FTA-Region 6
Timothy Lidiak, FTA-Region 6
Jeff Riley, US EPA-Region 6
Margie McAllister, TCEQ