



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 8A36 300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3225

July 8, 2016

Refer to: HPP-TX

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)
Transportation Conformity Determination –
Amendments to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
and 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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 amendments to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), adopted by the H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council on April 22, 2016. 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 amendments to the 2040 RTP and 2015-2018 TIP meet all the requirements for making a joint conformity determination under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Additionally, we find:

- the amendments to the 2040 RTP satisfactorily comply with the requirements of 23 CFR §450.324 regarding the review and update of metropolitan transportation plans in air quality non-attainment areas; and
- the amendments to the 2015-2018 TIP satisfactorily comply with the requirements of 23 CFR §450.326 regarding the update, public involvement, project inclusion, consistency with the plan, and fiscal constraint of TIPs in air quality non-attainment areas.

This conformity determination addresses project changes as adopted by the MPO's Policy Board and reflected in the corresponding Plan and Program.

The interagency consultative partners have indicated that they have no unresolved issues concerning this conformity determination in their letters dated July 7, 2016 for EPA, July 8, 2016 for TxDOT, and July 8, 2016 for TCEQ. 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.

Please note that this action does not restart the four-year time clock associated with a four-year transportation plan update.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acts as executive agent for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on Transportation Plan and TIP air quality conformity determinations. Accordingly, this letter will serve as the joint FHWA/FTA conformity determination. Should you have any questions concerning this action, please contact Jose M. Campos at (512) 536-5932 or Barbara C. Maley at (214) 224-2175.

Sincerely yours,


for Achille Alonzi
Division Administrator

cc: Robert C. Patrick, FTA Region 6
Jeff Riley, EPA Region 6
Don Koski, FTA Region 6
Melissa Foreman, FTA Region 6
Pearlie Tiggs, FTA Region 6
David Brymer, TCEQ
Jamie Zech, TCEQ
Lauren Garduño, TxDOT-TPP
Jack Foster, TxDOT-TPP
Peggy Thurin, TxDOT-TPP
Janie Temple, TxDOT-TPP
Megan Campbell, TxDOT-TPP
Carlos Swonke, TxDOT-ENV
Jackie Ploch, TxDOT-ENV
Tim Wood, TxDOT-ENV
Eric Gleason, TxDOT-PTN
Kelly Kirkland, TxDOT-PTN
Quincy Allen, TxDOT-Houston District
Tucker Ferguson, TxDOT-Beaumont District
Andrew Mao, TxDOT-Houston District
Alan Clark, H-GAC