

APPENDIX 14

**Interagency Conformity Consultation
Process**

HGB Area
Consultative Partners Conference call
December 7, 2022

Attendees

H-GAC: Graciela Lubertino, Heng Wang, Pramod Sambidi, Jochen Floesser, Craig Raborn, Frank Pagliei, Thushara Ranatunga, Vishu Lingala, Mike Burns

EPA: Jeff Riley

FHWA-TX: Jose Campos, Barbara Maley

TCEQ: Jamie Zech

TxDOT: Charles Airiohuodion, Raymond Sanchez, Laura Norton, Janie Temple, Tim Woods, Catherine McCreight, Phillip Tindall

METRO: Edmund Petry

TTI: Madhu Venugopal, Gu Chaoyi

Meeting Background

H-GAC is planning to do a new conformity determination to support the new transportation plan. The MPO is developing a new transportation plan, called the 2045 RTP Update and amending its 2023-2026 TIP. The development of the new transportation plan is required by federal rule every four years, being the latest approved on August 2, 2019. Accordingly, an updated RTP and corresponding transportation conformity determination will be required by August 2, 2023. Otherwise, the region will enter a one-year conformity lapse grace period.

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the new years that this conformity will used for the calculations and to request new data from TCEQ, EPA, and TxDOT/TTI for inputs to the air quality and VMT models.

Meeting Consensus

The years selected for these calculations are: 2023, 2026, 2030, 2040 and 2045. The years 2023 and 2026 were selected to comply with the new re-classification for the 2008 and 2015 8-hr ozone standards to “moderate” and “severe” respectively.

It was also agreed that the Pre-Analysis Consensus Plan will be sent as soon as the new data is sent to H-GAC by the conformity partners.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items

None

HGB Area Consultative Partners Conference call February 21, 2023

Attendees

H-GAC: Graciela Lubertino, Andrew DeCandis, Craig Raborn, Heng Wang

EPA: Jeff Riley

FHWA-TX: Jose Campos, Barbara Maley

TCEQ: Jamie Zech

TxDOT: Charles Airiohuodion, Raymond Sanchez, Laura Norton, Janie Temple, Tim Woods, Shixin Gao

METRO: Vincent Sanders

Meeting Background

The MPO is developing a new transportation plan, called the 2045 RTP Update and amending its 2023-2026 TIP. The development of the new transportation plan is required by federal rule every four years, being the latest approved on August 2, 2019.

Accordingly, an updated RTP and corresponding transportation conformity determination will be required by August 2, 2023. Otherwise, the region will enter a one-year conformity lapse grace period.

Meeting Purpose

The topic of the conference call was to discuss the use of TERMS (transportation emission reduction measures) as off-model emission credits in this conformity determination. Specifically, the call was held to discuss whether TERMS should be used for conformity if they are included in the weight-of-evidence (i.e., not quantified) section of the attainment demonstration state implementation plan (SIP) revision for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria ozone nonattainment area.

Meeting Consensus

Since TERMS will not be required to demonstrate conformity for the 2045 RTP Update and amended 2023-2026 TIP, H-GAC, with consensus from the consultation partners, decided to list the TERMS in the conformity documentation but not to apply emissions reductions from them to any analysis year for this conformity demonstration.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items

None