



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

November 3, 2022

Mr. Al Alonzi
Division Administrator - Texas
Federal Highway Administration
300 East 8th Street, Suite 826
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Alonzi:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed conformity determination documents for the amended *2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* and the *2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) for interagency consultation and review. A conformity determination is necessary for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria, Texas (HGB) 8-hour ozone NAAQS nonattainment area due to these amendments, and the need to comply with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law on November 15, 2021.

Any issues associated with the demonstration of conformity were addressed in conference calls and e-mails with the HGAC, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Texas Division office, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the EPA. The criteria for our review and the interagency consultation process can be found at 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A and guidance memoranda issued by the FHWA and the EPA for transportation conformity determinations.

Based on the information submitted to the EPA and discussed during the interagency consultation process, the estimated emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) for the 2045 RTP and 2021-2024 TIP will be below the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) established for these pollutants in the State Implementation Plan: The 2020 NO_x and VOC MVEBs became effective on June 9, 2021 (88 FR 24717). We have no further comments and are supportive of a positive conformity finding by the FHWA for the HGB area.

I appreciate your cooperation in consulting with us and ensuring all provisions of the transportation conformity rules have been properly addressed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-7161, or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Magee".

Melanie Magee
Section Supervisor,
Infrastructure and Ozone Section

cc: Mr. Craig Raborn
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Mr. Jose Campos
Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division

Ms. Donna Huff
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mr. Doug Booher
Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division

Ms. Jessica Butler, P.E.
Texas Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning and Programming Division