



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

October 27, 2023

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 2023 update of the *2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* and amendments to the *2023-2026 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 (HBG) 8-hour ozone NAAQS nonattainment area due to the update and 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<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) for the updated 2045 RTP and amended 2023-2026 TIP will be below the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) established for these pollutants in the State Implementation Plan: The 2020 NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC MVEBs became effective on June 9, 2021 (86 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  
Manager  
Infrastructure and Ozone Section

cc: Mr. Graig 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

Mr. Humberto Gonzalez, Jr., P.E.  
Texas Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning and Programming Division