



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
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FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701--3225

July 19, 2013

Refer to: HPP-TX

Houston-Galveston Area Council
Transportation Conformity Determination –
Amended 2035 Regional Transportation
Plan Update and Amended FY 2013-2016
Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Phil Wilson, Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We have reviewed the documentation supporting the transportation conformity determination for amendments to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update and FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), adopted by the H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council on May 24, 2013. 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 amended 2035 RTP Update and FY 2013-2016 TIP meet all the requirements for making a joint conformity determination under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, subject to the enclosed comments.

This conformity determination addresses the requirement that a conformity determination be completed within one-year of the area's non-attainment designation in accordance with the 2008 8-hour ozone standard by EPA. This action does not restart the 4-year update cycle associated with H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update and corresponding conformity determination of January 25, 2011.

Interagency consultative partners indicate that they have no unresolved issues concerning this conformity determination in letters dated July 17, 2013 for EPA, July 17, 2013 for TxDOT, and July 16, 2013 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.

FHWA acts as executive agent for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on MTP 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 Shundreka R. Givan at (512) 536-5936.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Tally Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Robert F. Tally Jr.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure

cc: Jeff Riley, EPA Region VI
Robert C. Patrick, FTA Region VI
Don Koski, FTA Region VI
Laura Wallace, FTA Region VI
Pearlie Tiggs, FTA Region VI
David Brymer, TCEQ
Jamie Zech, TCEQ
Marc Williams, TxDOT-TPP
Jack Foster, TxDOT-TPP
Michelle Conkle, TxDOT-TPP
Janie Temple, TxDOT-TPP
Alan Clark, H-GAC

ENCLOSURE

This transportation conformity determination addresses revisions to the proposed letting year, transportation conformity analysis year, limits and scope of work for various projects included in the H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update and FY 2013-2016 TIP. It is our understanding that the August 2013 quarterly revisions to the FY 2013-2016 STIP will address many of these project revisions. However, until such time as the necessary revisions are submitted for review and approved, our (FHWA/FTA) previous approval of the projects affected by this conformity determination as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is hereby suspended. Below is listing of the affected projects:

	CSJ/MPO Project ID	Comment
1	0912-31-290 (MPO Project ID 7874) 13753 13760 15511 15512 15514 15515 15520 15521 10023 0912-72-063 (MPO Project ID 13521) 3256-01-089 (MPO Project ID 14226) 0912-72-158 (MPO Project ID 7936) 0720-03-102 (MPO Project ID 307) 0720-03-103 (MPO Project ID 216) 15485 384	Our previous approval of these projects as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended pending revision of the TIP/STIP to address change in the projects' proposed letting year.
2	0598-02-092 (MPO Project ID 13765) 11864	Our previous approval of these projects as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended pending revision of the TIP/STIP to address change in project limits.
3	975	Our previous approval of this project as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended pending revision of the TIP/STIP to address change in project scope.

4	10478 2977 10794 11039 11001 10024 15587 7465 11048 0912-72-179 (MPO Project ID 10452) 11054 0720-03-123 (MPO Project ID 913) 11032 0720-02-074 (MPO Project ID 914) 241	Changes in the proposed letting year of these projects appears to require deletion of the projects from the FY 2013-2016 STIP. As such our previous approval of these projects as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended.
5	0912-72-072 (MPO Project ID 13518)	Our previous approval of this project as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended pending revision of the TIP/STIP to address change in the project's proposed letting year and clarification of project's scope (bridge work is not included in the project description provided in the 2035 RTP Update).
6	0598-01-092 (MPO Project ID 13856)	Our previous approval of this project as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended pending revision of the TIP/STIP to address change in project scope, control-section-job number, project limits and proposed letting year.
7	11005 11009	These projects are noted as being combined into one project. Combining these projects requires a revision of the TIP/STIP. As such, our previous approval of these projects as part of the FY 2013-2016 STIP is suspended pending a revision of the TIP/STIP to address change in project scope, limits and funding.