7/23 conf call notes added

**FHWA Texas Division**

**H-GAC 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY 2019-2022 Transportation**

**Improvement Program (TIP) Transportation Conformity Determination Comments**

**July 9, 2019**

**Transportation Conformity Determination Report**:

1. Comments concerning Transportation Conformity Determination Report provided June 18 (conf call), June 24 (conf call) and June 27 (email). These are not repeated here.

**Appendix 2 (SIP Excerpts)**: No comments.

**Appendix 3 (Project Listing)**:

2. Comments concerning 2045 RTP project listing provided June 13 (conf call) and June 25 (email). These are not repeated here.

**Appendix 4 (Travel Demand Model Validation)**: Comments (if needed) to be provided under

separate cover.

**Appendix 5 (Link Listing and Travel Demand Model Network)**:

3. **General:** Initial comments concerning the travel demand modeling network provided June 24 (conf call), June 25 (email) and June 27 (conf call and email). These are not repeated here.

4. **General.** Many projects include Model-ID 777, Model-ID 888 and/or Model-ID 999. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

An ArcMap classification value used to help view the IH45 interchange.

Model-ID 777 Modeling links that exist but will deleted from the network.

Model-ID 888 Modeling links that exist and will be reused in the network.

Model-ID 999 New Modeling links that will be added to the network

This was provided on the I45\_interchange\_READ\_ME.docx.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

5. **General.** Ten projects (e.g., 4052, 6065, 10133, 16330, 17110, 17204, 17205, 17206,

17207 and 17208) indicate an inconsistency between the link listing and the travel

demand model .shp file in 2030. Please explain

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

The conformity network (net45\_5\_23\_19.shp) and Link listing (Link\_Listing24th\_2019.xlsx)

that was sent out on 5/24/19 match up. I believe you are comparing the updated network with

older draft 4\_10 link listing.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA to re-look at this.

**07/23/2019 conf call:** Per FHWA, this seems to be a 2030 link listing issue; modeling seems to be okay.

6. **MPOID 15** and **MPOID 14224**: These projects do not appear to be reflected in the 2045

RTP project listing. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

These are Locally Funded Projects (NRS). Place holder projects with no time frame, Status or

Budget, therefore we did not include them in the model.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** MPO to revise response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** LET Projects are not reflected in the 2045 RTP project listing. However, LET projects are referenced in the TDM network and Link listing if it falls within the approved conformity years.

MPOID 15 (4 lane widening of FM 3334/Mchard Road) is LET with a FY of 2015, however there has been no notice of completion submitted by TXDOT so the status remained LET and placed in the 2020 TDM.

MPOID 14224 (RR grade separation at FM 2234) is LET and is noted in the TDM PROJ\_IDA as reference only. Did not effect TDM.

7. **MPOID 87**: This project does not appear to be reflected in the 2045 RTP project listing.

Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

(Northpark Dr) The project will be added to the RTP Project Listing. It is reflected in the TDM.

**07/19/2019 FHWA:** MPO to revise response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** MPOID 87 had been split into two separate projects by the sponsor.

MPOID 87 Widen from 4 to 6 lanes in 2030 from IH 69 to Russel Palamer

MPOID 18033 Widen from 4 to 6 lanes in 2030 from Russel Palmer to Woodland Hills

The TDM has been corrected to referencing MPOID 18033 instead of 18305 (miss typed and does not exist).

Both projects will be reflected in the RTP project list. (There was some discussion here.)

8. **MPOID 139**: Modeling appears to reflect a transition from 2-way frontage roads (2-

lanes each direction) to 1-way frontage roads (2-lanes each direction) beginning in 2030.

However, the 2045 RTP project listing does not appear to reflect the associated project

(MPOID 139). Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

SH 146 (Red Bluff to Nasa 1)

NOTE: *LET Projects are not reflected in the 2045 RTP project listing. However, LET projects*

*are referenced in the TDM network and Link listing if it falls within the approved conformity*

*years.*

MPOID 139 is LET with a FY of 2018, however the build out is longer than the 2year standard

time frame so it was referenced in 2030 TDM.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

9. **MPOID 467**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing indicates limits of MPOID

467 as FM 519 to Loop 197, however, modeling does not appear to indicate improvement

extending to Loop 197. Also, Link ID 29508-29509 indicates 4-lanes in 2020 and 2030

however, the project description for MPOID 467 indicates widening to 4-lanes in 2030.

Please clarify

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

SH 146 (FM 519 to SL 197)

This project is 4 lane RR overpass. The SL 197 limit is a close approximation of the project

limits. The link 29508-29509 was not coded because it is an existing 4 lane road. Limit will be

changed to North of SL 197 in RTP project list.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response. (Note: There will be a RTP

revision.)

10. **MPOID 6065**: Modeling appears to reflect a southern project limit as Barker Oak Drive,

however, the 2045 RTP project description reflects Piping Rock Lane. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

SH 6 (Memorial to Piping rock, 6 to 8)

The segment break at Barker Oak is only relative and not exact. The break is a TAZ loading

centroid point that represents all nearby local streets including Piping Rock.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response. Confirmation that centroid

connectors are not reflected in H-G model.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** Centroid Connectors are not reflected in the TDM Review Network.

11. **MPOID 7428**: Please verify Link IDs 30925-22636, 24066-22731 and 40157-40156,

regarding number of lanes and facility type.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 Interchange (US 59 S to IH 45 S)

Link ID 30925-22636 (SH 288) is an existing 4 lane SB Fwy (FTYPE 101) that will be torn

down and rebuilt as a future 4 lane fwy in 2030. MODEL 888 reused links.

Link ID 24066-22731 (SH 288) is an existing 4 lane NB Fwy (FTYPE 101) that will be torn

down and rebuilt into 1 of 2 separate 1 lane NB DC,s (FTYPE 153) connecting to the New IH

45 N in 2030. MODEL 888 reused link

Link ID 40157-40156 (SH 288) is the other 1 lane NB DC (FTYPE 153) connecting to existing

IH 45 S in 2030. MODEL 999 new link

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response. Re. Link ID 40157-40156

(SH 288) that is 2 lane in the model - H-G MPO to revise response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** Link ID 24066-22731 (SH 288) is an existing 4 lane NB Fwy (FTYPE 101) that will be torn down and rebuilt into 1 of 2 separate NB DC,s (FTYPE 153). It is a 1 lane connection to the New IH 45 N in 2030. MODEL 888 reused link

*Correction:* Link ID 40157-40156 (SH 288) is the other NB DC (FTYPE 153). It is a 2 lane connection heading eastward to the existing IH 45 S in 2030. MODEL 999 new link.

12. **MPOID 11178**: Please verify the facility description reflected in modeling for FIDs 192,

235 and 295. These segments appear to be ramps versus main lanes.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

Fort Bend Tollway Extension

Ramps associated with the mainlane project were assigned an MPOID’s so time frame

adjustments could be made for the entire project if need be.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** H-G MPO to edit model name to include *‘ramp’*. H-G to consider

including a record number. FHWA will not reference FIDs in the future.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** The TDM facility name has been changed to RAMP for these segments.

13. **MPOID 11385**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing indicates widening of

SH 99 from 4-lanes to 6-lanes in 2045, however the modeling appears to reflect widening

to 12-lanes (6-lanes each direction; 3-ABLanes and 3-BALanes). Also, FIDs 28092,

28093, 28094 and 28178 indicate existing 2-lane frontage roads in 2020, however, the

2045 RTP project description does not appear to reflect frontage roads. Also, FIDs

24616 and 24617 are noted as being one-lane in 2030, 2040 and 2045, however the SH

99 segments north and south of these sections appear to be 2-lanes in 2030 and 2040; and

3-lanes in 2045. In addition, FIDs 24414 and 24413, reflect 1-lane entrance and exit

ramps in all analysis years that do not appear to exist in 2020 or be associated with

another MPOID. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

SH 99 (SH 288 to Galveston C/L)

The project is a future 2045 4 to 6 lane widening of a soon to be 2030 4 lane tollway MPOID

257. All Mainlanes are coded as 4 lane (AB=2 & BA=2) in 2030 and 6 lanes (AB=3 & BA=3) in

2045. I could not find a 12 lane reference in TDM. The frontage roads and ramps were coded as part of MPOID 257 (4 lane toll with frontage) using

ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot/hou/grand-parkway/segment-b/segmentb-sheet-2-2016-05-25.pdf.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** H-G MPO to revise model (e.g., AB/BA); TxDOT/H-G MPO to

reconsider cont./noncont. FRs and direct connector connections information.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** TDM has been corrected replacing BALANE45 from 3 to 0 making it a 6 lane tollway. Also, referencing Google maps, the non-continuous south portion between SH 6 and CR 179 has been corrected in the TDM. Also the Southern DC’s east of SH 35 are depicted as DC’s on the schematic Legend. Lanes were not shown so they were assigned as a typical 1 lane road. TXDOT may revise as project is still in preliminary phase.

14. **MPOID 12831**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing indicates reconstruction

and construction of 4-lane frontage roads. However, modeling reflects 4-lane frontage

roads (2-lanes in each direction) in all years. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

SH 35 (BS 35C N to SH 6)

Roadway now exists as 4 lane Arterial (FTYPE 210) with 2-lanes in each direction. In 2030 it

will be reconstructed as a 4 lane Tollway Frontage Rd MPOID 257 changing the FTYPE to 251

in 2030. The Lanes will remain as 2 for all years.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** H-G MPO to correct some FTYPEs (e.g., from arterial to FR).

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** The FTYPE for service roads FM 517 to CR 179 has been corrected from 210 (Arterial) to 250 (Frontage-non toll) in the TDM.

15. **MPOID 12954** and **MPOID 16045**: These projects do not appear to be reflected in the

2045 RTP project listing. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

US 290

Both projects are LET (US 290) and will not be reflected in the RTP Project listing. However the

build out is longer than the 2 year standard time frame so it is referenced in 2020 TDM.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

16. **MPOID 16023**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing indicates restriping to 8-

main lanes. However, modeling reflects majority of project as existing 8-main lanes.

Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

US 290 (E of Mueschke to E of Telge)

In 2040 this part of US 290 will be restriped. The Portions that are 10 lanes will be restriped to 8

with Aux lanes.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

17. **MPOID 16024**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing indicates restriping of

US 290 from 10 to 8-lanes beginning in 2040, however, modeling indicates 8-lanes in all

analysis years. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

US 290 (SH 99 to E of Mueschke)

The existing lanes will be corrected to 8 in the RTP Project list.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

18. **MPOID 16327**: Modeling indicates construction of 3-lane EB and WB frontage roads

on IH-610 (North Loop) beginning in 2030 (Link IDs 41412-23718, 23758-41417,

41417-41416, 41416-23759, 41415-41412 and 23717-41415). What is the basis for this

improvement? Additionally, it appears that portions of the NB and SB direct connector

ramps on IH-45, north of IH-610 are attributed to MPOID 16333 rather than MPOID

16327 (e.g., direct connector connection to SB IH 45 main lanes and HOV facility, and

NB IH-45 and HOV facility). Also, modeling indicates a reduction in lanes (5-lanes to 3-

lanes) beginning in 2030 on Link IDs 21806-38015 and 38016-30261. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 N Interchange (N IH 610 @ IH 45 N)

The TDM conformity year has been corrected from 2030 to 2040.

The basis for the interchange improvement to IH 610 at IH 45 N is to accommodate the 2040 IH

45 N Interchange and expansion Project that stretches from the CBD to N Beltway 8.

Assigned segments (MPOID) and number of Lanes have all been verified using IH 45 N NHHIP

schematics that can be found on TXDOT’s North Hwy Improvement project website.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** Some question re. other project links (vs. just those id’d.) H-G MPO all

associated. Direct connector connections confirmation by H-G MPO. FHWA is okay with H-G

MPO Response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** Clarification: The conformity Year for All Links associated with MPOID 16327 has been corrected from 2030 to 2040 in the TDM.

19. **MPOID 16329**: Modeling reflects Link ID 23700-41354 as 3-lanes in all analysis years,

however the links on either side reflect 6-lanes beginning in 2030. Also, modeling

indicates that Link ID 24066-22731 will be converted from a main lane to a frontage road

lane, however an additional main lane does not appear to be identified. Additionally,

Link IDs 30942-23700, 38062-23535 and 31154-30582 do not appear to be reflected in

link listing. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 N Interchange

Link ID 23700-41354 is an existing 3 lane link that is being reused (MODEL 888) for this

project, so all years will be populated.

Link ID 24066-22731 (SH 288) is part of MPOID 7428. An existing 4 lane HWY link (FTYPE

101) that is being reused (MODEL 888) as future 1 lane DC (FTYPE 153) (see #3. For further

explanation).

Link IDs 30942-23700, 38062-23535 and 31154-30582 – The link listing excludes all ramps

(FTYPE #52). However, all links, including ramps with an assigned MPOID should be on the

list. The links will be added to the link list.

**07/19/2019 conf call:**

**Link ID 23700-41354:** H-G MPO and TxDOT to reconfirm 3-lane section.

**Link ID 24066-22731**: FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

**Link IDs 30942-23700, 38062-23535 and 31154-30582**:

H-G MPO to clarify link response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** Link ID 23700-41354 is confirmed as 3 with exiting ramps on both sides. Project has been brought up to TXDOT and is still preliminary subject to change.

Link IDs 30942-23700, 38062-23535 and 31154-30582 refer to Ramps (FTYPE20 152) associated with this section of the IH 45 N Interchange project. These are existing ramps that will be deleted from the TDM after 2020 (MODEL 777). However, an error in HGAC’s Link Listing failed to report all 2020 soon to be deleted ramps (MODEL 777) associated with the IH 45 N Interchange. It was determined by the partners that a producing a new link list would not be necessary.

20. **MPOID 16330**: Modeling indicates Link ID 31024-31029 as 1-lane in the AB direction

in 2030 and 1-lane in each direction in 2040 and 2045. Additionally, modeling reflects

Link ID 41365-41486 as a portion of new facility in 2030, however, modeling reflects

this link as a two-way facility (2-lanes in each direction) in 2040 and 2045, but as a oneway

facility (2-lanes) in 2030. Also, Link IDs 25831-25827, 25829-25830, 30324-

30532, 24159-30526, 30326-30230, 30914-24159 and 31014-30168 do not appear to be

included in the link listing. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 N Interchange

Link ID’s 31024-31029 (Nance rd) and 41365-41486 (Providence)- The BALANE30 has been

corrected to 1 in the TDM.

Link IDs 25831-25827, 25829-25830, 30324-30532, 24159-30526, 30326-30230, 30914-24159

and 31014-30168- The link listing excludes all ramps (FTYPE #52). However, all links,

including ramps with an assigned MPOID should be on the list. The links will be added to the

link list.

**07/19/2019 conf call:**

**Link ID’s 31024-31029:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

**Link ID’s 41365-41486:** H-G to confirm modeling.

**Link IDs 25831-25827, 25829-25830, 30324-30532, 24159-30526, 30326-30230,**

**30914-24159 and 31014-30168:** H-G MPO to clarify link response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** Link ID 41365-41486 (Providence) has been confirmed as new 2 lane road in 2030.

Link IDs 25831-25827, 25829-25830, 30324-30532, 24159-30526, 30326-30230,

30914-24159 and 31014-30168refer to Ramps (FTYPE20 152) associated with this section of the IH 45 N Interchange project. These are existing ramps that will be deleted from the TDM after 2020 (MODEL 777). However, an error in HGAC’s Link Listing failed to report all 2020 soon to be deleted ramps (MODEL 777) associated with the IH 45 N Interchange. It was determined by the partners that a producing a new link list would not be necessary.

21. **MPOID 16333**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing reflects widening of IH-

45 from 4 to 5-main lanes. However, majority of project limits appear to reflect 4 and 6-

main lanes. Additionally, Link ID 41427-23801 indicates a change in number for

frontage road lanes in 2030, however MPOID 16333 has a 2040 analysis year. Please

clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 N Interchange (IH 610 to Tidwell Rd)

The Mainlane description had been addressed in last years “Updated HGAC Conformity

Response Matrix 2018” for 2040, where it was determined that predominant number of lanes

was 5. A 6th lane may be caused by a long Aux lane. This has been verified using IH 45 N

NHHIP schematics on TXDOT’s website.

Link ID 41427-23801 (Frontage) The BALANE30 has been corrected from 3 to 2 in TDM.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** Some discussion regarding the need for model consistency e.g., aux lanes.

H-G MPO to confirm predominate e.g., 5 or 6.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** It was confirmed that the predominant number of lanes was 6 and not 5 as referenced in the RTP project listing. The project description has been corrected in the RTP project list. (There was some discussion here as it’s not yet corrected.)

22. **MPOID 16334**: Project description in 2045 RTP project listing indicates reconstruction

of main lanes. However, modeling indicates an increase in northbound IH-45 main lanes

south of Aldine Bender; and an increase in southbound IH-45 main lanes at West Road.

Also, project description indicates construction of 4-managed lanes, however modeling

reflects construction of 2-managed lanes (1-lane each direction) for much of the project.

Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 N Interchange (S of West Rd to N of SL 8)

The Mainlane description had been addressed in last years “Updated HGAC Conformity

Response Matrix 2018” for 2040, where it was determined that predominant number of lanes

was 4. The portion of needled down manage lanes depicted in the TDM are inside the bounds of

weaving Aux lanes entering and exiting the HOV. Therefore, the two 2 lane description was left

alone. TDM reflects IH 45 N NHHIP schematics on TXDOT’s website.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** H-G MPO to clarify HOV project description e.g., transition.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** The project description was corrected to “Reconstruct Main Lanes, Construct 4 manage lanes transitioning into two entering and exiting 1 lane HOV’s at the existing reversable HOV north of BW 8, Reconstruct and widen from two 2- and 3 ln frontage to 2 and 3 ln frontage roads.

(There was some discussion here e.g., tweaks to the Description.)

23. **MPOID 16336**: Should Link ID 31171-22637 be part of MPOID 16336? Also, Link

IDs 25745-31146, 30317-31123, 30982-31126, 30984-31123 31005-31125, 31118-

31122, 31122-25745, 31122-31125 and 31125-30984 do not appear to be included in link

listing. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

IH 45 S Demolition of Pierce Elevated

The link listing excludes all ramps (FTYPE #52). However, all links, including ramps with an

assigned MPOID should be on the list. The links will be added to the link list.

**07/19/2019 conf call:**

**Link ID 31171-22637:** H-G MPO to edit for MPOID.

**Link IDs 25745-31146, 30317-31123, 30982-31126, 30984-31123 31005-31125, 31118-**

**31122, 31122-25745, 31122-31125 and 31125-30984:** H-G MPO to clarify link

response.

**07/23/2019 H-G conf call response:** Link ID 31171-22637 has been referenced in the TDM as MPOID 16336 and MODEL = 777.

Link IDs 25745-31146, 30317-31123, 30982-31126, 30984-31123 31005-31125, 31118-

31122, 31122-25745, 31122-31125 and 31125-30984 refer to Ramps (FTYPE 152) associated this section of the IH 45 N Interchange project. These are existing ramps that will be deleted from the TDM after 2020 (MODEL 777). However, an error in HGAC’s Link Listing failed to report all 2020 soon to be deleted ramps (MODEL 777) associated with the IH 45 N Interchange. It was determined by the partners that a producing a new link list would not be necessary.

24. **MPOID 16345**: Modeling reflects Link ID 27451-22680 as being 1-lane in 2020 and

2030, however the associated facility (Link IDs 27451-24184 and 41493-27451) do not

appear to be operable in 2020. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

US 290

Link ID 27451-22680 is a slip ramp (FTYPE 127) for Metro’s Pavement Markings for an off

Peak HOV lane (FTYPE 160) in 2030. Link ABLANE20 has been corrected from 1 lane to 0.

Link IDs 27451-24184 and 41493-27451 (Metro’s Pavement Markings for an off Peak HOV

lane (FTYPE 160) for 2030 is correct in the TDM.

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

25. **MPOID 17226**: The project description in the 2045 RTP project listing, indicates the

project limits as SH 99 to FM 523, however, the modeling appears to reflect portions of

SH 35 north of SH 99 as part of MPOID 17226. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

SH 35 (SH 99 to FM 523)

The Limits for MPOID 17226 has been corrected and does not include the north portion of SH

35/ SH 99 (MPOID 257) in the TDM. However, the error is in the PROJ\_ID reference only. The

North portion of SH 35/ SH 99 is still coded correctly as Frontage roads (MPOID 257)

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.

26. **MPOID 18086**: The network modeling indicates a northern limit of 24th Street while the

Project description reflects IH-610 EB frontage road. Please clarify.

**07/15/2019 H-G MPO Response:**

Shepherd & Durham Roads

TDM has been corrected to reflect IH-610 EB Fr limits

**07/19/2019 conf call:** FHWA is okay with H-G MPO Response.