



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

September 5, 2008

Ms. Janice W. Brown
Division Administrator, Texas
Federal Highway Administration
300 East 8th Street, Room 826
Austin, TX 78701

REC'D SEP 10 2008

Dear Ms. Brown:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received conformity determination documents for the June 2008 Transportation Conformity, submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council for interagency consultation and review. A conformity determination is necessary for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria (Houston) 8-hour ozone nonattainment area due to an amendment for revisions done to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Based on the information submitted to EPA and discussed during the interagency consultation process, the estimated emissions for the Regional Transportation Plan - 2035 and the corresponding TIP will be below the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets established for volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the Reasonable Further Progress State Implementation Plan for the Houston area. These budgets were found adequate by EPA on March 21, 2008 (73 FR 15152), and became effective April 7, 2008. We have no further comments and are supportive of a positive conformity finding by the Federal Highway Administration for the Houston area.

The criteria for our review and the interagency consultation process have been established by 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A and guidance memoranda issued by the FHWA and EPA for transportation conformity determinations.

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 or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Donaldson".

Guy Donaldson

Chief

Air Planning Section

cc: Ms. Margie McAllister, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Ms. Peggy Thurin, Transportation Planning and Programming Division
Ms. Shelley Whitworth, Transportation Department H-GAC