



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

November 7, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received conformity determination documents for the August 2007 Transportation Conformity, submitted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council for interagency consultation and review in August 2007. A new conformity determination is necessary for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria (Houston) nonattainment area due to the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – 2035 and the corresponding Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2008-2011.

Based on the information submitted to EPA and discussed during the interagency consultation process, the estimated emissions for the RTP - 2035 and the corresponding TIP will be below the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEB) established in the Mid-Course Review State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Houston area. This SIP was approved by EPA on October 6, 2006 (71 FR 52670). 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,

Carri Page

Guy Donaldson *for*
Chief
Air Planning Section

cc: Ms. Margie McAllister, TCEQ
Ms. Peggy Thurin, TxDOT
Ms. Shelley Whitworth, HGAC