

Finding of Consistency

The Houston-Galveston Area Council is soliciting public comments on its finding that proposed revisions to certain Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) projects contained in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2008-11 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are consistent with the region's air quality conformity determination.

At METRO's request, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) accepted recommendations to change the initial deployment of Bus Rapid Transit to Light Rail Transit (LRT) as preferred technology in four METRO Solutions corridors: North, Harrisburg, Southeast and the Uptown corridors. The main impact of this change is on the 2019 conformity year since the years 2025 and 2035 already had LRT in all corridors.

The alignments and station locations for all light rail corridors in the Regional Transportation Plan remain the same as previously modeled in prior conformity networks with the exception of the University Corridor. The University Corridor alignment was modified in this finding of consistency to match the preferred alternative alignment contained in METRO's draft environmental impact statement. This change in alignment is not expected to impact the conformity determination.

Although no changes are being proposed to the existing conformity determination, a change in the transit mode share to reflect the light rail technology was made in all analysis years of the transportation plan. This change is expected to result in greater reduction in on-road vehicle emissions than that established in our November, 2007 conformity determination, as shown in the following summary table.

Year	Budget			Conformity Finding (November, 2007)			Finding of Consistency			Percent Reductions
	NOx (T/d)	VOC (T/d)	NOx (T/d)	VOC (T/d)	Miles	NOx (T/d)	VOC (T/d)	Miles		
2007	186.13	89.99	171.35	88.09	133,887,822.80	170.62	87.69	133,296,470.90	0.44	
2009	186.13	89.99	150.86	80.70	147,409,162.90	150.60	80.34	146,940,541.70	0.32	
2019	186.13	89.99	49.84	46.17	186,786,559.90	49.50	45.87	186,033,919.30	0.40	
2025	186.13	89.99	39.19	42.07	211,681,750.40	39.10	41.94	211,159,187.40	0.25	
2035	186.13	89.99	42.29	50.43	255,998,311.10	42.15	50.02	254,914,058.30	0.42	

Based on this analysis, H-GAC finds the change from bus rapid transit to light rail transit in the METRO Solutions corridors to be consistent with the approved 2035 RTP Conformity finding.