

## 12B. TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY UPDATE

### BACKGROUND

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Transportation conformity is a requirement of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) to ensure that air quality in regions designated as nonattainment for one or more National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) pollutants are not negatively impacted by new transportation projects and other related activities. Through this analysis, regions must demonstrate that emissions related to regional transportation projects do not exceed limits established in the state's air quality State Implementation Plan.

Nonattainment areas are required to conduct air quality conformity analyses when triggered by the following activities:

- Adoption or amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Establishment or revision of traffic control measures related to that State Implementation Plan
- Updates to the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that add, delete, significantly delay, accelerate, or change the project scope of a regionally significant project.

The recently completed project list updates for the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the nearly complete updates to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update project list meet these requirements for our region.

### CURRENT SITUATION

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H-GAC Staff has recently initiated a transportation conformity analysis to support the current TIP and RTP project selection process. Staff scheduled and conducted the Transportation Conformity Kick-Off meeting in early March to meet with conformity consultative partners from a variety of agencies including: the Federal Highway Administration, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Transportation, and US Environmental Protection Agency. At that meeting, stakeholders discussed the transportation conformity process, anticipated inputs for the conformity analysis, and the proposed development timeline for the current conformity cycle.

Since this meeting, Staff have continued to meet with individual partners from the larger consultative partner group to further clarify information required for the transportation conformity analysis. These meetings have resulted in the development of a draft Pre-Analysis Consensus Plan (PACP) that has been distributed to the conformity partners for their review. Staff have scheduled the next meeting with the consultative partners for mid-April and hope to complete and publish the final PACP in early May. Once the PACP has been finalized, staff will quickly move forward to undertake and complete the transportation conformity analysis to support the project selection process.

### ACTION REQUESTED

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For information only.