



Houston-Galveston Area Council: Air Quality Program



Transportation Conformity

- A Federal requirement to ensure that air quality in nonattainment regions like ours is not negatively impacted by transportation planning efforts
- Nonattainment areas must conduct air quality analyses on projects, programs, and policies identified in RTP, TIP, or other projects requiring federal approval
- The region must demonstrate that emissions related to projects do not exceed limits established in the state's air quality State Implementation Plan (SIP)
- Because Houston-Galveston is not in attainment for ozone, H-GAC must update RTP every 4 years instead of 5 years for areas in attainment.

What Does Conformity Tell Us?

- Demonstrates compliance with the latest emission budgets based on the current SIP
- Determines if transportation dollars (federal or non-federal) dollars will contribute to worsening air quality conditions, further contributing to our regions' nonattainment status
- There are consequences if conformity is not completed

Conformity Process

- Two step process:


- 1. the MPO develops an initial transportation conformity analysis at the local level, then works with stakeholders and the public to determine conformity
- 2. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and conformity partners from the regional, state, and federal levels review and make a joint transportation conformity determination at the federal level



2025 Conformity Status

- Conformity kicked-off on March 11
- Staff has developed the Pre-Analysis Consensus Plan (PACP) for distribution – sent to partners for concurrence
- RTP/TIP project lists and transportation networks have been finalized and are being reviewed by partners
- Anticipate beginning model runs this week
- Will return for information and approval in Aug. and Sept.
- Conformity completion by February 2026

Timeline



	KEY	Estimated Date/Range
	Project Listing Review/Revisions	January 15 - March 15, 2025
	Travel Model Network Development	February 1 - March 30, 2025
	Conformity Partner Kick-off Meeting	March 11, 2025
	Pre-Analysis Consensus Development	March 15 - May 15, 2025
	Pre-Analysis Consensus Review	March 15 - May 15, 2025
	Travel Model Network Review	April 15 - May 14, 2025
	Travel Demand Model Analysis	May 15 - June 14, 2025
	Emissions Analysis	June 15 - August 14, 2025
	Documentation Development	June 15 - August 31, 2025
	TAC/TPC Information/Approval	August 13 - September 26, 2025
	Public Meetings and Comment Period	August 15 - September 14, 2025
	Consultative Partner Review Period	Sept. 26, 2025 - February 26, 2026
	FHWA Conformity Determination	No later than February 22, 2026

Thank you!

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