



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 8A36 300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701--3225

September 11, 2015

Refer to: HPP-TX

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)
Transportation Conformity Determination –
2040 Regional Transportation Plan

LtGen J.F. Weber, USMC (Ret)
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483

Dear General Weber:

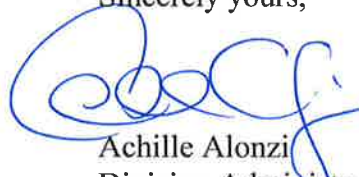
We have reviewed the documentation supporting the transportation conformity determination for the Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), adopted by the H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council on January 23, 2015. Based upon our review and consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), we hereby find the 2040 RTP to meet all the requirements for making a joint conformity determination under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, subject to the enclosed comments.

In accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 450.322 (a), this conformity determination establishes the effective date of H-GAC's 2040 RTP and addresses the requirement in 23 CFR 450.322 (c) that the metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) be updated at least every four-years. This action also relieves the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria non-attainment area of the transportation conformity lapse grace period initiated on January 25, 2015. Additionally, this action restarts the four-year update cycle associated with the update of H-GAC's 2040 RTP. As such, a MTP update and corresponding conformity determination must be completed by September 11, 2019.

The interagency consultative partners have indicated that they have no unresolved issues concerning this conformity determination in their letters dated September 9, 2015 for EPA, September 11, 2015 for TxDOT, and September 10, 2015 for TCEQ. The conformity determination and procedures used to make this determination are in accordance with the provisions of the transportation conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93), dated August 15, 1997, as amended.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acts as executive agent for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on MTP and TIP air quality conformity determinations. Accordingly, this letter will serve as the joint FHWA/FTA conformity determination. Should you have any questions concerning this action, please contact Jose M. Campos at (512) 536-5932 or Barbara C. Maley at (214) 224-2175.

Sincerely yours,



Achille Alonzi
Division Administrator

Enclosure

cc:

Jeff Riley, EPA Region 6
Robert C. Patrick, FTA Region 6
Don Koski, FTA Region 6
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Tim Wood, TxDOT-ENV
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Quincy Allen, TxDOT-Houston District
Tucker Ferguson, TxDOT-Beaumont District
Alan Clark, H-GAC

ENCLOSURE

The 2040 RTP revises the proposed letting year, transportation conformity analysis year, project description or funding for various projects included in the approved 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the previously applicable 2035 RTP Update that served as the basis for the 2015-2018 STIP. It is our understanding that the 2015-2018 STIP will be revised to address project inconsistencies between the approved 2015-2018 TIP/STIP and the 2040 RTP. However, until such time as the necessary revisions are submitted for review and approved, our (FHWA/FTA) previous approval of the following projects as part of the 2015-2018 STIP, is hereby suspended:

	CSJ/MPO ID	Comment
1	10581	Project delayed beyond current TIP/STIP time-frame
2	0271-07-305	Modification of project description required
3	0389-05-088	Modification of project funding required
4	384	Project delayed beyond current TIP/STIP time-frame
5	13586	Project delayed beyond current TIP/STIP time-frame