

5C. TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY UPDATE

BACKGROUND

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 the projects in question 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.

CURRENT SITUATION

H-GAC Staff is reviewing MPO schedules for the next several years and has identified multiple potential conformity triggers over this time. It is anticipated that our region will be required to perform transportation conformity analyses as a result of the current TIP and RTP project selection process, as a result of the new 2024 PM_{2.5} NAAQS revision, and as a result of the upcoming 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

Staff have worked internally to determine the most likely timeline for each of these upcoming activities and have consulted with regional, state, and federal conformity stakeholders to better understand how this interacts with partner schedules and workloads. Based on these conversations, staff have identified three potential scenarios for these near-term transportation conformity analyses as well as key associated risks to develop a staff recommendation.

ACTION REQUESTED

For information only and discussion only.