



METRO

DATE: March 8, 2007
TO: TPAC and Transportation Agency Project Managers
FROM: Ted Leybold and Mark Turpel
SUBJECT: Local Projects of Regional Significance Implementation Schedule

* * * * *

As a part of the air quality conformity of the 2008-11 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), Metro needs to update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project implementation forecast.

Attached is the list of projects in the financially constrained Regional Transportation Plan and the year the air quality emission model expects them to be operational. Three analysis years during the life of the plan are analyzed for emission impacts: 2010, 2015, and 2025. All projects in the plan are forecasted to be operational by one of those analysis years. Please review the project list and let Metro staff know whether any projects are no longer expected to be operational by the year indicated. As this is a forecast, we expect that most of your effort concentrate on determining whether there is any new information about project delays that will push the operational date of a project currently forecast to be operating by 2010 to a later year.

We will be completing a similar exercise of assigning projects to be operational by a specific air quality analysis year as a part of the conformity process of the RTP update.

Additionally, please let Metro staff know whether you are proposing any projects not included in the RTP's Financially Constrained project list that will be constructed with local funding and that serve regional transportation needs. Examples of these would include facilities providing access to and from the area outside of the region, major activity centers in the region, major planned

developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, etc., or transportation terminals as well as most terminals themselves and which would normally be included in the modeling of Metro's transportation network. This would include at a minimum, all principal arterial highways and all fixed guideway transit facilities that offer a significant alternative to regional highway travel. This information is needed in order to conclude whether we comply with federal air quality requirements. If there is a question about a project, it would be better to include it in your list. We could then assess with TPAC and federal agencies whether the project is "regionally significant", or not.

The potential consequence of not updating the project information in the regional model could, worst case, mean withholding federal funding for all projects in the region until air quality conformity determination is made. Accordingly, we encourage your discussion of projects with others in your agency that may have information about projects and that you please bring this information, and any questions regarding this request to the March 30th TPAC meeting.

Thank you for your help in keeping the funding process current and on schedule.