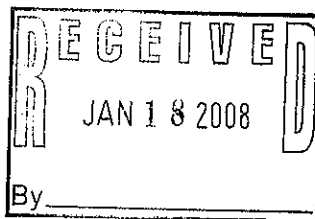




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration
The Oregon Division
530 Center Street, Suite 100
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-399-5749

Federal Transit Administration
Region 10
915 Second Avenue, Room 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
206-220-7954



January 16, 2008
IN REPLY REFER TO
90.220
724.412

Mr. David Bragdon
President
Metro Council
600 Northeast Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

RE: USDOT Air Quality Conformity Determination
Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Dear Mr. Bragdon:

The Portland metropolitan area is designated maintenance for carbon monoxide. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality submitted the second maintenance plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 3, 2005. On January 24, 2006, EPA published a Federal Register notice approving Portland's second carbon monoxide maintenance plan, with an effective date of February 23, 2006.

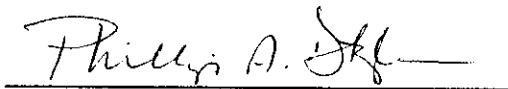
The Clean Air Act of 1990 as amended, requires that transportation plans, programs and projects cannot create new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations, increase the frequency or severity of existing NAAQS violations or delay attainment of the NAAQS. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)) are required to make a transportation conformity determination in non-attainment and maintenance areas as outlined in 40 CFR Part 93.104, Frequency of Conformity Determinations for the TIP. Transportation conformity ensures that Federal funding and approval are given to those transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals, and do not worsen air quality or interfere with the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

FHWA and FTA have completed our review of the Metro conformity determination for the FY 2008-2011 TIP. A joint FHWA and FTA air quality conformity determination for the TIP is required by Section 93.104 of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Transportation Conformity Rule* and 23 C.F.R. 450, the FHWA and FTA *Metropolitan Planning Rule*, as well as Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-252-0050. Our USDOT conformity determination is based upon Metro's conformity determination analysis and documentation submitted to our offices by Metro's August 23, 2007, letter and attachments, interagency consultation and your December 12, 2007 e-mail documenting the continued validity of the latest planning assumptions used.

The Metro Council adopted the FY 2008-2011 TIP and associated air quality conformity determination on August 16, 2007. Governor Kulongoski approved the Metro FY 2008-2011 TIP on January 3, 2008. The conformity analysis provided by Metro indicates that all air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review, we find that the FY 2008-2011 TIP conforms to the SIP in accordance with the *Transportation Conformity Rule* and the Oregon conformity SIP. This federal conformity determination was made after consultation with EPA Region 10, pursuant to the *Transportation Conformity Rule*.

This letter constitutes the joint FHWA and FTA air quality conformity determination for Metro's FY 2008-2011 TIP. If you have any questions regarding this conformity determination, please contact Michelle Eraut, FHWA, at (503) 587-4716 or Ned Conroy, FTA, at (206) 220-4318.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Ditzler
FHWA Division Administrator



R. F. Krochalis
FTA Regional Administrator

cc:

EPA (Wayne Elson)

FTA (Ned Conroy)

ODOT (Jason Tell, Region 1 Manager)

(Rian Windsheimer, Region 1 Planning Manager)

(Steve Leep, Program and Funding Services Manager)

(Marina Orlando, Environmental Services)

Metro (Andy Cotugno)

(Ted Leybold)

(Mark Turpel)

ODEQ (Dave Nordberg)

ME/lg

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