



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

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June 29, 2012

In Reply Refer To:  
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Ms. Robin McArthur, AICP  
Planning and Development Director  
Metro  
600 NE Grand Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

RE: USDOT Air Quality Conformity Determination  
2012-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Dear Ms. McArthur:

Thank you for your continued quality work in cooperation with state and local government partners and other stakeholders in the Portland metropolitan area in developing transportation plans and programs that respond to community needs and improve the quality of life to make the area a desired place to live, and contribute to the larger effort of *Making the Greatest Place*.

The Portland metropolitan area is currently designated "maintenance" for carbon monoxide (CO). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Federal Register Notice approving Portland's second 10-year carbon monoxide (CO) maintenance plan, with an effective date of February 23, 2006 (71 FR 3768).

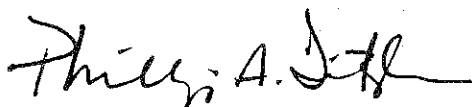
The Clean Air Act of 1990, as amended, requires that transportation plans, programs and projects cannot create new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations, increase the frequency or severity of existing NAAQS violations or delay the attainment of NAAQS. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and 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; 23 CFR 450, the FHWA and FTA Metropolitan Planning Rule; as well as Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-252-0050. 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 a review of the Metro conformity determination for the Metro 2012-2015 MTIP. Our USDOT determination is based upon Metro's conformity determination analysis and documentation dated February 17, 2012 with attachments, and interagency consultation.

The Metro Council adopted the 2012-2015 MTIP and associated air quality conformity determination on March 15, 2012, through Resolutions 12-4332 and 12-4333. The conformity analysis provided by Metro indicates that air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review we find that the 2012-2015 MTIP conforms to the SIP in accordance with the *Transportation Conformity Rule* and the Oregon Conformity SIP. The 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 2012-2015 MTIP. If you have any questions regarding this conformity determination, please contact Satvinder Sandhu, FHWA, at (503) 316-2560 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, Mobile Sources)  
ODOT (Jason Tell, Region 1 Manager)  
(Rian Windshiemer, Region 1, Planning and Policy Development Manager)  
(Steve Leep, Program and Funding Services Manager)  
(Marino Orlando, Environmental Services)  
ODEQ (Dave Nordberg, Transportation Planning Coordinator)

SS/rm