



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration
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Federal Transit Administration
Region 10
915 Second Avenue, Room 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
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September 20, 2010

In Reply Refer To:
90.220
724.412

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

RE: USDOT Air Quality Conformity Determination
Metro 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2010-2013 Metropolitan
Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Dear Ms. McArthur:

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

The Portland metropolitan area is designated maintenance for carbon monoxide. 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 violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), increase the frequency or severity of existing NAAQS violations or delay the attainment of NAAQS. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), 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, 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).

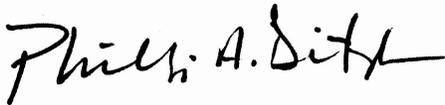


FHWA and FTA have completed review of the Metro conformity determination for the Metro 2035 RTP and 2010-2013 MTIP. Our USDOT determination is based upon Metro's conformity determination analysis and documentation submitted to our offices by Metro's July 29, 2010, letter and attachments, and interagency consultation.

The Metro Council adopted the 2035 RTP, the 2010-2013 MTIP and associated air quality conformity determination on June 10, 2010, through Resolution 10-4150A. The conformity analysis provided by Metro indicates that air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review we find that the 2035 RTP and the 2010-2013 MTIP conforms with 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 2035 RTP and FY 2010-2013 MTIP. If you have any questions regarding this conformity determination, please contact Satvinder Sandhu, FHWA, at (503) 587-4723 or Ned Conroy, FTA at (206) 220-4318.

Sincerely,



Phillip Ditzler
FHWA Division Administrator



for 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, Marina Orlando, Carol Newvine)
ODEQ (Dave Nordberg, Nancy Cardwell)
TriMet (Alan Lehto)
Metro (Kim Ellis, Ted Leybold, Mark Turpel)

