

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration
Oregon Division
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Federal Transit Administration
Region 10
915 Second Avenue, Room 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
206.220.7954

Date: May 20, 2015
In Reply Refer To:
HDA-OR/FTA-TRO-10
File: 724.400

Ms. Elissa Gertler
Planning and Development Director
Metro
600 N.E. Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-2736

RE: USDOT Conformity Determination
2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
2015-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Dear Ms. Gertler:

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) require 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 the NAAQS. The U.S. Department of Transportation (the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration) are required to make a transportation conformity determination in non-attainment and maintenance areas as outlined in 40 CFR 93.104 (Frequency of Conformity Determinations) and 23 CFR Part 450 (FHWA and FTA Planning Rule). The CAAA requires States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to demonstrate, through the conformity process, that the transportation program as a whole is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). 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 SIP.

The Metro area is currently designated as attainment for carbon monoxide. With an approved maintenance plan (e.g., a "maintenance" area), EPA approved Metro's second 10 year carbon monoxide (CO) maintenance plan, with an effective date of February 23, 2006 (71 CFR 3768).

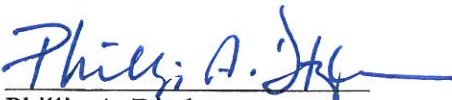
The Metro Council adopted the 2014 RTP and the 2015-2018 MTIP and the associated air quality conformity determination on July 17, 2014 through Ordinance 14-1340. The conformity analysis provided by Metro indicated that the air quality conformity requirements have been met. Based on our review of Metro's conformity determination, analysis, and documentation submitted to our offices on July 18, 2014 we find that the 2014 RTP and the 2015-2018 MTIP conform to the SIP in accordance with the Transportation Conformity Rule and the Oregon Conformity SIP.

This Federal conformity determination was made after interagency consultation with EPA Region 10, ODEQ and ODOT pursuant to the Transportation Conformity Rule.


This letter constitutes the joint FHWA and FTA air quality conformity determination for Metro's 2014 RTP and 2015-2018 MTIP.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Nick Fortey of FHWA at 503-316-2565 or Mr. Ned Conroy of FTA at 206-220-4318.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Ditzler
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



R. F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

cc:

EPA (Karl Pepple, Environmental Protection Specialist)
(Claudia Vaupel, Air Quality Planner)
ODEQ (Dave Nordberg, Transportation Planning Coordinator)
ODOT (Kristen Stallman, Planning Unit Manager)
(Jeff Flowers, Program and Funding Services Manager)
(Natalie Liljenwal, Environmental Engineer)
Metro (Kim Ellis, Principal Transportation Planner)
(Ted Leybold, Resource Development Manager)
(Grace Cho, Air Quality Program Manager)
Tri-Met (Alan Lehto, Director of Policy and Planning)