



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration
Oregon Division
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Salem, Oregon 97301
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Federal Transit Administration
Region 10
915 Second Avenue, Room 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
206-220-7954

September 29, 2017

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-OR/ FTA-TRO-10

Ms. Elissa Gertler
Planning and Development Director
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-2736

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 (FHWA and FTA) is 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the Portland maintenance plan for Carbon Monoxide (CO), effective October 2, 1997 (62 FR 46208; September 2, 1997). EPA approved Portland's second 10-year CO maintenance plan, effective date February 23, 2006 (71 FR 3768; January 24, 2006).

FHWA and FTA have completed a review of the Metro's conformity determination for the 2018-2021 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), adopted by the Metro Policy Committee on June 30, 2017. Based on our review of the Metro conformity determination and documentation submitted to our offices, we find that the 2018-2021 MTIP conforms 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, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Department of Transportation, pursuant to the Transportation Conformity Rule.

Please contact Ms. Rachael Tupica of FHWA at (503) 316-2549 or Mr. Jeremy Borrego of FTA at (206) 220-7956 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Ditzler
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Linda M. Gehrke
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

cc:

FHWA Rachael Tupica, Senior Transportation Planner
FTA Jeremy Borrego, Transportation Program Specialist
Ned Conroy, Community Planner
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Claudia Vaupel, Air Quality Planner
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