



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500

DALLAS, TX 75270

July 19, 2019

RECEIVED

7/24/19

MPO OFFICE

Mr. Al Alonzi
Division Administrator - Texas
Federal Highway Administration
300 East 8th Street, Suite 826
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Alonzi:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed conformity determination documents for the *Destino 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)*, and the *Destino FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, submitted by the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) for interagency consultation and review. A conformity determination is necessary for the Sunland Park, New Mexico 8-hour ozone nonattainment area due to EPA's June 4, 2018, designation of the Sunland Park area as nonattainment of the 2015 8-hour ozone standard. The effective date of this nonattainment designation is August 3, 2018. Therefore, a transportation conformity determination for the Sunland Park nonattainment area is required by August 3, 2019, to comply with 40 CFR 93.102(d) (*grace period for new nonattainment areas*).

Any issues associated with the demonstration of conformity were addressed in conference calls and e-mails with the EPMPO, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) New Mexico and Texas Division offices, the New Mexico Environment Department, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the EPA. The criteria for our review and the interagency consultation process can be found at 40 CFR Part 93, Subpart A and guidance memoranda issued by the FHWA and the EPA for transportation conformity determinations.

Based on the information submitted to the EPA and discussed during the interagency consultation process, the estimated emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) for the Destino 2045 MTP and 2019-2022 TIP will be below the baseline year emissions established for this analysis as per 40 CFR 93.119(b)(2)(ii). We have no further comments and are supportive of a positive conformity finding by the FHWA for the Sunland Park area.

I appreciate your cooperation in consulting with us and ensuring all provisions of the transportation conformity rules have been properly addressed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-8377, or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

Mary A. Stanton
Chief

Ozone and Infrastructure Section

cc: Mr. Eduardo Calvo
El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization

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