



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

MAR 20 2018

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 *Amended Horizon 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan*, and the *Horizon 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program*, submitted by the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for interagency consultation and review. A new conformity determination is necessary for the El Paso, Texas particulate matter with a diameter of up to 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>) nonattainment area and carbon monoxide (CO) maintenance area due to the adoption of the amended Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the need to comply with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act signed into law on December 4, 2015.

Any issues associated with the demonstration of conformity were addressed in conference calls and e-mails with the El Paso MPO, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Department of Transportation, 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 CO and PM<sub>10</sub> for the amended Horizon 2040 MTP and Horizon 2017-2020 TIP will be below the motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) established for these pollutants in the respective State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for each: The CO SIP was approved by the EPA on August 4, 2008 (73 FR 45163); and the PM<sub>10</sub> SIP was approved by the EPA on January 18, 1994 (59 FR 02535). We have no further comments and are supportive of a positive conformity finding by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the El Paso 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 or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary A. Stanton".

Mary A. Stanton  
Chief  
State Implementation Section

cc: Mr. Michael Medina  
El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization

Ms. Barbara Maley  
Federal Highway Administration

Mr. Jose Campos  
Federal Highway Administration

Ms. Jamie Zech  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mr. Carlos Swonke  
Texas Department of Transportation

Mr. Peter Smith, P.E.  
Texas Department of Transportation