



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

November 5, 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 *Destino 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan*, and the *Destino 2019-2022 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 (PM₁₀) nonattainment area and carbon monoxide (CO) maintenance area due to the adoption of the new 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 PM₁₀ for the Destino 2045 MTP and Destino 2019-2022 TIP will be below the motor vehicle emissions budgets 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 PM₁₀ 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 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 at (214) 665-8377, or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mary A. Stanton
Chief
State Implementation Section

cc: Mr. Roger Williams
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