



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

December 9, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Alonzi:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed conformity determination documents for the amended *Destino 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* and the *Destino 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program*, submitted by the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (EPMPO) for interagency consultation and review. A conformity determination is necessary for the El Paso, Texas coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) nonattainment area and carbon monoxide (CO) NAAQS maintenance area, as well as the Sunland Park, New Mexico 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS nonattainment area due to adoption of the amended Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the 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 EPMPO, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Texas Division office, the FHWA New Mexico Division office, the Texas Department of Transportation, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the New Mexico Environment Department, 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 El Paso area emissions of PM₁₀ for the amended Destino 2045 MTP and Destino 2021-2024 TIP will be below the motor vehicle emissions budgets established in the PM₁₀ State Implementation Plan (SIP) approved by the EPA on January 18, 1994 (59 FR 02535). Since the CO NAAQS maintenance area is subject only to a limited maintenance plan, no regional emissions analysis is required for conformity. Further, the Sunland Park area estimated emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) for the amended Destino 2045 MTP and Destino 2021-2024 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 El Paso and Sunland Park areas.

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) 665-7161, or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

Melanie Magee
Chief
Infrastructure and Ozone Section

cc: Mr. Eduardo Calvo, AICP
El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Jose Campos
Federal Highway Administration, Texas Division

Mr. Rodolfo Monge-Oviedo
Federal Highway Administration, New Mexico Division

Ms. Donna Huff
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