FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION 300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3225

November 4, 2022

Refer to: HPP-TX

El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Conformity Determination RMS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) RMS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (2023-2026 TIP)

Mr. Marc D. Williams
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Williams:

We have reviewed the documentation supporting the transportation conformity determination for the RMS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) and RMS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (2023-2026 TIP) adopted by the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Policy Board on March 25, 2022. Based upon our review and consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), we hereby find that:

• the RMS 2050 MTP and 2023-2026 TIP meet all the requirements for making a joint conformity determination under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Additionally, we find that the:

- RMS 2050 MTP satisfactorily comply with the requirements of 23 CFR §450.324 regarding the review and update of metropolitan transportation plans in air quality non-attainment areas; and
- 2023-2026 TIP satisfactorily complies with the requirements of 23 CFR §450.326 regarding the update, public involvement, project inclusion, consistency with the plan, and fiscal constraint of TIPs in air quality nonattainment areas.

This conformity determination addresses project changes as adopted by the MPO's Transportation Policy Board and reflected in the corresponding Plan and Program.

The interagency consultative partners have indicated that they have no unresolved issues concerning this conformity determination in their letters dated: October 25, 2022, for TCEQ, November 2, 2022, for TxDOT and November 1, 2022, for EPA. The conformity determination and procedures used to make this determination are in accordance with the provisions of the transportation conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93), dated August 15, 1997, as amended.

Please note that this action restarts the four-year time clock associated with a four-year plan update. Accordingly, an updated MTP and corresponding transportation conformity determination will be required by November 4, 2026.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acts as executive agent for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on metropolitan transportation plan and transportation improvement program air quality conformity determinations. Accordingly, this letter will serve as a joint FHWA/FTA conformity determination.

Should you have any questions concerning this action, please contact Jose Campos at <u>Jose.Campos@dot.gov</u> or (512) 536-5932, Barbara Maley at <u>Barbara.Maley@dot.gov</u> or (512) 536-5926 or Genevieve Bales at <u>Genevieve.Bales@dot.gov</u> or (512) 536-5941.

Sincerely yours,

Achille Alonzi Division Administrator

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