



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION
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Memorandum

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: September 21, 2004

FR: Ashley Nguyen

W.I.:

RE: Approach to the Conformity Analysis of the Transportation 2030 Plan and 2005 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #05-05

MTC will prepare a conformity analysis for the Transportation 2030 Plan, which is the long-range transportation plan aimed at addressing the mobility needs of the Bay Area over the next 25 years. The conformity analysis for the Plan will also be used to re-determine conformity for the entire 2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with amendment #05-05. This Amendment #05-05 accommodates Regional Measure 2 (RM2) projects; sales tax projects that would move into the TIP timeframe if one or more county transportation sales tax measures pass in November 2004, and other non-exempt projects.

Our Commission will release the Draft Transportation 2030 Plan on October 27, 2004. In order to adopt the Transportation 2030 Plan, the Commission needs to find that the Plan conforms to the federal air quality plan (SIP) for the Bay Area. MTC intends to make a conformity finding for the Plan prior to March 18, 2005 (see attached schedule), which is the allowed three years from the date of DOT's previous conformity finding for the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan.

The conformity analysis is based on the financially constrained element of the Transportation 2030 Plan, which may change based on the November 2004 election results for five local transportation sales tax measures. The new financially constrained portion of the Plan for each county will closely resemble the county project lists defined in one of the transportation alternatives evaluated in the soon to be released EIR for the Transportation 2030 Plan.

In addition, the conformity analysis will serve as the basis to re-determine conformity on the amended 2005 TIP. Amendment #05-05 is necessary because a set of non-exempt projects will be added to the TIP, which requires a new regional emissions analysis under EPA's transportation conformity regulations.

The conformity finding for the Plan and TIP is also intended to comply with EPA's requirements to determine conformity under the new national 8-hour ozone standard, which must be accomplished before June 2005.

Key aspects of the Plan and TIP Amendment conformity analysis are as follows:

1. MTC will use the latest planning assumptions, including the socio-economic/land use forecast series *Projections 2003* developed and adopted by ABAG (the same assumptions used for the recent conformity analysis of the 2005 TIP).
2. MTC will use the latest validated version of the MTC travel demand model (BAYCAST).
3. The analysis years will be 2006, 2015, 2025 and 2030 with implementation dates for projects in the 2005 Transportation Improvement Program to be re-confirmed under Amendment #05-05. Implementation dates for RM2, new sales tax, and other non-exempt projects will be determined prior to the conformity analysis.
4. The Commission will make a finding of conformity for two motor vehicle emissions budgets: 1) the existing motor vehicle emissions budget identified in the 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan for 2006, and 2) the new motor vehicle emissions budget submitted in the Maintenance Plan portion of the 2004 Ozone Strategy. The Maintenance Plan budget will be for the years 2004 and 2015, since the Maintenance Plan must consider emission levels ten years from the date the region achieved the national 1-hour ozone standard. The Maintenance Plan budget may also include an additional amount of emissions to account for routine changes in planning assumptions; this is appropriate since emissions from all stationary sources and mobile sources are expected to be well below the levels required for continued attainment of the national 1-hour ozone standard.
5. The motor vehicle emission estimates will include the effects of TCMs A-E in the 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan; the implementation status of TCMs A-E will also be updated.
6. EMFAC 2002 (Version 2.2, April 23, 2003) will be used as it is the latest approved set of motor vehicle emission rates from CARB and accounts for the effectiveness of the State's vehicle inspection and maintenance program, called the Enhanced Smog Check Program in the Bay Area.
7. VMT forecasts will be consistent with CARB assumptions for the Bay Area.
8. Transit network and auto ownership information will be updated for each conformity analysis year.

As noted above, with implementation of the new conformity requirements for the national 8-hour ozone standard, conformity of the Plan and TIP must be re-determined within a year of the new standard going into effect, or June 2005. For the Bay Area, conformity will be determined using the national 1-hour ozone budgets. When the Air District submits the required elements for a marginal 8-hour ozone area, new updated motor vehicle emissions budgets will replace the 1-hour budgets.

**Project Schedule for Conformity Analysis for
Transportation 2030 (T2030) Plan and
2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with Amendment #05-05**

Dates	Project Milestones
Tues, Sept. 28	Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting <i>(Agenda topics: Approach, assumptions, and schedule for new conformity analysis of the T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05)</i>
Weds, Oct. 27	Release of Draft T2030 Plan & EIR by the Commission for public review
Tues, Nov. 2	2004 Elections – Proposed County Sales Tax Ballot Measures in Marin, Sonoma, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Mateo County
Wed, Nov. 3	Finalize Project Listing for financially constrained T2030 Plan (to reflect passage of sales tax measures) and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05
Fri, Nov. 12	Present revised financially constrained T2030 Plan to MTC's Planning and Operations Committee; briefing on air quality conformity analysis process
Fri, Nov. 19	Complete Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis for Conformity Analysis
Weds, Dec. 1	Submit 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 to ABAG to facilitate Intergovernmental Review (Start of Intergovernmental Review)
Fri, Dec. 3	Complete Draft Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05
Fri, Dec. 10	Public hearing on Draft T2030 Plan before MTC's Planning and Operations Committee (two public workshops are also planned for Nov, Dec)
Tues, Dec. 14	Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting <i>(Agenda topic: Review of Draft Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05)</i>
Fri, Dec. 17	Start of 30-Day Public Review Period for Conformity Analysis
Fri, Jan. 14	Present (1) 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 and (2) Draft Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 to MTC's Planning and Operations Committee
Mon, Jan. 17	Close of 30-Day Public Review Period for both 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 and Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05
Tues, Jan. 25	Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting <i>(Agenda topics: Review of Response to Comments/final Air Quality Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05)</i>
Fri, Feb. 4	Complete Final Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05
Fri, Feb. 11	Approval by MTC's Planning and Operations Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 2. Final EIR for T2030 Plan 3. Final T2030 Plan 4. Final 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 (review by Programming & Allocations Committee)
Weds, Feb. 23	Final Approval by MTC's Commission: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 2. Final EIR for T2030 Plan 3. Final T2030 Plan 4. Final 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05
Fri, Feb. 25	Submit T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 to Caltrans Submit Final Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 to FHWA/FTA
Before Fri, March 18	Approval of Conformity Analysis for T2030 Plan and 2005 TIP Amendment #05-05 by FHWA/FTA

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