

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Planning Committee

May 10, 2019

Agenda Item 4c

Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Subject: Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Background: On October 1, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone to 70 parts per billion (ppb) (from 75 ppb previously), based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects on public health and welfare. The updated 2015 ozone standards will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers. They also will improve the health of trees, plants, and ecosystems.

On June 4, 2018, EPA published a final rule that designated 51 areas (including the San Francisco Bay Area) as nonattainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQS (83 FR 25776). These designations were effective 60 days after the Federal Register publication (August 3, 2018). Nonattainment areas must demonstrate conformity of transportation plans and transportation improvement programs (TIPs) for the 2015 ozone NAAQS by the end of the grace period (August 3, 2019).

EPA's transportation conformity guidance allows 2015 ozone NAAQS nonattainment areas to rely on a regional emissions analysis completed for a previous ozone NAAQS if the analysis meets the requirements in 40 CFR 93.122(g) for the 2015 ozone NAAQS:

- Regionally significant projects in the transportation plan/TIP must be consistent with those assumed in the previous regional emissions analysis, and the design concept and scope of each regionally significant project cannot be significantly different from that assumed in the previous regional emissions analysis.
- In addition, the previous regional emissions analysis must be consistent with the requirements of 40 CFR 93.118 or 93.119, as appropriate.
- If the budget test is being performed, the 2015 ozone NAAQS attainment year must be included as an analysis year, and the regional emissions analysis must demonstrate conformity to the most recent adequate or approved ozone NAAQS budgets.

MTC meets all above criteria, and the region's plans rely on the federally approved Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 TIP to demonstrate conformity for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

Public Comment Period and Next Steps

Federal regulations also require an opportunity for public comment prior to TIP approval. The draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 TIP documents were released for public review and comment beginning on April 26, 2019. These documents are available on the internet at <https://mtc.ca.gov/draft-transportation-air-quality-conformity-analysis-redetermination-amended-plan-bay-area-2040-and>, at the Hub at 375 Beale St. in San Francisco, CA, and will be sent to major libraries throughout the Bay Area upon request.

The close of the comment period is scheduled for 5:00 pm on May 26, 2019. MTC staff will review and respond to comments submitted during the public comment period.


Staff consulted with the Air Quality Conformity Task Force on the development of the conformity analysis and the draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* at their meeting on April 25, 2019. The Task Force will also review comments received on the draft conformity analysis and MTC's response prior to final recommendations to the Commission for approval, as outlined in the Bay Area Air Quality Conformity Protocol (MTC Resolution No. 3757).

The final documents, comments received, and the agency's responses are scheduled to be considered at the June Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee meeting. The final documents are scheduled to be presented for approval at the June 28, 2019 Commission meeting. Final federal approval of the Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 TIP is expected in August 2019.

Issues: None.

Recommendation: This item is for information only. MTC received oral comments on the Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program at MTC's Programming and Allocations Committee meeting on May 8, 2019. The Final Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program will be presented to MTC's Planning Committee on June 14, 2019.

Attachments: Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended *Plan Bay Area 2040* and the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program can be found at the following link: <https://mtc.ca.gov/draft-transportation-air-quality-conformity-analysis-redetermination-amended-plan-bay-area-2040-and>, at the Hub at 375 Beale St. in San Francisco, CA, and will be sent to major libraries throughout the Bay Area upon request.


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