



January 4, 2012

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Susan Payne

Subject: Item 6.c: Air Quality Conformity Determination for 2035 Regional Transportation Plan and the FFY12-15 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Action Requested: Approve Resolution 2012-02 adopting the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2035 RTP and FFY12-15 MTIP.

Issue Summary

Due to the status of the Eugene-Springfield area as a USEPA designated “maintenance area” for carbon monoxide (CO), an air quality conformity determination (AQCD) is required whenever the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is updated, or every 4 years, whichever comes first. Thus, a conformity determination must be adopted by MPC to complete the approval process for the 2035 RTP and the FFY12-15 MTIP. USDOT must also accept the conformity determination before the plan and program can become operative.

Projects funded or approved by FHWA or FTA, or projects requiring federal action, must be from or be consistent with a conformed RTP. The MTIP is based on the RTP, and, for the same reasons, must also be conformed. In the event of a conformity lapse, use of Federal-aid funds is restricted.

Status

The AQCD was prepared based on the project lists of the 2035 RTP and the FFY12-15 MTIP, and was reviewed by MPC on December 8, 2011. The analysis shows that CO emissions, based on estimated future vehicle miles traveled and congested speeds within the region, will remain well below the limit set by USEPA, and that the RTP and MTIP meet the CO budget test.

The public comment period on the AQCD closes on January 9, 2012; all requirements of the MPO’s Public Participation Plan were followed. To date, one comment has been received – it was made at the public hearing on December 9 and is captured in the minutes of that meeting. Any further comments received while the public comment period is open will be transmitted to the MPC prior to the January 12 meeting or will be carried in to that meeting. Staff response to the one comment is included as Attachment 2 to this

memo. Interagency consultation and agency review have been completed, and TPC has unanimously recommended approval of the AQCD by the MPC.

Conclusion/Recommendation

Responses to the rules of OAR-340-252, 40 CFR 93 and the SAFETEA-LU law have been made and are documented in Exhibit A of Resolution 2012-02 (Attachment 1). The 2035 RTP and the FFY12-15 MTIP have thereby been shown to conform to all requirements.

MPO staff recommends the MPC adopt Resolution 2012-02 adopting the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2035 RTP and FFY12-15 MTIP.

Attachment 1:
Resolution 2012-01
Exhibit A: Air Quality Conformity Determination

Attachment 2: Responses to Comments Received

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