

1 RESOLUTION  
2 of the  
3 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
4 of the  
5 MID-REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OF NEW MEXICO  
6 R-11-04 MTB

7 **APPROVING THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WITH AIR**  
8 **QUALITY PLANS FOR THE 2035 METROPOLITAN**  
9 **TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP), THE 2010-2015 TRANSPORTATION**  
10 **IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), AND THE 2012-2017 TIP FOR THE**  
11 **ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA**  
12

13 WHEREAS the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-  
14 A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005 requires metropolitan planning  
15 organizations to develop a long range intermodal/multimodal financially constrained  
16 transportation plan for each metropolitan area; and

17 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) is the metropolitan  
18 planning organization (MPO) for the Albuquerque metropolitan planning area (AMPA);  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the 2035 MTP identifies transportation facilities for the AMPA to the  
21 year 2035 and includes a financial plan which demonstrates how the plan will be  
22 implemented; and

23 WHEREAS, the 2035 MTP also includes the 2010-2015 Transportation  
24 Improvement Program (TIP), and the 2012-2017 TIP; and

25 WHEREAS, the MPO received a copy of a letter from the EPA to FHWA verifying  
26 that the most recent Carbon Monoxide (CO) levels at air quality monitors remain below  
27 85% of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for CO, as required by the  
28 2006-2016 Limited Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide: Albuquerque-Bernalillo  
29 County; and

30 WHEREAS, the 2035 MTP was developed in accordance with federal  
31 metropolitan transportation planning process requirements, as prescribed in Title 23,  
32 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 450 (23 CFR 450) and other relevant regulations,  
33 including requirements for interagency consultation, financial constraint, and public  
34 participation; and

35 WHEREAS, the 2035 MTP conforms with Air Quality Plans, which include the  
36 Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan (SIP) and the 2006-2016 Limited  
37 Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide: Albuquerque-Bernalillo County; and

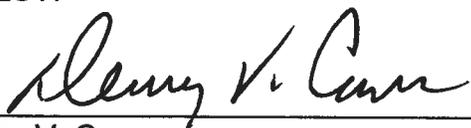
38 WHEREAS, the MTB is responsible for local approval of the Transportation  
39 Conformity for the 2035 MTP, the 2010-2015 TIP and the 2012-2017 TIP,

40 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Metropolitan Transportation  
41 Board of the Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico that the 2035 MTP,  
42 the 2010-2015 TIP and the 2010-2017 TIP are hereby found to conform with the State  
43 Implementation Plans for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo maintenance area.

44 PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2011 by the  
45 Metropolitan Transportation Board of the Mid-Region Council of Governments of New  
46 Mexico.

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48 \_\_\_\_\_  
49 Maggie Hart-Stebbins, Chair  
50 Metropolitan Transportation Board

51  
52 ATTEST:

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54 \_\_\_\_\_  
55 Dewey V. Cave  
56 Executive Director, Mid-Region Council of Governments  
57



Richard J. Barry, Mayor

**City of Albuquerque**  
**Environmental Health Department**  
**Air Quality Division**  
One Civic Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87121



Mary Lou Leonard, Director

March 29, 2011

**To:** Members of the Transportation Conformity Technical Committee (TCTC)  
**From:** Margaret Nieto, Air Quality Division Control Strategies Section Supervisor  
**Subject:** Transportation Conformity Technical Committee Meeting Summary, Tuesday, March 24, 11, 2009, 1:30 to 3:00 MST

**MEETING SUMMARY (final)**

A meeting of the TCTC was convened at about 1:40 p. m. MST with the following agencies and representatives participating:

- Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) - Terry Doyle, Dave Pennella, Aaron Sussman, Steven Montiel, Nathan Masek
- New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) – Curt Frischkorn, Claude Morelli, Ray Matthew
- City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, Air Quality Division (COA/EHD/AQD) – Fabian Macias, Ken Lienemann, Margaret Nieto, Neal Butt,
- City of Albuquerque Transit Department, ABQ Ride – Andrew de Garmo
- Bernalillo County, Technical Planning Program – Richard Meadows
- City of Rio Rancho, Dept. of Public Infrastructure- Tim Brown
- New Mexico Environment Dept., Air Quality Bureau – Kerwin Singleton, Gail Cooke
- EPA, Region 6, Air Planning- Jeff Riley

**1. 2035 MTP – Terry Doyle, MRCOG**

- a) Interagency Consultation for conformity analysis, conformity determination.** Terry Doyle, Director of Transportation and Planning Services, MRCOG informed the group about progress with the conformity determination process for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. What has occurred so far is as follows: the City of Albuquerque Air Quality Division sent 1-hour and 8-hour design values for CO to EPA for confirmation; EPA confirmed design values by means of a letter to US DOT/FHWA in Santa Fe, FTA Regional Office in Ft. Worth, MRCOG, and COA/AQD); MRCOG presented the draft TIP and MTP to the Air Quality Control Board; FHWA verified the air quality status by way of a letter required by the Limited Maintenance Plan for CO. Next steps are: MRCOG takes a resolution to the MTB for approval and then sends approved resolution to FHWA and FTA (April, 2011); the AQCB issues a concurrence letter to FHWA regarding the transportation conformity designation for CO as required by 20.11.3 NMAC, *Transportation Conformity*

(May, 2011); FTA and FHWA send conformity finding to MRCOG. This constitutes the final step in the approval of the MTP. Mr. Doyle received concurrence from the group that the interagency consultation process has been followed.

**b) Demonstration of fiscal constraint.** Mr. Doyle stated that fiscal constraint is being demonstrated in Chapter 4 of the MTP and handed out a revision to the revenues page, explained (along with Dave Penella, MRCOG) that added language is for clarification, but does not affect any of the tables. They addressed some of the uncertainties in projections that are mentioned in the revision. Claude Morelli asked about what impacts would be for air quality conformity if some of the projects were to change. Terry Doyle responded that there would be no impact, as we are so far below the threshold for CO. Regarding fiscal constraint, there are placeholders in place that will be reduced significantly in anticipation of newer needs as they come up. Ken Lienemann, (COA/AQD) pointed out that there may be an NO<sub>2</sub> issue in the future. Dave Pennella added that outer years can be adjusted if/when there is a need to. Terry Doyle stated that the 2035 MTP added more transit projects than new roads, so the direction of the plan is a move toward better air quality rather than worse. One large capacity project was actually removed from the plan. Members of the TCTC were in agreement that the MTP and TIP are fiscally constrained at this time recognizing that the availability of financial resources is subject to the enactment of a new transportation bill by Congress. The MTP and TIP are consistent with US DOT's metropolitan planning regulations and the Air Quality transportation conformity regulation.

2. **Ozone update and Validation of CO data – Fabian Macias, COA, EHD, AQD.** Mr. Macias stated that Albuquerque is well below the standard for CO and that EPA, in their current review, is proposing that the CO standards remain the same. He talked about collaborative efforts and research in which the Air Quality Division is involved regarding the expected new Ozone standard, and updated the group on current monitor data. Dave Pennella, MRCOG, asked if there is funding available for the work that will be required to develop a State Implementation Plan, should our area fall into non-attainment status. Mr. Macias responded that the AQD will try to include the project in the next grant application, will be working with the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), and will have to see what else might develop. Terry Doyle asked NMDOT representatives if State Planning and Research (SPR) funds could be made available, since several MPO's in the state will be affected. Ray Matthew and Claude Morelli, (both NMDOT) stated that they can't say yet how much will be available, but it is possible that at least a portion of the project would be eligible. There followed a discussion about doing joint modeling with Santa Fe, which would be useful since transport is a critical component. Asked if TDM data could be used along with modeling, K. Lienemann (COA/AQD) stated that AQD would need detailed transportation data to be able to assess the NO<sub>2</sub> monitor data, which relates to ozone formation. Dave Pennella said that MRCOG and NMDOT have all that information and would be willing to share, and that the freight study could also be helpful. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a meeting at MRCOG where they could show AQD what data they have and how it's collected.
3. **Questions regarding NMDOT I-25/Paseo del Norte Interchange Environmental Impact Statement – Neal Butt, COA, EHD, AQD.** Neal Butt raised questions about the NMDOT I-25/Paseo del Norte Interchange EIS and the requirement for hot spot analysis in 20.11.3 NMAC, *Transportation Conformity*. In his review of the draft EIS there was an implication

that a hot spot analysis would be done and included in the final EIS, but he has been attempting to contact Paul Lindberg, NMDOT, who received our comments, and has been unsuccessful in getting a response. Ray Matthew and Claude Morelli (both NMDOT) offered to work with Pat Oliver-Wright (Planning Div. Director at NMDOT) to have her contact Mr. Lindberg. Curt Frischkorn (NMDOT) also offered to look into the matter for Neal, asked that COA/AQD comment letter be sent to him for reference.

The meeting was then adjourned.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

New Mexico Division  
4001 Office Court Dr., Ste. 801  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

**In Reply Refer To:**  
HDA-NM  
ENVI 1

March 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Mid-Region Council of Governments Transportation  
Conformity Air Quality Design Values

Ms. Margaret Nieto  
City of Albuquerque  
Environmental Health/Air Quality Division  
P.O. Box 1293  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Ms. Nieto:

This letter is to acknowledge the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) review of the design values for Carbon Monoxide (CO). The review is provided for the on-going transportation conformity determination by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG). As described in the EPA letter dated February 15, 2011, the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County area is under an EPA-approved Limited Maintenance Plan for CO. Under this plan, the design value for CO must be under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for CO in order to demonstrate conformity by MRCOG and the Federal Highway Administration.

EPA has reviewed the design values associated with the MRCOG managed Metropolitan Planning Organization area for Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. They have noted that the CO design value for the area of concern is well below NAAQS thresholds and thus meets the criterion of the conformity rule and requirements for the Limited Maintenance Plan. For this determination the values were 2.6 ppm for the 8-hour CO NAAQS and 3.6 ppm for the 1-hour CO NAAQS. These values represent 29% and 10% of the relevant standards respectively.

With this confirmation that the design values for CO are in line with the Limited Maintenance Plan, we expect MRCOG to complete the transportation conformity determination associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan as scheduled. If you have questions, please contact me at (505) 660-7626 or by email at [greg.heitmann@dot.gov](mailto:greg.heitmann@dot.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Gregory L. Heitmann  
Environmental/Realty Specialist

For: J. Don Martinez  
Division Administrator

Enclosure

cc:  
Mr. Terry Doyle, Mid-Region Council of Governments  
Ms. Pat Oliver-Wright, NMDOT





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

FEB 15 2011

Mr. J. Don Martinez  
Division Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
604 West San Mateo Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Martinez:

In preparation for the planned transportation conformity determination currently underway by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department has requested my office confirm the current carbon monoxide design value for Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. Albuquerque/Bernalillo County is under an EPA-approved Limited Maintenance Plan for carbon monoxide (CO) and thus must demonstrate that the design value is sufficiently below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for CO in order to support a finding of conformity by the MRCOG or by the Federal Highway Administration.

The current design value for CO, based on the latest quality-assured data available at this time, is 2.6 ppm for the 8-hour CO NAAQS and 3.6 ppm for the 1-hour CO NAAQS. These values represent 29% and 10% of the relevant standards, respectively. Therefore, the design value for Albuquerque/Bernalillo County is well below the NAAQS threshold, and thus this criterion of the conformity rule is met.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jeff Riley of my staff at (214) 665-8542.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Donaldson".

Guy Donaldson  
Chief  
Air Planning Section

cc: Ms. Margaret Nieto, City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Division  
Mr. Terry Doyle, Mid-Region Council of Governments  
Mr. Greg Heitmann, Federal Highway Administration ✓