

June 6, 2011

TO: Leslie Rogers, Federal Transit Administration
Karla Petty, Federal Highway Administration
John Halikowski, Arizona Department of Transportation
Henry Darwin, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
David Boggs, Regional Public Transportation Authority
Debbie Cotton, City of Phoenix Public Transit Department
Stephen Banta, Valley Metro Rail
William Wiley, Maricopa County Air Quality Department
Brian Tapp, Central Arizona Association of Governments
Donald Gabrielson, Pinal County Air Quality Control District
Gregory Nudd, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Dean Giles, Air Quality Planning Program Specialist

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON A CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2011-2015 MAG TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

On May 31, 2011, the Maricopa Association of Governments distributed a memorandum for consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including Highway Safety Improvement Program projects and projects for the Interim Closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 MAG Federally Funded Program. Since that time, additional project change requests (shaded) have been received and a revised list is attached. Comments on the conformity assessment are requested by June 24, 2011.

MAG has reviewed the projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule and has found that consultation is required on the conformity assessment. The amendment includes projects that may be categorized as exempt from conformity determinations. The administrative modification includes minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination. The conformity finding of the TIP and the associated Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, as amended, that was made by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration on January 19, 2011 remains unchanged by this action. The conformity assessment is being transmitted for consultation to the agencies listed above and other interested parties. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (602) 254-6300.

Attachment

cc: Eric Massey, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Jennifer Toth, Arizona Department of Transportation
Mark Hodges, Arizona Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENT

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2011-2015 MAG TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The federal transportation conformity rule (40 CFR 93.105) requires interagency consultation when making changes to a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Transportation Plan. The consultation processes are also provided in the Arizona Conformity Rule (R18-2-1405). This information is provided for consultation as outlined in the MAG Conformity Consultation Processes document adopted by the MAG Regional Council on February 28, 1996. In addition, federal guidance is followed in response to court rulings regarding transportation conformity.

The amendment includes projects that may be categorized as exempt from conformity determinations. Types of projects considered exempt are defined in the federal transportation conformity rule at 40 CFR 93.126. The administrative modification includes minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination. Examples of minor project revisions include schedule, funding source, and funding amount changes. The proposed amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program include the projects on the attached tables. The project number, agency, and description is provided, followed by the conformity assessment.

MAG has reviewed the projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule and consultation is required on the conformity assessment. The projects are not expected to create adverse emission impacts or interfere with Transportation Control Measure implementation. The conformity finding of the TIP and the associated Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update, as amended, that was made by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration on January 19, 2011 remains unchanged by this action.

Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Agency	TIP #	Project Location	Project Description	Fiscal Year	Length	Lanes Before	Lanes After	Fund Type	Federal Cost	Regional Cost	Local Cost	Total Cost	Requested Change	Conformity Consultation
Buckeye	BKY11-108	Yuma and Watson Rd and Miller and Warner intersections	Advanced Dilemma Zone Detection for high speed approaches	2011	n/a	n/a	n/a	HSIP	\$ 35,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,500	Amend: Increase HSIP funding from \$27,599 to \$35,500	A minor project revision is needed to increase project funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Chandler	CHN130-08C	Ray Rd at Alma School Rd	Construct intersection improvement	FY2012, starting July 1, 2011	0.3	4	6	HSIP	\$ 6,362,319		\$ 652,886	\$ 7,015,205	Amend: Change funds from RARF & Local to HSIP & Local	A minor project revision is needed to change type of project funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Agency	TIP #	Project Location	Project Description	Fiscal Year	Length	Lanes Before	Lanes After	Fund Type	Federal Cost	Regional Cost	Local Cost	Total Cost	Requested Change	Conformity Consultation
ADOT	DOT11-127	101 (Agua Fria & Pima Fwy): 67th Ave - 51st Ave & 27th Ave - 19th Ave, EB Frontage Road)	Pavement Preservation (Micro-surfacing)	2011	2.1	n/a	n/a	NHS	\$ 216,890	\$ -	\$ 13,110	\$ 230,000	Amend: Delete existing pavement preservation project.	The new project is considered exempt under the category "Pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation" The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
ADOT	DOT11-831	MAG Regionwide	Improve traffic interchanges	2012	n/a	n/a	n/a	STP-AZ	\$ 3,000,000			\$ 3,000,000	Admin Mod: Defer this item to FY 2012 from FY 2011.	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
ADOT	DOT11-121	SR303L: Camelback Rd - Glendale Ave	Utility Relocation	2011	2	n/a	n/a	RARF		\$ 12,500,000		\$ 12,500,000	Amend: Increase utility relocation budget by \$4,500,000. Proposed cost is now \$12,500,000; it was previously \$8,000,000.*	A minor project revision is needed to increase project funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
ADOT	New	MAG Regionwide	Safety Improvements (Replace BCT)	2011	n/a	n/a	n/a	HSIP	\$ 1,650,250		\$ 99,750	\$ 1,750,000	Amend: Add a new safety improvements project in Federal FY 2011 for \$1,750,000. Project is scheduled to be advertised in August 2011.	The new project is considered exempt under the category "Highway Safety Improvement Program implementation" The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.

Agency	TIP #	Project Location	Project Description	Fiscal Year	Length	Lanes Before	Lanes After	Fund Type	Federal Cost	Regional Cost	Local Cost	Total Cost	Requested Change	Conformity Consultation
ADOT	New	71: US60 to Yavapai County Line	Pavement Preservation (Chip Seal)	2011	5.1	n/a	n/a	STP-AZ	\$ 377,200		\$ 22,800	\$ 400,000	Amend: Add a new pavement preservation project in Federal FY 2011 for \$400,000. Project is scheduled to be advertised in August 2011.	The new project is considered exempt under the category "Pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation" The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
ADOT	New	60 (Grand Ave): Vulture Mine Rd to Los Altos Dr	Construct Multi-use Path and Dual Turning Lane	2011	1.4	n/a	n/a	HSIP & TEA	\$ 2,652,659		\$ 160,341	\$ 2,813,000	Amend: Add a new construction project in Federal FY 2011 for \$2,813,000 (HSIP: \$1,796,415; TEA: \$856,244 & Match: \$160,341). Project is scheduled to be advertised in August 2011.	The new project is considered exempt under the category "Highway Safety Improvement Program implementation" and "Transportation enhancement activities (except rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities)." The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Mesa	MES11-106CZ	Dobson Rd at Guadalupe Rd: Intersection Improvements	Construct roadway widening	2010 - 2011	2011	All-DOB-10-03	0.5	RARF	\$ 626,913	\$ -	\$ 1,462,796	\$ 2,089,708	Admin Mod: Decreased total costs from \$3,489,027 to \$2,089,708. Reallocated project savings/regional funds to MES120-08CZ.	A minor project revision is needed to decrease project funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Mesa	MES120-08CZ	Greenfield Rd: Baseline Rd to Southern Ave	Construct roadway widening	2010	2011	ACI-GRN-20-03-A	1.0	RARF	\$ 1,607,902	\$ -	\$ 3,410,141	\$ 5,018,043	Admin Mod: Increased regional cost. Funds reallocated from project savings on MES11-106CZ.	A minor project revision is needed to increase project funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.

Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2011-2015 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

Agency	ID	Location	Work	FY	Length	Funding	FedCost	RegCost	LocCost	Total	Request	Conformity Assessment
Chandler	CHN14-102	Ray, Elliot, Dobson, connecting at Arizona back to TMC	Construct ITS project for fiber communications from signals to the TMC	2011	n/a	CMAQ	\$ 739,477	\$ -	\$ 224,657	\$ 964,134	Admin Mod: Advance from 2014 to 2011	A minor project revision is needed to advance project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Phoenix	PHX14-102	ITS Strategic Plan	Develop the City of Phoenix's first ITS Strategic Plan.	2011	n/a	CMAQ	\$ 239,880	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 239,880	Admin Mod: Advance from 2014 to 2011, and increase federal funding from \$167,916 to \$239,880.	A minor project revision is needed to advance project and increase funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Tempe	TMP12-804	Citywide	Design and construct fiber-optic cable installations	2011	n/a	CMAQ	\$ 361,171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 361,171	Admin Mod: Advance from 2012 to 2011, and increase federal funding from \$242,528 to \$361,171.	A minor project revision is needed to advance project and increase funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Mesa	MES11-703	Various Locations	Install fiber-optic communications and upgrade traffic signal controllers	2011	n/a	CMAQ	\$ 961,893	\$ -	\$ 238,107	\$ 1,200,000	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$700,000 to \$961,893.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Maricopa County	MMA11-724	Forrest Rd: McDowell Mountain Rd to Rio Verde Dr	Add paved dirt shoulder and bike lane on both sides	2011	2.2	CMAQ	\$ 530,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 530,000	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$400,000 to \$530,000.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Mesa	MES13-905	Consolidated canal: Lindsay Road to Baseline - Construct of a 10-foot wide concrete pathway, including lighting, paving and traffic signals	Construct of a 10-foot wide concrete pathway, including lighting, paving and traffic signals	2011	2.5	CMAQ	\$ 1,512,331	\$ -	\$ 654,269	\$ 2,166,600	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$1,099,000 to \$1,512,331.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.

Agency	ID	Location	Work	FY	Length	Funding	FedCost	RegCost	LocCost	Total	Request	Conformity Assessment
Gilbert	GLB04-205	Gilbert Rd: US-60 to Guadalupe Rd; and US-60: Dobson Rd to Gilbert Rd	Install fiber & conduit along Gilbert Rd, fiber only along US-60 (joint with Mesa to link ATMS)	2012	7.0	CMAQ	\$ 400,660	\$ -	\$ 59,840	\$ 460,500	Admin Mod: Defer from 2011 to 2012	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Gilbert	GLB11-806	Ryan Road: Greenfield Rd to 164th St.	Pave Unpaved Road	2013	0.5	CMAQ	\$ 162,760	\$ -	\$ 9,840	\$ 172,600	Admin Mod: Defer from 2011 to 2013	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Gilbert	GLB13-905	Guadalupe Rd, Higley Rd, Williams Field Rd	Gilbert ATMS Fiber East Ring Project - Phase I (Design)	2013	6.5	CMAQ	\$ 122,234	\$ -	\$ 63,000	\$ 185,234	Admin Mod: Defer from 2011 to 2013	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Gilbert	GLB13-906	Higley Rd, Recker Rd, Guadalupe Rd, Elliot Rd, Warner Rd, Ray Rd, Williams Field Rd	Gilbert ATMS Fiber East Ring Project - Phase II (Design)	2013	9.5	CMAQ	\$ 122,234	\$ -	\$ 63,000	\$ 185,234	Admin Mod: Defer from 2011 to 2013	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Scottsdale	SCT07-606	Dynamite Blvd: Pima Road to Alma School Road	Install Vertical Curb and Gutter	2012	3.0	CMAQ	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	Admin Mod: Defer from 2011 to 2012	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Scottsdale	SCT11-701	McDowell Rd: Bridge over Indian Bend Wash	Enhance sidewalks and add bicycle lanes	2012	1.5	CMAQ	\$ 600,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,600,000	Admin Mod: Defer from 2011 to 2012	A minor project revision is needed to defer project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Scottsdale	SCT11-702	Scottsdale and Hayden Rds: Shea Blvd to McDowell Rd	Install detection equipment, variable message signs and software	2011	2.0	CMAQ	\$ 102,500	\$ -	\$ 177,500	\$ 280,000	Delete - project completed with ARRA funds	A minor project revision is needed to delete project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.

Agency	ID	Location	Work	FY	Length	Funding	FedCost	RegCost	LocCost	Total	Request	Conformity Assessment
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	NEW	Phase 1 of 2; Various Locations on Fort McDowell, additional environmental clearance, design and monitoring	Additional environmental and design work on paving of unpaved roads project	2011	4.7	CMAQ	\$ 23,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 25,000	Amend: Add new project related to the deleted funds from FTM09-903C, FTM11-801, FTM11-802, and FTM13-901.	A minor project revision is needed to repackage project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	NEW	Various Locations on Fort McDowell, including: Hiawatha Hood Rd (central and south), Harquahala Rd, Ironwood Rd, Sha Hee Rd, Gu Mah Rd, Fort Loop Rd and Rodeo Rd (north)	Pave Unpaved Road	2012	4.9	CMAQ	\$ 2,480,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,630,000	Amend: Add new project related to the deleted funds from FTM09-903C, FTM11-801, FTM11-802, and FTM13-901.	A minor project revision is needed to repackage project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	FTM09-903C	Various Locations on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	Construct Pave dirt road	2011	2.5	CMAQ	\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 399,000	Amend: Delete project, funds have been reprogrammed to other pave dirt road locations.	A minor project revision is needed to repackage project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	FTM11-801	Hiawatha Hood Rd, SR-87 to 3 miles north	Pave Unpaved Road	2011	2.7	CMAQ	\$ 936,731	\$ -	\$ 56,622	\$ 993,353	Amend: Delete project, funds have been reprogrammed to other pave dirt road locations.	A minor project revision is needed to repackage project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	FTM11-802	Mustang Way, 1.5 miles north of Fort McDowell Rd, 4 miles north to the northern boundary (Rio Verde)	Pave Unpaved Road	2011	4.0	CMAQ	\$ 1,187,709	\$ -	\$ 71,792	\$ 1,259,501	Amend: Delete project, funds have been reprogrammed to other pave dirt road locations.	A minor project revision is needed to repackage project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	FTM13-901	Various Locations on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	Paving dirt roads	2011	4.7	CMAQ	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 2,350,000	Amend: Delete project, funds have been reprogrammed to other pave dirt road locations.	A minor project revision is needed to repackage project. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.

Agency	ID	Location	Work	FY	Length	Funding	FedCost	RegCost	LocCost	Total	Request	Conformity Assessment
Chandler	CHN13-901	Various Locations in the City of Chandler	Paving dirt alleys	2011	10.0	CMAQ	\$ 774,379		\$ 164,621	\$ 939,000	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$350,000 to \$774,379.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
El Mirage	ELM09-802	125th and 127th Ave: Varney Rd to Peoria, and Dysart Ranchettes area: Varney Rd, Peoria Ave, Dysart Rd, and El Mirage	Pave unpaved roads	2011	4.5	CMAQ	\$ 2,075,431		\$ -	\$ 2,075,431	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$1,631,031 to \$2,075,431.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Maricopa County	MMA11-109	17th Avenue, Maddock Rd to Joy Ranch Rd	Pave unpaved road	2011	0.5	CMAQ	\$ 314,580		\$ -	\$ 314,580	Admin Mod: Decrease Local costs. Project is 100% federal funded.	A minor project revision is needed to decrease local funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Maricopa County	MMA11-111	88th Avenue, Deer Valley Rd to Williams Rd	Pave unpaved road	2011	0.5	CMAQ	\$ 376,420		\$ 134,700	\$ 511,120	Admin Mod: Increase local costs to cover project components not eligible for CMAQ	A minor project revision is needed to increase local funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Maricopa County	MMA11-801	87th Avenue, Deer Valley Road to Peoria CL (Via Montoya Rd)	Pave Unpaved Road	2011	0.3	CMAQ	\$ 194,253		\$ 3,145	\$ 197,398	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$186,146 to \$194,253.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Phoenix	PHX09-871	Various locations	Pave unpaved alleys	2011	18.0	CMAQ	\$ 753,557		\$ 111,288	\$ 864,845	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$446,667 to \$753,557.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.
Phoenix	PHX13-904	Various Locations in the City of Phoenix: 44 miles of dirt alleys	Paving dirt alleys	2011	44.0	CMAQ	\$ 1,893,290		\$ 268,934	\$ 2,162,224	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$1,200,000 to \$1,893,290.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.

Agency	ID	Location	Work	FY	Length	Funding	FedCost	RegCost	LocCost	Total	Request	Conformity Assessment
Surprise	SUR09-820	Rural Area West of 219th Ave between Pinnacle Peak & Deer Valley	Pave unpaved roads	2011	3.3	CMAQ	\$ 1,744,745		\$ 55,255	\$ 1,800,000	Admin Mod: Increase federal funding from \$1,602,302 to \$1,744,745.	A minor project revision is needed to increase federal funding amount. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan 2010 Update would remain unchanged.