

April 7, 2009

TO: Leslie Rogers, Federal Transit Administration
Robert Hollis, Federal Highway Administration
John Halikowski, Arizona Department of Transportation
Patrick Cunningham, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
David Boggs, Regional Public Transportation Authority
Debbie Cotton, City of Phoenix Public Transit Department
Lawrence Odle, Maricopa County Air Quality Department
Maxine Leather Brown, Central Arizona Association of Governments
Donald Gabrielson, Pinal County Air Quality Control District
Wienke Tax, 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 2008-
2012 MAG TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

On March 31, 2009, the Maricopa Association of Governments distributed a memorandum for consultation on a conformity assessment for an amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program. The proposed amendment and administrative modification involve several projects, including two FY 2009 paving projects from the City of Phoenix that require cost and scope changes. Since that time, the costs for projects PEO100-07AC1 and DOT12-840 have changed and nine additional projects have been added to the list. A new project list is attached. Comments on the conformity assessment are requested by April 22, 2009.

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 2007 Update, as amended, that was made by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration on August 14, 2008 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: Nancy Wrona, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Rakesh Tripathi, Arizona Department of Transportation
Mark Hodges, Arizona Department of Transportation
Michelle Conkle, Arizona Department of Transportation

ATTACHMENT

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION TO THE FY 2008-2012 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. The administrative modification includes minor project revisions that do not require a conformity determination. Examples of minor project revisions include funding changes, design, right-of-way, and utility projects. The proposed amendment and administrative modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program includes the projects on the attached table. 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 that was made by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration on August 14, 2008 remains unchanged by this action.

Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

TIP #	Agency	Project Location	Project Description	Fiscal Year	Length	Fund Type	Local Cost	Federal Cost - ARRA	Federal Cost - Other	Total Cost	Requested Change	Conformity Assessment
PHX07-741	Phoenix	Various Locations	Pave dirt shoulders	2009	11.9	CMAQ	\$ 875,000		\$ 875,000	\$ 1,750,000	Reduce CMAQ funds by \$650,304, from \$1,525,304 to \$875,000 and project length from 12.10 miles to 11.9 miles.	A minor project revision is needed to change the scope and amount of funds. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PHX07-740	Phoenix	Various Locations	Pave dirt roads	2009	8.25	CMAQ	\$ 2,628,954		\$ 2,628,954	\$ 5,257,908	Increase CMAQ funds by \$650,304, from \$1,978,650 to \$2,628,954 and reduce the project length from 8.79 miles to 8.25 miles.	A minor project revision is needed to change the scope and amount of funds. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PEO100-07AC1	Peoria	Beardsley Rd Connection: Loop 101 (Agua Fria Fwy) to Beardsley Rd at 83rd Av/Lake Pleasant Pkwy	Advance construct Beardsley Road extension and bridge over New River	2009	2	ARRA, STP-MAG & Local	\$ 2,647,762	\$ 2,850,401	\$ 5,991,524	\$ 11,489,687	Change local funding costs to ARRA, STP-MAG and Local. This project is programmed with ARRA funds sub-allocated to the region.	A minor project revision is needed to change the type of funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PEO100-07AC2	Peoria	Beardsley Rd Connection: Loop 101 (Agua Fria Fwy) to Beardsley Rd at 83rd Av/Lake Pleasant Pkwy	Advance construct new frontage road and Texas U-Turn structure over Loop 101	2009	2	Local & STP-MAG	\$ 24,928,000			\$ 24,928,000	Delete Project as it is a duplicate project. Project DOT12-840 is the same project.	An amendment is required to delete PEO100-07AC2 and add DOT12-840 with change in type of funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
DOT12-840	ADOT	101 (Agua Fria Fwy) at Union Hills Dr/Beardsley Rd	Construct traffic interchange, construct new frontage road and Texas U-Turn structure over Loop 101	2009	2.2	ARRA, STP-MAG & Local	\$ 1,571,173	\$ 9,100,000	\$ 16,893,273	\$ 27,564,446	Change local funding costs to STP-MAG and Local.	
MMA09-916	Maricopa County	Northern Parkway: Sarival to Dysart	Acquisition of right-of-way for roadway widening	2010	4	STP-MAG & Local	\$ 7,066,000		\$ 16,485,000	\$ 23,551,000	Defer project from 2009 to 2010	A minor project revision is needed to defer the project to FY 2010. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
MMA09-913	Maricopa County	Northern Parkway: Corridorwide right-of-Way Protection	Acquisition of right-of-way for roadway widening and intersection improvements	2010	12.5	STP-MAG & Local	\$ 112,000		\$ 261,000	\$ 373,000	Defer project from 2009 to 2010	A minor project revision is needed to defer the project to FY 2010. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.

Amendment and Administrative Modification to the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

TIP #	Agency	Project Location	Project Description	Fiscal Year	Length	Fund Type	Local Cost	Federal Cost - ARRA	Federal Cost - Other	Total Cost	Requested Change	Conformity Assessment
GLN13-903	Glendale	Olive Ave: 75th Ave to 59th ave	Joint Project with Peoria: ITS Fiber and 1 CCTV Camera	2009		CMAQ	\$ 219,493		\$ 449,450	\$ 668,943	Admin Mod: Modify project location from 67th Avenue to 59th, to 75th Avenue to 59th.	The project is considered a traffic signal synchronization project which may be approved prior to a regional emissions analysis, however the project may be subject to subsequent regional emissions analyses. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
GLN10-804T	Glendale	Bell Road at Loop 101	Pre-design regional park-and-ride (Bell/L101)	2010	n/a	5307		\$ 20,354	\$ 81,418	\$ 101,772	Admin Mod: Change the name and location from "Grand/Glendale Park and Ride" to the "Bell/L101 Park and Ride"	A minor project revision is required to revise the project description. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
GLN11-809T	Glendale	Bell Road at Loop 101	Acquire right-of-way regional park-and -ride (Bell/L101)	2011	n/a	5307		\$ 335,979	\$ 1,343,916	\$ 1,679,895	Admin Mod: Change the name and location from "Grand/Glendale Park and Ride" to the "Bell/L101 Park and Ride"	A minor project revision is required to revise the project description. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
GLN11-808T	Glendale	Bell Road at Loop 101	Design regional park-an-ride (Bell/L101)	2011	n/a	5307		\$ 59,132	\$236,530	\$ 295,662	Admin Mod: Change the name and location from "Grand/Glendale Park and Ride" to the "Bell/L101 Park and Ride"	A minor project revision is required to revise the project description. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
GLN12-812T	Glendale	Bell Road at Loop 101	Construct regional park-and-ride (Bell/L101)	2012	n/a	5307		\$ 614,940	\$ 2,459,762	\$ 3,074,702	Admin Mod: Change the name and location from "Grand/Glendale Park and Ride" to the "Bell/L101 Park and Ride"	The revised project is considered exempt from regional emissions analysis under the category "Bus terminals and transfer points". The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PEO10-802T	Peoria	Grand Avenue at Peoria Avenue	Pre-design regional park-and-ride (Grand/Peoria)	2010	n/a	Local	\$ 101,772			\$ 101,772	Admin Mod: Change project costs from federal to local.	A minor project revision is needed to change the type of funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PEO11-803T	Peoria	Grand Avenue at Peoria Avenue	Design regional park-and-ride (Grand/Peoria)	2011	n/a	Local	\$ 295,662			\$ 295,662	Admin Mod: Change project costs from federal to local.	A minor project revision is needed to change the type of funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PEO11-804T	Peoria	Grand Avenue at Peoria Avenue	Acquire right of way regional park-and-ride (Grand/Peoria)	2011	n/a	Local	\$ 1,679,895			\$ 1,679,895	Admin Mod: Change project costs from federal to local.	A minor project revision is needed to change the type of funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.
PEO12-806T	Peoria	Grand Avenue at Peoria Avenue	Construct regional park-and-ride (Grand/Peoria)	2012	n/a	Local	\$ 3,074,702			\$ 3,074,702	Admin Mod: Change project costs from federal to local.	A minor project revision is needed to change the type of funding. The conformity status of the TIP and Regional Transportation Plan would remain unchanged.