



North Central Texas Council Of Governments

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DIVISION**

February 3, 2009

Ms. Susana M. Hildebrand, P.E.
Director, Air Quality Division
Chief Engineer's Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, MC 206
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

RE: Transportation Control Measure Substitution Request Regarding the Dallas-Fort Worth 1-Hour State Implementation Plan

Dear Ms. Hildebrand:

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is formally requesting a 1-Hour State Implementation Plan (SIP) Transportation Control Measure (TCM) Substitution. This request is important as it will replace deficient projects with those that have been implemented, providing equal to or greater emission reductions, and conclude that emission reductions for the 2007 attainment date in the 1-Hour Ozone SIP have been met. As you know, the North Central Texas region has been in compliance with this standard following the 2006 ozone season and has continued to maintain compliance (Attachment 1). In addition, effective November 17, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area is in attainment of the 1-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

Currently, a transportation conformity analysis is being conducted to incorporate amendments to the region's long range transportation plan, Mobility 2030. Specifically, it has been determined that some TCM commitments identified in the 1-Hour SIP are deficient. Due to this deficiency, a TCM Substitution process is required.

Attachment 2 summarizes the deficient projects and Attachment 3 contains completed projects for substitution into the 1-Hour SIP. As required by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) 6011(d), the substitute projects at least need to have the same emission reductions than what they are replacing. As shown, the substitute projects have greater nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compound emissions reductions. In addition, all completed projects are eligible for substitution as they have been completed prior to the 2007 attainment date. These substitution recommendations were approved by the Regional Transportation Council, the metropolitan planning organization policy body, on December 11, 2008. NCTCOG staff also provided this information to the interagency consultation partners on December 29, 2008.

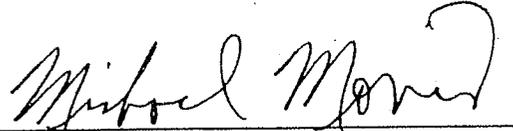
Thus far, it seems that an approved US Department of Transportation (USDOT) conformity determination may be dependent on final TCM Substitution Commission action. An approved USDOT conformity determination is planned for July 2009, which will allow Mobility 2030 plan

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amendments to proceed to construction, not only lowering emissions through more efficient travel options, but also contributing resources for economic recovery. Hence, as timeframes are tight for pieces to fall into place, it is encouraged for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to closely review the TCM substitution process, appropriately communicate with partners required in the process to determine time/resource needs, and deliver a timeline that can be as expeditious as possible without compromising agency requirements.

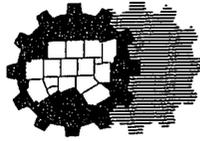
TCEQ's assistance is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Christopher Klaus at 817-695-9286.



Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation

CK:cg
Attachments

cc: Jose Campos, Intermodal Team Leader, FHWA
Koy Howard, Program Specialist, TCEQ
Margie McCallister, Mobile Source Team Leader, TCEQ
Jeff Riley, Environmental Scientist, EPA
Paul Tiley, Transportation Analyst, TxDOT
Madhusudhan Venugopal, Senior Transportation Planner, NCTCOG
Syeda Haque, Transportation Planner, NCTCOG



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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, MC 206
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

RE: Transportation Control Measure Substitution Request Regarding the Dallas-Fort Worth **8-Hour State Implementation Plan**

Dear Ms. Hildebrand:

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is formally requesting an 8-Hour State Implementation Plan (SIP) Transportation Control Measure (TCM) Substitution. This request is important to ensure timely implementation of committed SIP on-road mobile emission reduction control measures, to be documented in the ongoing regional transportation conformity analysis and required in Section 93.113 of the Federal Conformity Rule.

Currently, a transportation conformity analysis is being conducted to incorporate amendments to the regions long range transportation plan, Mobility 2030. Specifically, it has been determined that two completed TCM commitments identified in Appendix F, Table 2 of the 8-Hour SIP are deficient. Due to this deficiency, a TCM Substitution process is required.

In the attachment, Table 1 summarizes the two deficient projects and Table 2 contains completed projects for substitution into the 8-Hour SIP. As shown, the number of deficient and substitute projects are consistent and the substitute projects have greater nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compound emissions reductions. These substitution recommendations were approved by the Regional Transportation Council, the metropolitan planning organization policy body, on December 11, 2008. NCTCOG staff also provided this information to the interagency consultation partners on January 12, 2009.

Thus far, it seems that an approved US Department of Transportation (USDOT) conformity determination may be dependent on final TCM Substitution Commission action. An approved USDOT conformity determination is planned for July 2009, which will allow Mobility 2030 plan amendments to proceed to construction, not only lowering emissions through more efficient travel options, but also contributing resources for economic recovery. Hence, as timeframes are tight for pieces to fall into place, it is encouraged for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to closely review the TCM substitution process, appropriately communicate with partners required in the process to determine time/resource needs, and deliver a timeline that can be as expeditious as possible without compromising agency requirements.

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TCEQ's assistance is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Chris Klaus at 817695-9286.



Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation

CK:cg
Enclosure

cc: Jose Campos, Intermodal Team Leader, FHWA
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